Collecting and Tabulating Ethnicity and Race Responses in the 2020 Census

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Today’s Presenters

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What is Race?  What is Ethnicity?
What is Race?

The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.
What is Ethnicity?

Ethnicity is defined by OMB as either “Hispanic or Latino” or “Not Hispanic or Latino.” OMB defines "Hispanic or Latino" as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race.
Race and Ethnicity
History of Collection in the U.S. Decennial Census

- Measured since 1790 Census
- Census form has reflected changes in society
- Influenced by social, political, and economic factors
- 1980 Census to present follows OMB standards
- Based on self-identification
# Measuring Race and Ethnicity Across the Decades: 1790-2010

## Table Representation

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<td>Indian, Chinese, Amerindian, *Free Persons*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\*Free Persons\* indicates non-Indian, non-foreign-born.
Race and Ethnicity
2010 Census Questions

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Hispanic Origin and Race From the 2010 Census

5. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print origin, for example, Argentinian, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.

6. What is this person’s race? Mark one or more boxes.
- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Some other race — Print race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.
OMB Ethnicity Categories:
- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

OMB Race Categories:
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

The Census Bureau is also permitted to use the category “Some Other Race”

OMB minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as follows:

**American Indian or Alaska Native** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Black or African American** - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

**Hispanic or Latino** - A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**White** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Census Bureau conducted extensive research and outreach over past decade, including two groundbreaking national studies on how to improve race and ethnicity question(s)

- Extensive research and outreach showed combined race/ethnicity question with detailed checkboxes is the optimal design for improving race/ethnicity data

- Determining census content is an extensive undertaking, involving research and stakeholder engagement
Why does the Census ask questions about ethnicity and about race?
Hispanic Origin asked since 1970.

Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
- [ ] No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- [ ] Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- [ ] Yes, Puerto Rican
- [ ] Yes, Cuban
- [ ] Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS OF HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH ORIGIN IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THIS ETHNIC GROUP.

These data are required for federal and state programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Hispanic origin data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of the Hispanic population and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Though many respondents expect to see a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish category on the race question, this question is asked separately because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s) in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity.

HISPANIC ORIGIN DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

We ask about the Hispanic or Latino origin of community members to help governments and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, data on the Hispanic population are used to:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.

Understand Changes

Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if the distribution of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic population changes by age, sex, relationship, and housing tenure.
A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON’S RACE IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT RACE AND TO PRESENT OTHER STATISTICS BY RACE GROUPS.

These data are required for federal, state, and tribal programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity. The categories on race are based on self-identification and generally reflect a social definition of race. The categories are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.

RACE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the races of community members helps government and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, race data are used in the following ways:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.

Understand Changes

Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if the distribution of different racial groups changes by age, sex, relationship, and housing tenure.

Administer Programs for Specific Groups

Knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs helps communities, including tribal governments, ensure that programs are operating as intended. For example, the Indian Housing Block Grant program, Indian Community Development Block Grant program, and Indian Health Service all depend on accurate statistics of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population come from the question about a person’s race.

Some other race – Print race or origin
How Federal agencies use data on race and ethnicity: the importance to communities

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.
- Inform how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.
The importance of race and ethnicity data to communities

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Race and ethnicity data help governments and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies

Understand Change
Race and ethnicity data help researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers examine similarities and differences across various communities

Administer Programs for Specific Groups
Race and ethnicity data help communities ensure that programs are operating as intended by knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs
What is different in the 2020 Census for race and ethnicity?
Question designs for 2020 Census must adhere to 1997 OMB standards for race and ethnicity.

Census Bureau will not use combined question format for collecting race and ethnicity; 1997 OMB standards require two separate questions for self-response.

Census Bureau will not use “Middle Eastern or North African” category.

Several significant changes from 2010 Census questions will be implemented for 2020 Census race and ethnicity questions.
How do groups respond to the Census race and ethnicity questions?

6. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
   - No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
   - Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicanos
   - Yes, Puerto Rican
   - Yes, Cuban
   - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

7. What is this person’s race?
   - Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.
   - White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.
   - Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, 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.
   - Chinese
   - Filipino
   - Asian Indian
   - Japanese
   - Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.
   - Vietnamese
   - Native Hawaiian
   - Samoan
   - Chamorro
   - Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
   - Some other race – Print race or origin.
2020 Census
Hispanic Origin Question

Common Response Scenarios

• Most respondents will mark, “No, Not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin”

• Most Hispanic respondents will select one of the three detailed checkbox categories (i.e., Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban)

• Additional detailed Hispanic origin responses are collected via “Yes, another Hispanic...” write-in response area (e.g., Salvadoran, Dominican, Peruvian, Spaniard)
Additional Response Scenarios

- Some respondents will mark both “No, Not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin” and (“Yes”) that they are of Hispanic origin

- Some Hispanic respondents will report multiple Hispanic groups (e.g., Cuban and Salvadoran)

- Some respondents will report “non-Hispanic” answers in the “Yes, another Hispanic...” write-in response area (e.g., Brazilian, German, Jamaican)

- Some respondents will report uncodable responses
2020 Census
Race Question

Common Response Scenarios

• Most respondents will mark “White” box
• Detailed White responses are collected via write-in area (e.g., Irish, German, Lebanese)

• Many respondents will mark “Black or African Am.” box
• Detailed Black responses are collected via write-in area (e.g., African American, Nigerian, Jamaican)

• Detailed American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and indigenous Central and South American groups are collected via write-in area
2020 Census
Race Question

Reporting Asian or Pacific Islander Responses

• Many Asian respondents will mark detailed Asian checkboxes (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean)

• Additional detailed Asian responses are collected via “Other Asian...” write-in area (e.g., Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong)

• Many Pacific Islanders will mark detailed NHPI checkboxes (e.g., Native Hawaiian, Samoan)

• Additional detailed Pacific Islander responses are collected via “Other Pacific Islander...” write-in area (e.g., Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese)
Reporting “Multiple” Responses

- Some respondents will report *multiple race groups* (e.g., White *and* Black)
- These represent the reporting of two or more responses *across* major race categories. Also applies to reporting of detailed responses across major race categories (e.g., German *and* African American)
- Some respondents will report *multiple detailed groups* (e.g., Native Hawaiian *and* Samoan)
- These represent the reporting of two or more responses *within* major race categories (e.g., Marshallese *and* Fijian)
2020 Census

Race Question

Reporting Hispanic or Latino Responses

• People of Hispanic origin may be any race

• Responses of Hispanic origin in the race question are classified as “Some Other Race” (e.g., Latino, Mexican, Salvadoran)

• If additional groups are reported, they are retained (e.g., Cuban and Black) along with the Hispanic (SOR) response
2020 Census
Race Question

Reporting Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) Responses

• People of Middle Eastern or North African origin are part of the White racial category

• If additional groups are reported, they are retained (e.g., Egyptian and Black) along with the MENA response

• MENA responses to “Some Other Race” write-in response area are coded and classified within the White racial category
Additional Response Scenarios

- Responses to “Some Other Race” write-in response area are coded to an OMB race category if they can be classified within the OMB race category definitions (e.g., Iranian, Sudanese, Filipino)

- Some responses remain as “Some Other Race” because they cannot be classified within the OMB race category definitions (e.g., Brazilian)

- Some respondents only mark the checkbox for “Some Other Race”

- Reporting *uncodable* responses
How should I answer the questions on ethnicity and race?

An individual’s response to the ethnicity question and the race question is based upon self-identification. The Census Bureau does not tell individuals which boxes to mark or what heritage to write in.
Questions & Discussion?