

VII. CONCLUSION



The CRDT and RDT teams' experiences collecting racial and ethnic data across several key issue areas reveal major deficiencies regarding the state of racial and ethnic demographic data collection and reporting in the United States. Existing data collection efforts are riddled with gaps and errors, including missing and incomplete data, insufficiently disaggregated data, lack of meaningful longitudinal data, infrequently updated data, non-standardized methodologies, and other problems. These data quality issues lead to underestimations of racial inequities, obscure evidence of racism, prevent cross-jurisdictional analysis, and, ultimately, hinder evidence-based antiracist policymaking. The experiences of the CRDT and RDT teams underscore the need for a single standardized and nationwide system of data collection and reporting by race and ethnicity across important issue areas. We must standardize, centralize, and bolster our race and ethnicity data infrastructure and practices in order to strengthen the process of analyzing, contextualizing, and dismantling racism.