

**NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE (US)**

**Moderator: Deborah Rivera-Nieves**  
**February 19, 2020**  
**1:00 pm CT**

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants will be on listen-only until the question and answer session of today's conference at which time you may press star 1 to ask a question.

Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, please disconnect at this time. I'd now like to turn the meeting over to your host, Ms. Deborah Rivera. You may begin.

Deborah Rivera-Nieves: Great. Thank you so much. Good afternoon everybody. As the Operator said, my name is Deborah Rivera. I am a training specialist. I'm working in the data dissemination and training branch at the US Census Bureau.

Thank you for joining us and welcome to another one of our Census Academy webinars. Our topic for today is Collecting and Tabulating Ethnicity and Race Responses in the 2020 Census. Joining me today from my team is my colleague Kim Davis. She is going to be assisting me in providing technical support to both of our speakers today.

So just a few housekeeping items before we get started. We will have a question and answer session. That is going to take place towards the end of the presentation. And in the end of time and in the interest of time today we will only allow one question per turn for all the participants who wish to ask a question. So one question only when it is your turn to ask your question.

And we also ask that you please do not share any personal information over the phone. We are recording today's webinar and along with any PowerPoint presentations that are being shared at the time and transcripts, this will all be posted at the census Academy site as a free learning resource. We'll try to have that up there no later than the end of this week but more than likely by close of business on Monday.

So now I would like to introduce our speakers for today Rachel Marks and Nicholas Jones. And I'm going to read a biography for each of them. Rachel Marks is the chief of the racial statistics branch in the population division at the US Census Bureau.

Rachel joined the US Census Bureau in 2007 as a survey statistician in the decennial management division working in Puerto Rico island areas and overseas enumeration branch before moving to the population division.

In her current role she leads a research team that analyzes data on race and ethnicity from the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and the current population survey. Rachel has authored numerous reports and presentations and she is a leading expert on the Middle Eastern and North African population in the United States.

Rachel received a master's degree in sociology and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Shippensburg University. She has also completed a master's

certificate in project management from George Washington University. Thank you so much Rachel. Thank you for being here with us.

And we also have Mr. Nicholas Jones. Nicholas Jones is the director and Senior advisor for race ethnicity research and Outreach in the census bureau's population division. Nicholas began his career at the US Census Bureau in 2000 as an analyst in the racial statistics branch and his research help shed light on race reporting patterns and the demographic characteristics of children in interracial families.

As an analyst Nicholas authored numerous reports and presentations and became a renowned expert on the multiracial population and racial ethnic diversity of the United States.

Nicholas received a master's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from the University of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Thank you for being with us, Nicholas. Hey guys. You can take it away.

Rachel Marks: Thank you Deb and hello everyone. We are really glad to be able to meet with you all today to introduce you to the 2020 census questions on ethnicity and race. We expect that our presentation will provide you with a deeper understanding of how the questions and concepts of race and ethnicity are operationalized in the decennial census for collecting and tabulating data.

So let's begin with the foundational questions of what is race and what is ethnicity. So what is race? The Census Bureau collects racial data in accordance with guidelines provided by the US Office of Management and Budget or OMB. And these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect the social

definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.

In addition, it's recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or socio-cultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture such as American Indian and White. And people who identify their origin as Hispanic Latino or Spanish may be any race.

So what is ethnicity? The US Office of Management and Budget requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities in collecting and reporting data -- Hispanic and Latino, not Hispanic or Latino. The Office of Management and Budget defines Hispanic or Latino as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of their race.

Nicholas Jones: Thanks Rachel. Good afternoon everyone. Next I'll present some insights to the history of race and ethnicity in the United States decennial census from the first census in 1790 to where we are today, highlighting some of the ways the questions have evolved over time and over the past couple centuries.

The measurement of race and ethnicity it's part of our nation's history. Since the first United States decennial census in 1790 and over each subsequent decade, the decennial census has collected information on race or ethnicity. The census form has reflected contemporary circumstances and societal changes throughout our nation's history.

And conceptual shifts have occurred in the way the Census Bureau classifies and tabulates race and ethnicity data. Historically these changes have been influenced by social political and economic factors of the times. Like this

example on the slide from the Census of 1800, the United States decennial census provides a valuable case study of the interaction between our nation's history and the concepts of race and ethnicity.

To illustrate the historical changes in the concepts categories and classifications of race and ethnicity in the United States decennial census, race ethnicity expert researchers from our population division developed an interactive visualization of how the categories used in the decennial census I changed over the past 230 years since the first census in 1790.

Shown here on the slide, studying this history enables us to better understand the relationship between historical classifications, the evolution of these concepts, and their contemporary used in federal statistics.

If you would like to understand more about our nation's history and the ways that race and ethnicity have been collected in the census over time, we encourage you to become familiar with this research by reading the corresponding research article and exploring the interactive graphic with a hyperlink noted at the bottom of the slide.

This provides a really cool way to understand how the concepts of race and ethnicity have evolved throughout our nation's history. We'll also make this link available in the chat room so that you're able to take a look as we're going through the presentation.

These concepts continued to evolve. The next slide shows that Hispanic origin question and the race question from the last decennial census in 2010. Some of you worked with us in the 2010 census or surely remember answering the census questions in 2010. And you may remember that a lot of communities had issues with answering the questions on Hispanic origin and race.

The Census Bureau undertook extensive efforts to work with communities and explain how people can self-identify. And this remains true for our plans for 2020 census. The census is a full enumeration of the population, so every respondent is directed to answer both questions. But we also recognize that the ethnicity and race questions present issues for many respondents and they have trouble answering one or both of the questions.

Rachel Marks: Thank you Nicholas. So in summary within the context of the United States decennial census, the questions and concepts of race and ethnicity follow the standards set forth by the US Office of Management and Budget or OMB.

The OMB minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as follows -- and you can see them here on your screen - - the OMB requires two minimum categories for data on ethnicity which are Hispanic or Latino and not Hispanic or Latino.

OMB also requires the five minimum reporting categories for race - - American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and White. And people may report multiple races. The Census Bureau is also required to use the category of some other race.

Explained on this slide are the OMB definitions for the minimum race and ethnicity categories. For example, Asian is defined as a person having origin in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or they India subcontinent including for example Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African-American is defined as a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. And White is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

We present these definitions to underscore the point that the Census Bureau follow the OMB definitions to classify and tabulate data on race and ethnicity.

So over the past decade, the Census Bureau conducted extensive research and outreach, including two groundbreaking national studies on how to improve race and ethnicity questions so these statistics can better measure our diverse nation. Our work was undertaken to help improve the questions we ask as well as the resulting data so that they better reflect changing and complex ways in which people see themselves and identify racially and ethnically.

The census bureau's research identified that a combined race and ethnicity question -- which is shown here on the left side of the slide -- was the optimal design to improve race and ethnicity data. In comparison with designs which use two separate questions like the design here on the right side of the slide.

However, the Census Bureau does not make a unilateral decision on the content of the census. In fact, determining the content for the census is an expensive undertaking with a three-pronged approach involving empirical research, outreach and engagement with stakeholders, and ultimately the review and approval from The US Office of Management and Budget and the United States Congress.

So why does the census ask the questions about ethnicity and race? The slide here shows the 2020 census ethnicity question, also known as a Hispanic

origin question and the related content that was included in a 2020 census questions handbook. We encourage you to look at this handbook and read up on why this ethnicity data are collected and what these statistics are used for.

Similarly, this slide here shows the 2020 census question for race and the related content that was included in the 2020 census questions handbook. This handbook describes why the race question data are collected and what the resulting statistics are used for.

The results of the 2020 census will provide a snapshot of our nation -- our population, where we live, and so much more. People often ask how the federal agencies use data on race and ethnicity? Or, why is the data important for my community? Race data helps communities ensure equal opportunity, understand change, and administer programs for specific groups.

Race data help communities ensure equal opportunity. The Census asks about the race of community members in combination with information about other characteristics to help governments and communities enforce anti-discrimination laws, regulations, and policies.

For example, race data are used to establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the federal equal opportunity recruitment program, to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and enforce bilingual election requirements and to monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Race data help communities understand change. Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if people of different races have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, and home ownership. Federal agencies use these data to investigate whether

housing or transportation improvements have unintended consequences for specific race groups.

And race data help communities administer programs for specific groups. Communities including tribal governments ensure the programs are operating as intended by knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs.

Nicholas Jones: Over the past decade, the census bureau's research and outreach has helped to improve what we know about how and why people respond to the questions on ethnicity and race in various ways.

So what is different about the 2020 Census questions on ethnicity and race? We'll examine that together in finer detail with the final part of our presentation this afternoon.

The census bureau's research and outreach over the past decade has helped to improve what we know about how and why people respond to the questions on ethnicity and race in various ways.

In accordance with the OMB standards, the 2020 census will use two separate questions for collecting data on race and ethnicity. The Census Bureau will not use a combined question format for collecting race and ethnicity data in the 2020 Census, as the 1997 OMB standards require two separate questions for self-response

The images of the 2020 census questions are presented on the slide. The Census Bureau will not use a distinct separate Middle Eastern, or North African response category on the 2020 Census form. Per the 1997 OMB standards, Middle Eastern and North African responses are classified as

part of the White racial category.

However, several significant changes from the 2010 census race and ethnicity questions will be implemented for the 2020 census and we'll describe those next.

Over the next series of slides, we'll walk you through some of the most common types of responses to the questions on race and ethnicity. We will also explain how the responses are interpreted in the sense of how the Census Bureau collects, codes, classifies, and tabulates these responses into statistical data.

Rachel Marks: So let's take a look at the question on ethnicity or Hispanic origin for the 2020 census. The question on ethnicity is asked first as directed by the 1997 OMB standards. The ethnicity question asks is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Most respondents will mark no, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and the response to the question as the majority of respondents in the United States are not of Hispanic origin.

For respondents who are of Hispanic origin most of them will check one of the three detail check boxes for the largest Hispanic origin groups -- which are Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban. Additional examples as well as a dedicated write in area are part of the ethnicity question. And these design features enable the collection of other detail Hispanic-origin groups such as Guatemalan and Honduran.

Next, we'll point out how additional response scenarios with it as a necessity question are collected and tabulated. In response to the question on ethnicity, a small percentage of respondents may report that they are both no, not Hispanic and yes, Hispanic to indicate their heritage. For the 1997

OMB standards and how the census edited these types of responses for the 2020 census, the Census Bureau will edit these responses to be Hispanic-origin in the 2020 census.

In addition, some respondents may report multiple ethnicities such as Cuban and Salvadoran. These multiple detailed Hispanic responses will be collected for research purposes in the 2020 census, but only a single Hispanic response will be tabulated -- similar to how it was done for the 2010 census.

We also know that some respondents report non-Hispanic answers in the other Hispanic response area. For example, someone made a report that they are Brazilian, German, or Jamaican in this area. When non-Hispanic responses are reported, they are coded into a non-Hispanic category. And if the other Hispanic box is marked, it will be removed.

In similar fashion, if a respondent reports a non-codable response to the question on ethnicity such as I'm from Mars. They are coded into an uncodable category.

Now let's take a closer look at the question on race. Some of the significant changes from the 2010 census race question are shown on the slide. Most respondents fully mark the White checkbox category.

And based on positive research and feedback from the communities over the past decade, we've included a dedicated write-in area and examples for the White racial category so that respondents may now report their detailed background such as Irish or Lebanese or German. This question design feature was not available in the last census.

Similarly, we've included a dedicated write-in area and examples for the

Black or African American racial category. A respondent may now report their detailed origin such as Jamaican or Nigerian.

Additionally, we've introduced detailed examples for the American Indian or Alaskan native racial category to facilitate the reporting of detailed American Indian tribes, Alaska native villages, and Central and South American indigenous groups.

In other common reporting scenarios, many Asian respondents will mark detailed Asian check boxes such as Filipino, Vietnamese, and Korean or they may use the other Asian write in area to report additional detailed Asian responses such as Pakistani, Cambodian, or Hmong.

In similar fashion, many Pacific Islanders will mark detailed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander check boxes such as Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan. For 2020, based on positive research and feedback the category "Guamanian or Chamorro" has been changed to "Chamorro." Additional detailed Pacific Islander responses such as Tongan, Fijian, or Marshallese are collected via the other Pacific Islander write-in area.

Nicholas Jones: Next we'll discuss the reporting of multiple responses and how they are collected and tabulated. In response to the question on race which instructs respondents to quote mark X one or more boxes and print origins end quote, some respondents will report multiple race groups such a White and Black to indicate their heritage. These represent the reporting of two or more responses across categories.

This also applies to the reporting of detailed responses across major categories such as the reporting of both German -- which is classified as White -- and African-American -- which is classified as Black.

The goal of the instruction to mark one or more boxes and print origins is to help respondents understand that they are able to report multiple identities to fully represent their heritage. In a related but different way, some respondents will report multiple detailed groups to represent their multiple identities.

For example, someone may report as both native Hawaiian and Samoan. These multiple detailed Pacific Islander responses are collected and they will be used to tabulate the total counts of Pacific Islander groups, but they reflect a singular racial identity as both groups are classified as part of the larger native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander racial category.

In similar fashion, whether marked as a check box, or written into a write in area, multiple responses within a category such as Marshallese or Fijian constitute multiple origins within a single race.

Next we'll discuss some scenarios regarding the reporting of Hispanic answers in the race question. As we mentioned before, the OMB Standards state that people of Hispanic origin may be of any race. However, many Hispanics do not report or identify with that racial group. And many others report their Hispanic origin as their response to the race question.

When someone reports a Hispanic origin in response to the race question such as Latino, Mexican, or Salvadoran these responses are classified as some other race. If additional race groups are also reported, they are retained. For example, if Cuban is reported as well as Black, both responses are retained. Their response is classified as both some other race for the Cuban response and Black for the Black check box response.

Rachel Marks: Next we'll discuss some scenarios regarding the reporting of Middle Eastern

or North African responses in the race question. The OMB standard states that people of Middle Eastern or North African origin are part of the White racial category.

Therefore following the OMB standard, if someone reports they are Middle Eastern or North African or a specific Middle Eastern or North African origin such as Lebanese or Egyptian, those responses are collected and classified as part of the White racial category. If additional race groups are reported, they are also retained.

For example, if Egyptian is reported as well as Black, both responses are retained and the response is classified as both White for the Egyptian write in and Black for the Black or African American check box. Middle Eastern and North African responses to the some other race write in response area are coded and classified within the White racial category following the OMB standard.

Next we'll discuss a few additional response scenarios. Some respondents report their identity in the some other race write in response area. If the response can be classified within the OMB race category definitions, the some other race response is edited to match the relevant race category. For example, a response of Iranian is coded under White, Sudanese is coded under Black, and Filipino is coded under Asian.

These types of responses were fairly common in 2010 and 2000 but with the addition of detailed write in areas for all of the major OMB categories, we expect to see responses provided in their respective racial categories as opposed to the some other race response area. However, we do still expect to see some responses coming in via the some other race response area that cannot be classified as part of the OMB groups. The most prominent example

is Brazilian. Since Brazilians are not defined within the OMB definitions, they are not reclassified as one of the OMB race groups and remain as a distinct, detailed response within some other race.

Additionally, a number of respondents do not identify with any of the offered categories and instead solely check the some other race box without providing a write in response. In these cases, the response is coded as some other race.

Finally, for responding reports uncoded responses to the question on race such as human being or Martian, they are coded as part of a noncodable category.

A critical element of our work in the population division is answering questions about this demographic concept and characteristics in developing the statistics for our nation. We get questions all the time about how people should answer the questions on ethnicity and race.

If you're asked, or wondering, how should I answer the questions on ethnicity or race, please advise that individual that their response to the ethnicity and race question is based upon their self-identification. The Census Bureau does not tell individuals which box to mark or what heritage to write in.

As you've seen throughout this presentation, there are many ways individuals can and do answer the questions on race and ethnicity. Please let us know how we can help you advise you and your partners in the communities you work with as we approach the 2020 census.

We're happy to talk with you today about your questions about what we've presented and to discuss your comments related to the concepts of ethnicity and race in the 2020 census. And thank you for joining us today.

Deborah Rivera-Nieves: Great thank you. And I do believe that we are now ready to take some questions over the line. And as a reminder before the Operator gives instructions, we'll only be allowing each participant to ask one question when it's their time to ask. So Operator would you give instructions please?

Coordinator: Absolutely. We'll now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1. You will be prompted to record your name. Please be sure to unmute your phone. Once again if you would like to ask a question, please press star 1. We'll pause for just a moment to allow those questions to start coming through. Okay. Our first question comes from (Michael). Your line is open.

(Michael): Thank you and good afternoon. Thank you for the presentation. It was very informative. My question for you is do these two questions are required response for a completed census? Or if they're left blank, does this still signify as I completed census form?

Nicholas Jones: Thank you for your question, (Michael). So we do encourage and request that people respond to the census by answering all questions on the form so that it reflects how they would self-identify -- whether that be the question about their age or their sex or their race or their ethnicity. And so we require with this decennial census a full enumeration of the population.

Everyone is asked to answer all the questions. If questions are left blank, then information that may be elsewhere on the form is used to help provide the details for that question. Or if nothing is provided that helps to get that information, it may be impeded from other data sources such as related administrative records such as perhaps your last census that you answered or the American Community Survey.

So thank you for asking that question, (Michael).

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Amanda). Your line is open.

(Amanda): Hello. Thank you. Yes, I'd like to ask if there is a public phone number that people can receive assistance with for filling out the form.

Nicholas Jones: Yes. So thank you for that question (Amanda). We can send that information through the chat and I'll also make it available for everyone online. The question that you're seeing right now is a telephone number -- a toll free number -- for assistance with information about census data or questions about the census itself.

But there are other telephone numbers that are available to the public throughout the data collection phase of the census. Your responses can actually be taken and recorded via telephone. We're encouraging everyone to participate with the census in 2020 by filling out the responses online or via phone or on paper depending on how you receive your invitation to do so. But one of those mechanisms is to complete your form via telephone.

Coordinator: And next we'll go to (Charles). Your line is open.

(Charles): Yes, thank you for the presentation. Regarding to one of the things that I noticed, my question was what was the rationale for including Egyptian under the White categories?

Rachel Marks: Thank you for your question. So the reason that the Egyptian is included as part of the White category is because the Census Bureau needs to follow the Office of Management and Budget standards which defines the race categories. And the Office of Management and Budget defines White, it

includes the Middle Eastern and North African as part of the White category. So Egyptian is part of the Middle Eastern and North African group.

But that being said, a respondent who is Egyptian and may not identify as White they might in the example that we showed they may identify as part of the Black category or perhaps some other race category. What we are trying to do in the census is respect all the different identities a respondent might have.

So if a check the Black box and write in that they are Egyptian, we will still retain that Black response that they provide us with. But we'll also keep that Egyptian response following the OMB standards must be part of the White response category. So that's the rationale behind that. Thank you for your question.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Nat). Your line is open.

(Nat): Hi. Thanks. I recognized that the Census Bureau needs to follow the OMB standards. But I'm just curious why if research shows that the combined to race ethnicity question was better than the current approach, why OMB abandoned the efforts to shift to that single question approach? Thanks.

Nicholas Jones: Thank you for your question. Throughout the last several decades, the Census Bureau has been a leader in conducting research to help us improve the questions on ethnicity and race. And one thing that we have seen is that these questions have incrementally improved over time.

We've made some decisions for the 2020 census that will allow us to collect more detailed information, such as the introduction of write in response areas and detailed examples for the White racial category and the Black racial category. Our research has shown that that would be a very good

Improvement to help people self-identify more easily on the form.

But again, the Census Bureau follows the standards set by the federal government through the US Office of Management and Budget. And going into the 2020 census, those standards still remain intact with the 1997 standards requiring the use of two separate questions on ethnicity and on race.

We expect with the 2020 census to conduct research and evaluation of the quality of the data and the response patterns and the type of distribution that were seen from 2020 census answers. And that will lead us to conduct more research as we prepare for the 2030 census.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Tim). Your line is open.

(Tim): Yes, hi. Thanks very much for the presentation. I enjoyed it. My question I guess might be similar to (Charles) has to just for an example I am very familiar with, which is Cuban. Could you repeat what would happen if someone I believe marked Cuban as Hispanic and then wrote in Black or was it the opposite -- checked Black and then wrote in Cuban.

Just because you know, I believe that's a society very similar to ours and that there are Black and White people and neither race obviously, you know, has claim to the identity of Cubans than the other. So I just wanted to see if I understood that response correctly. Thank you.

Rachel Marks: Thank you for your question. So we know that a lot of Hispanics will report their detailed Hispanic identity in the Hispanic origin question and they'll come to the race question and they might repeat their response in the race question. And they might not provide any other racial response. Or they may like you see in the example you see here on the screen they might provide a

detailed Hispanic response like Cuban and also provide a race response.

So in this case what would happen because the OMB standards state that Hispanics may be of any race, what would happen is we would retain their response of Black or African American and because Hispanic is considered an ethnicity not a race by the OMB standard, we would convert the Cuban response as part of the some other race category. So this response would be part of the Black or African American category and the some other race category. So, thank you for your question.

Coordinator: Next question comes from (Diane). Your line is open.

(Diane): Thank you. If you have a family member that both parents one they put down the race as White and the other is Black, can the children be considered biracial? They can be counted as biracial if they like?

Nicholas Jones: Absolutely. So in response to the questions on race, which are based on self-identification, however the respondent chooses to report their identity, or the identities for another family member, or their children, all that information is collected.

So beginning with the 2000 census, that was the first census in which individuals were allowed to self-identify being more than one race or being multiracial or biracial. And that continued with both the 2010 census and the 2020 census.

We had a few examples on the screen which we'll go back to hear that talked about various ways in which people can report multiple identities and that we're collecting all of those identities and tabulating them as part of both categories.

So for example, an individual could be identified as both White and Black by marking both of those major checkbox categories for providing more detailed information in terms of their White racial heritage or their Black racial heritage as German and African American as shown here on the slide.

And again, both of those responses are collected and tabulated as multiracial responses reflecting the multiracial heritage that the person identified with. Thank you for your question on that topic.

Coordinator: We'll go to (Cynthia). Your line is open.

(Cynthia): Hi. This is (Cynthia). I was wanting to ask about spelling errors and how they're handled for tribal affiliation for question seven because some tribal names are complex and some are similar. For example, Mohegan Band of (Kosak) Abenaki, Elnu Abenaki Tribe, the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, and the (Kosak) Traditional Band of the Abenaki Nation. The what happens when a census keyer can't determine the applicable tribal affiliation easily?

Rachel Marks: Thank you for that great question. So we've done a lot of outreach over the past several years with tribes to first figure out if there are alternative names the tribal members might write in in response to this question because we know not all tribal citizens will write in their federally recognized tribe name. So that's step one of this. So we've gotten a lot of great feedback from the tribes on this.

But I think the key to your question is what happens if someone writes in something that we don't have on that list. So our keyers will key the best that they can. But we do have an automated process to try to match misspellings to a master file, a master list of all kinds of tribal names and also the other races

and ethnicities on this that we collect data for as well. And it's, you know, hundreds of thousands of lines long. It compiles data from previous censuses and our American Community survey and also research we've done to try to catch typos and spelling mistakes and other variations, entries people might write in.

And if we cannot catch them – if we're not sure what a spelling mistake is at that stage and we are unable to code it that way -- it will actually go to a human at our National Processing Center in Jefferson Indiana and we will do research in order to try to figure out what exactly that tribe is. And whatever experts here at Census headquarters will also be able to assist with that. So we do our very best to make sure every single write in is coded regardless of how it's spelled.

Nicholas Jones: One thing to add to that -- and this is true for all of the write-in areas that you see on the screen -- one of the innovations that we have enacted for the 2020 census is to expand the number of characters that we collect and use to account for the detailed reporting of that particular name, that particular identity.

So you can see on the screen the images that show the segmented boxes under each of the categories as a response area. You don't have to fit all of your information into that particular box. So the term Blackfeet Tribe is listed very neatly on the screen as our example. But someone could put more information than that.

Back in 2010 we collected up to 30 written characters in the write in response area. In 2000 we collected 18 detailed characters and used those to make the determination of what someone was telling us. In 2020 based on a research over the past decade and knowing that many detailed tribes are multiple

responses are being reported as part of someone's self-identification, we've expanded that write in area to recognize up to 200 characters.

This is more easy for you to understand and see when you are looking at the online instrument. Essentially when you're writing in response to that response area, you can keep typing up to 200 characters. On the paper form, we collect information within and around the write-in response so it doesn't necessarily have to neatly fixed in the confines of those segmented boxes.

And again, that's an important innovation for us to recognize all of what people are telling us in 2020.

((Crosstalk))

Rachel Marks: Operator do we have any more questions?

Coordinator: Sorry. Our next question comes from Mr. (Ortiz). Your line is open.

(Ortiz): Thank you. Question concerning the inclusion of Spaniards as Hispanics and I'm obviously knowledgeable that is a Hispanic group versus Spain. But I'm mostly focused on Latin America and I think that Latino would be better. But along those lines, the fact that for example a man is from Bolivia or is from Chihuahua, Mexico. Are they going to be able to report their ethnicity or is it just for Spaniards that would be counted? Thank you.

Nicholas Jones: By the responses - I'm sorry, thank you again for your question. We just wanted to reaffirm that everyone is free to self-identify how they respond to the question of ethnicity and on race. We know that there are challenges that some respondents may have with answering one or both of those questions.

We presented the OMB standards as a guiding principle in terms of how we classify and code and tabulate responses again based on the categories and the definitions that are present. But as we walk through a number of the different examples that we shared with you today, we do recognize that there are many different ways in which people will self-identify.

So respondents who may be of Central or South American indigenous background, they may in response to the question on Hispanic origin report something such as Oaxacan. They may choose report that same answer Oaxacan in response to the question on race.

Again, the OMB standards which are reflecting individuals for Hispanic or Latino origin being of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American and other Spanish cultural origins regardless of race, we recognize people identifying that way.

And also with the American Indian or Alaska Native category, people who have origins in any of the original peoples of North and Central America - - sorry, North and South America including Central America -- are also classified as American Indian or Alaska native.

We did a lot of research on this over the past decade and we know that there are some complexities and challenges with people from indigenous backgrounds reporting and responding to the questions on ethnicity and race. Again, the major principle that we wanted to share is that it's based on how people choose to self-identify. And we reflect and report those identities out in the manner in which they occurred.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Roxanne). Your line is open.

(Roxanne): Hi there. I wanted to know, more interested in the earlier censuses. Can you explain the three-fifths compromise and how African-Americans recounted in the first few censuses? Thank you.

Nicholas Jones: Thanks for your question, (Roxanne). I'm going to go back to one of the pieces that we listed on the early part of the presentation and use it as a reference. So as a link at the bottom of the slide, which is slide number eight, it takes you to our data visualization which talks about the changes in the measurement of race and ethnicity across the decades starting with the first census in 1790 all the way through the last census in 2010.

The link also has a connection to a research paper that was written and published by some of our census colleagues here at the Census Bureau that talks about the ways in which the questions operated, the concepts that were constructed at the times. And it does have a reference to race, ethnicity, and things like the first census and 1790 and the Constitution. So hopefully you will have a chance to take a look at that paper and it will give you some great insights to address your questions.

(Roxanne): Thank you.

Coordinator: And next we'll go to (Cynthia). Your line is open. (Cynthia), your line is open. You may want to check your mute button. We can move to the next person. (Monique), your line is open.

(Monique): Yes, can you hear me?

Nicholas Jones: Yes, thank you.

(Monique): Yes, hi. I'm calling from New York and we have a very large Middle Eastern

population. And my question to the panel is when we go to do the Census count and our numerators sit with the respondents, when they have questions regarding the race, how are we to explain to them when they check off the race and they see White?

A gentleman asked earlier that they put they identify as Black and they put Black Egyptian. You're saying that when they process the forms that you're going to choose either or. It sounds like you're saying that you're going to recognize Black but then when it comes to ethnicity, you're going to say either or Black or Egyptian. So are you saying that you're going to recognize Black but then disallow the Egyptian because it's classified as White?

Rachel Marks: So thanks for asking your question. So I think what we want to do is clarify exactly what happens with the Middle Eastern North African responses. So following the OMB standards, Middle Eastern North African responses must be classified as part of the White racial category. But we want to respect all responses that people provide.

So if a respondent checks that they are both Black and writes in another response, we will keep both of those responses. We will not keep only the Black response, and get rid of the Egyptian. That's not what we're doing.

What we'll do is we will keep the Black response and we will keep the Egyptian response. When we output the day to - though because Egyptian is part of the Middle Eastern North African category, we have to make that tabulate that as part of the overall White racial category.

So a response like the one you see here on the screen brother responded marked both Black and written in Egyptian, they will be counted as both part of the Black population and the Egyptian population. So when you're talking

to a respondent or working with the community, I think our message to them is really this is about self-identification. We'll preserve all of the responses that they provide to us.

So we can't advise them how to respond but we can just tell you what happens to responses when we receive them. So thank you for that great question.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (\_\_\_\_\_). Your line is open.

[Redacted for PII]

Coordinator: And the next question comes from (Hassan). Your line is open.

(Hassan): Yes, thank you very much for this presentation. My question is more technical (unintelligible) if US Census Bureau has any plan to secure and ensure (unintelligible) population arrangements.

Nicholas Jones: I'm sorry. Would you mind repeating your question? It just really didn't come through on the audio for us. If you wouldn't mind repeating it.

(Hassan): Yes. Is there any plan by the US Census Bureau to ensure population managements are real-time reporting? Because we understand (unintelligible) updates about population from outside the United States and of course from American citizens maybe abroad.

Do you have this (unintelligible) between collecting this data and reporting it? But also it takes time for another census to come and adjust an update. Do you have anything planned for making sure that we have data at any time (unintelligible)? On the population management side system that you may have for real-time reporting.

Rachel Marks: Yes sir. Thank you for your question. Once again, I think we would be better able to assist you if you give us a call after the seminar has concluded. So I'm not sure if you can see the screen but again if you call the 844-ASK-DATA number -- that is 844-275-2342 -- we'll be better able to assist you. Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Marie). Your line is open.

(Marie): Yes, hello. Thank you very much. This is (Marie) and I represent the Make Portuguese Count National Complete Count Committee. We were able to meet with census officials from headquarters -- the chief of ethnicity and ancestry -- last June. And we were told that this time 2020 they would be a code number and tabulation for Portuguese as a Portuguese group, which there was not in 2010. We were only counted as White.

At the same time, we were told that because Portuguese people can be of any race -- from Africa or Asia or even South America -- that's no matter under which race Portuguese was written, that it would be coded and tabulated that's Portuguese. And this was last June. So is this still true?

Rachel Marks: Hi, (Marie). Thank you for your question. So I think if I'm understanding your question correctly, you're asking about some of our data products and tabulations. And so at this point in time, we are still working on developing or tabulation plans for our detailed race and ethnic groups. We do have a team here at Census that are conducting research and how exactly we will be tabulating these data. But at this time we haven't made any final decisions about exactly which groups we will be tabulating for the 2020 census.

But we are committed to producing these data products. So when we know

more, we will be happy to share more with the public, including you and our other stakeholders.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Naveek). Your line is open.

(Naveek): Hi. Thank you so much for your presentation today. So I work extensively with Middle Eastern and North African communities. And I can tell you for sure that the vast majority of them do not identify as White. And so advocates from those communities are telling them to fill in the other category or the race -- some other race -- and to write in under some other race Lebanese or Egyptian or wherever they're ethnic origin is from. From what I'm understanding from you is that that will be even if they mark some other race that will be tabulated as White anyway.

And so my question for you is will that effort the kind of make a statement that they don't identify as White, will that have any effect in the tabulation for now and will it have any effect on future categories for census 2030?

Rachel Marks: So we understand that not all members of the Middle Eastern North African community will identify as White. But as you know, we have to follow the OMB standards when we are classifying and tabulating our data here at the Census Bureau. So because of this, regardless of where a Middle Eastern North African response is written in, that response will be tabulated as part of the White category. And like we mentioned earlier if additional responses are written in on the form or checked on the form, we'll also tabulate those responses as well.

But ultimately what it comes down to is self-response. We're not telling Middle Eastern North African responses that they must mark the White category or they must write in the White category. We do expect that

respondents for write in the other categories and we know this is true from the 2010 census when they were write in campaigns to write in the some other race category as well.

We do intend to continue to do our research in the Middle Eastern North African category during the 2020 census and beyond as we conduct it decade. So we are continuing that research and will continue to work with the community with this as well. But thank you for your question.

Nicholas Jones: One thing to add just in case this didn't come across clearly in our presentation, unlike in 2010 when responses such as Lebanese or Egyptian or Syrian or Moroccan were collected and coded and only tabulated as White, for 2020 what's new is that we do have the opportunity to collect, code, classify, and tabulate responses with those individual groups such as Lebanese, Egyptian, Syrian, and Moroccan.

And so that's why it's really important for all respondents to note that they have the ability to self-identify with those detailed groups. And in turn the expectation is that the Census plans to tabulate for the first-time census counts and characteristics on populations such as Lebanese or German or Jamaican or Nigerian where as in previous censuses, those responses did not get individually accounted for their individual communities. I hope that helps to also clarify some of the things that are different and new about the 2020 census.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Lonny). Your line is open.

(Lonny): Yes, can you hear me?

Nicholas Jones: Yes we can, thank you.

(Lonny): Okay. I had a question on race. The state and county agencies, school districts, and the state tomographer even in Nevada seems to have put a lot of ask an American or Black into the two or more race category. And then they call it multiracial, which my understanding is you're only supposed to use the designations that you had developed for race. And it made it very difficult as a civil rights organization to track the perceived racial disparities in our school systems and other state agencies because of this misunderstanding of racial categorization.

Have you done anything to make it clear that how race should be defined when reporting on the local levels in the users have census data because it makes it very difficult for civil rights agencies to recognize disparities if they are coming up with I didn't know multiracial was a racial category. And also there was no way to pull out the fact that 30% of the Black students seemed to have disappeared in our most popular areas -- the most populated areas of the state.

Nicholas Jones: Thank you for your question. I think that we could also give you some resources offline, if you'd like to follow up with us again after the presentation. The census has followed the OMB standards from 1997 allowed for the reporting of multiple racial responses in response to the question on race since census 2000. That continued with census 2010 and will also continue with census 2020.

One of the fastest-growing population groups that we have in the United States is multiracial population. And we have tabulated and provided conceptual definitions and explanations as to how the data can be understood.

We talk about this commonly as a Black alone population for example or

an Asian alone population where that individual only reported a group that was Black for another individual only reported a group that was Asian. But someone who reported as both Black and Asian would be counted for both of those population groups and reflected in the population that we refer to as the two or more races population or the multiple race population.

So again, this is something that we've been doing since 2000 following the 97 OMB standards. And it's really important to understand all the ways in which the data are provided. The Census Bureau provides all of the information. It reflects how people are self-identifying. We could point you to a few reports that explain this in much more detail. And it should be very self-evident when you look at information to further understand the data and the properties that it includes for the statistics that we provide.

So we'd be happy to talk with you about more offline.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Joan). Your line is open.

(Joan): Hi, this is (Joan). I have sent - I'm not sure whether this question has already been answered in some fashion. But if you would go back to one of the slides with the racial question asked and then it says and. My question has to do with whether or not and is required since it is in large if you go back several where you had some samples.

Nicholas Jones: Thank you. That wasn't asked (Joan) but we appreciate your question. So as part of the research we conducted over the past decade, one of the things that we really wanted to provide guidance on are the instructions for the questions. And given that every population group has the ability to self-identify with detailed origins, we wanted to encourage respondents to note that that was new.

So again as we pointed out in previous censuses from 1790 until 2010, respondents did not have the opportunity to report a detailed White origin or detailed Black origin unless they went out of their way and wrote that information in -- such as German or Jamaican or Nigerian -- on another line, such as the American Indian line or some other race line.

What's different about 2020 is that for the first time following the OMB Standards which are shown here on slide 11, we provide mechanisms for individuals from all racial and ethnic backgrounds to self-identify their detailed origins. So these responses are not required but they are encouraged one, so that people understand that they do have that new opportunity and that's why the word and is written in bold and italic print -- to draw the attention to this new operational piece within the census question. So thank you for your question and for pointing that out.

Coordinator: And next we'll go to (Sandra). Your line is now open.

(Sandra): Hi, yes. I'm part of a community group -- one of the Complete Count Committees. And we are going to offer helping individuals with filling out their census if they want assistance. What type of training will you recommend for our groups to make sure that we can address the race issue with participants?

Nicholas Jones: So one thing that's we hope that you'll be able to use is this webinar. This will be recorded as Deborah shared at the beginning of the call and made available on the census website. So this is a great resource that you can use to help explain to various communities. We really try to give a broad overview of the ways in which many respondents may self-identify -- noting a lot of the complexities and a lot of the different ways in which people would respond to

these questions on ethnicity and race. So we think it's a great place for you to start.

Another thing that we stress is that these responses are based on how people self-identify. So if you're getting questions about how should I fill out the form or what does the Census Bureau want me to report, it's really best to share with that individual that their answers based on how they self-identify are the right answers. We do not tell them which boxes to mark, or what heritage to write in.

So with both of those, we hope that that's helpful information for you. If you have additional questions, we would certainly love to talk with you about your questions and see how we can help. And you can reach us via email or by calling 1-844-ASK-DATA and we'll be able to help address your other question.

(Sandra): Okay great. Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Marlon). Your line is open.

(Marlon): Good afternoon. My question deals with Native American Alaska Native.

Nicholas Jones: Okay.

(Marlon): I'm from the Northern (Arapaho) Tribe on the Indian Reservation in Wyoming. And we have, some of our grandchildren are part Northern Arapaho and part Eastern Shoshone. And so when they identify their, you know, are the tribal affiliations listed or do they write them in or what do they do?

Rachel Marks: Yes, that's a great question. So on the 2020 race question we do have a write in area for the American Indian or Alaska Native where we having instruction to print name or enrolled as principal tribe. And we list some examples there.

So what's new for 2020 is that we will accept up to 200 write in characters. So you can actually write beyond the space that you see here on the screen. In 2010 we only accepted 30 characters and we know that's not enough space for a lot of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. Especially if, you know, you're going to write in more than one that you might identify with. So you can write beyond this. You can write around the line, below it, in the margins, and will be able to capture and code all of that data in the 2020 census.

(Marlon): Okay thank you. Appreciate it.

Coordinator: Next question comes from (Shelly). Your line is open.

(Shelly): Hi. Good afternoon. Have a question and I've had a question since I got involved with census. Is on the two or more races -- specifically American Indian but this applies to all races -- if like the gentleman a few questions ago talking about, you know, civil liberties losing count, if somebody puts two races how do you count them? How do you not double count and how do you decide if somebody's Black or White or American Indian or White?

Nicholas Jones: Thank you for your question. And again, we can make this available to all of you as well as part of a follow-up to the webinar. But we have reports that have been written since census 2000 that talked about the concepts of multiple race reporting and the standards from OMB which the Census Bureau follows.

That requires us to be able to provide all the responses that someone has reported such as White and Black or Black and American Indian or Asian and Pacific Islander recognizing that they have the ability to self-identify with multiple racial groups.

So we have concepts that we've described and used to present data since census 2000 that shows individuals who reported only a single race being counted and individuals who reported multiple races also being counted. It really gives you a sense of the full picture or the full scope of a particular population group.

So for example American Indians and Alaska Natives have essentially just as many people who identify as a single race -- American Indian or Alaska Native -- as they do individuals who identify with multiple races -- American Indian or Alaska Native and another group such as White or Black. And to show only one segment of that population would not give the full picture.

So we know that this is a very important way of displaying and discussing the data to show the complexity and the diversity of our nation's population by talking about both, the alone populations, and the multiracial populations. We can give you some links again to reports which show this and help to explain it more clearly and more in depth.

But again, this is not new for census 2020. It's been part of what we followed with the OMB changes in 1997 to allow us to reflect the changing ways in which people are self-identifying.

Deborah Rivera-Nieves: Before we take the next question, it looks like we're about 10 minutes after the top of the hour and we want to be respectful to the speakers. So I think we're going to go ahead and conclude today's session. But

before we do that, I want to thank both Rachel Marks and Nicholas Jones for being so wonderful and for giving us all this incredible information. And also to my colleague Kim Davis who has been in the chat just assisting people with questions and sharing information.

Just as a reminder before we conclude, the recording for this presentation as well as the PowerPoint presentation, this will all be posted in the Census Academy site as a learning resource. So give us until probably Friday or Monday you should be able to see it listed up there. You can find it easily by going to [census.gov/academy](https://census.gov/academy). And will try to send that link over the chat in just a few minutes.

And before we conclude I also wanted to mention that we're going to be administering an evaluation form just so that you can give us feedback about today session. And that's going to happen - everybody who has joined us via the WebEx, you will be able to access evaluation form once you exit out of the WebEx event screen. We would really appreciate it if you could give us some feedback on how we did today, how we can improve and perhaps even some topics that you'd like to see in the near future.

So with that I'd like to once again thank Rachel and Nicholas, take everybody on the phone. Thank you for joining us today and have a great rest of your day.

Coordinator: Thank you. That concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.

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