

# **2015 National Content Test Preliminary Results on the Middle Eastern and North African Category**

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**Presentation for the  
State Data Centers and Census Information Centers**

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# 2015 National Content Test (NCT)

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- Census Day of September 1, 2015
- Used large, nationally representative sample of 1.2 million addresses, including Puerto Rico
- Evaluate and compare different census content
- Refine estimates of national self-response and Internet response rates and continue testing different contact strategies for optimizing self-response
- Content reinterview with subsample of NCT respondents, to measure accuracy
- Overall response rate was 51.9%

# Goals for 2015 NCT Race/Ethnicity Research

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## Key Dimensions to Explore

- Separate questions vs. combined question
- “Middle Eastern or North African” (MENA) category
- Instruction wording and terminology
- Web-based designs to improve question understanding and optimize reporting of detailed racial and ethnic groups

# Middle Eastern or North African Category



**8. What is Person 1's race or origin?**  
 Mark  one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

**White** – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

**Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin** – Print, for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, etc.

**Black or African Am.** – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

**Asian** – Print, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.

**American Indian or Alaska Native** – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – Print, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

**Some other race or origin** – Print race or origin.



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**American Indian or Alaska Native** – Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

**Middle Eastern or North African** – Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – Print, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

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# Census Bureau Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African - Organizations

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## **Research Centers and Universities:**

Pew Research Center, Population Reference Bureau, Arab American Institute, University of California - Berkeley, University of California San Francisco Medical Center

## **Non-Governmental Organizations:**

World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Organization on Migration, World Health Organization

## **U.S. Federal Agencies:**

Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program, Department of Labor, State Department – Bureau of Near East Affairs, State Department – Middle East Partnership Initiative, Department of Agriculture, International Trade Administration

# Census Bureau Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African - Classifications

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The 15 organizations we used in our research classified the region in various ways

- Included as few as 12 countries/territories, and as many as 29
- Most classifications overlapped (e.g., Jordan was included in all classifications)
- A nationality was included in our classification if the country or territory was in at least half of the classifications we researched.

# Census Bureau Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African - Nationalities

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- Algerian
- Bahraini
- Egyptian
- Emirati
- Iranian
- Iraqi
- Israeli
- Jordanian
- Kuwaiti
- Lebanese
- Libyan
- Moroccan
- Omani
- Palestinian
- Qatari
- Saudi Arabian
- Syrian
- Tunisian
- Yemeni

# Census Bureau Working Classification of Middle Eastern or North African - Ethnicities

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- Amazigh/Berber
- Arab/Arabic
- Assyrian
- Bedouin
- Chaldean
- Copt
- Druze
- Kurdish
- Syriac
- “Middle Eastern”
- “North African”

# Additional Nationalities Suggested for Inclusion in the MENA Working Classification

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Additional nationalities were suggested for inclusion in the working classification of MENA during the 2015 NCT Federal Register comment period and by participants at the 2015 Forum on Ethnic Groups from the Middle East and North Africa:

- Comoran
- Somali
- Djiboutian
- Sudanese
- Mauritanian
- Turkish

# Preliminary Results by Inclusion of MENA Category

No Distinct MENA Category

vs.

Including a Distinct MENA Category

# Coding of MENA Responses

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IRAQI

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EGYPTIAN

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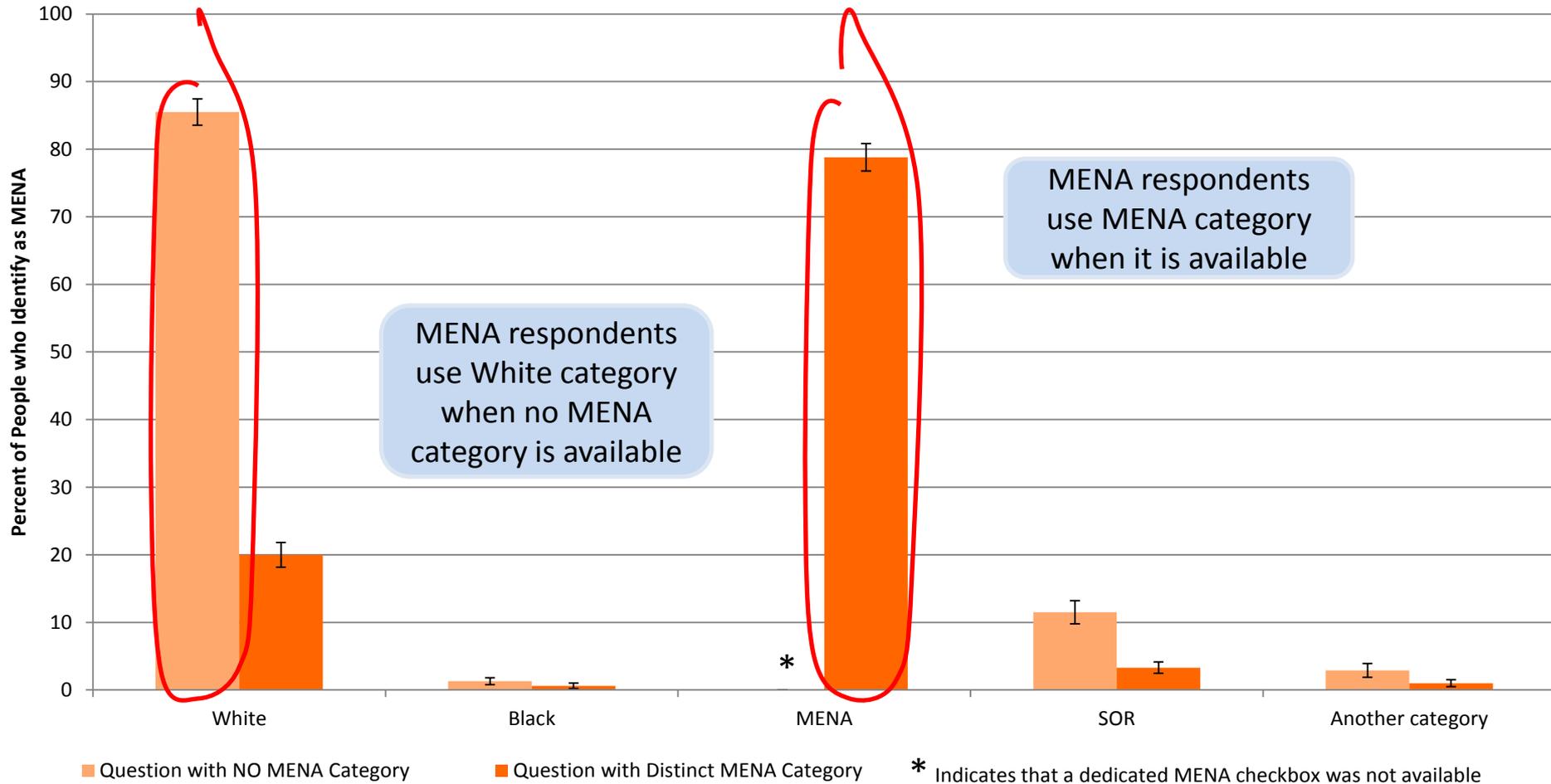
**Middle Eastern or North African** – Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc.

IRAQI, EGYPTIAN

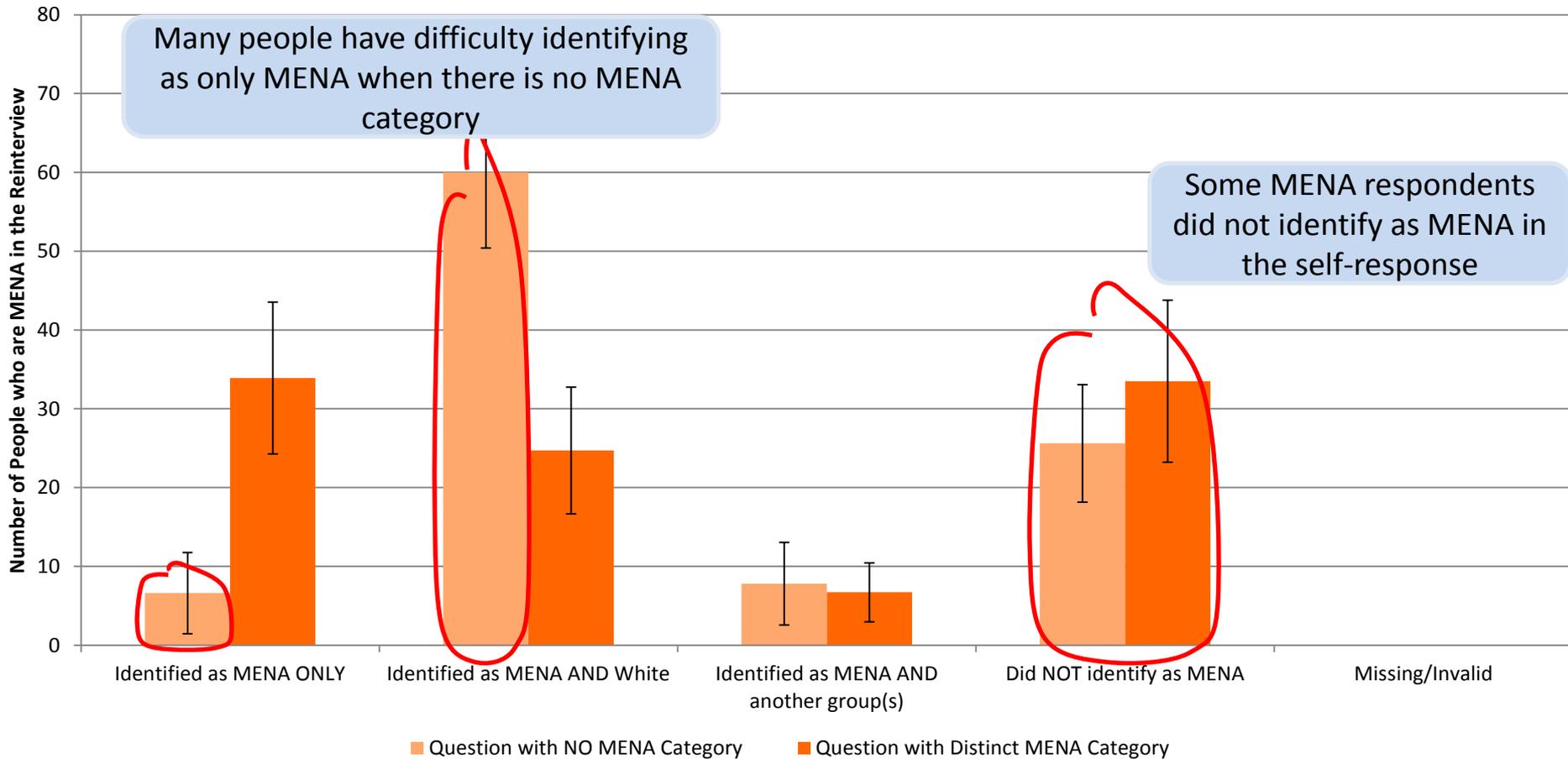
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# Where MENA Responses are Reported by Presence of MENA Category (Percent Alone or in Combination)



# Self-Response Reporting Patterns of MENA Reinterview Population by Presence of MENA Category



# Inclusion of MENA Category – Summary of Preliminary Findings

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The use of a distinct Middle Eastern or North African category appears to elicit higher quality data for people who would identify with MENA

- People who identify as MENA use the MENA category when it is available
- People who are MENA have trouble identifying as only MENA when no category is available





# QUESTIONS

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# DISCUSSION