



2015 National Content Test Briefing

Preparations for the 2020 Census
U.S. Census Bureau

Presented to the
National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations
October 10, 2014

Agenda

- Overview of the 2015 National Content Test
- Proposed content research
 - Within-household coverage
 - Relationship
 - Race and Hispanic origin
- Questions/Answers

2015 National Content Test Overview

- **September 1, 2015 Census Day**
 - Nationally representative sample, with oversampling of key population groups
- **Content:**
 - Within-household coverage
 - Relationship
 - Race and Hispanic origin
- **Contact Strategies to Optimize Self-Response**

Within-Household Coverage

- Determine how many people live in each housing unit
- Where you live and sleep most of the time
- 2010 Census used a rules-based approach
 - Presented the rule and example situations
 - Asked respondents to apply these instructions to their household and report a population count

Within-Household Coverage

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United States
Census
Bureau

2012 National Census Test

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Count the people who live at 123 MAIN STREET using our guidelines.

- We need to count people where they usually live and sleep
- For people with more than one place to live, we need to count them at the place where they sleep most of the time

Do NOT INCLUDE these people
(they will be counted at the other place):

- College students who live away from this address most of the year
- Armed forces personnel who live away
- People who, on September 5, 2012, were in a nursing home, mental hospital, jail, prison, detention center, etc.

Do INCLUDE these people:

- Babies and children living here, including foster children
- Roommates
- Boarders
- People staying here on September 5, 2012 who have no permanent place to live

How many people were living or staying at 123 MAIN STREET on September 5, 2012, including yourself? [\(Help\)](#)

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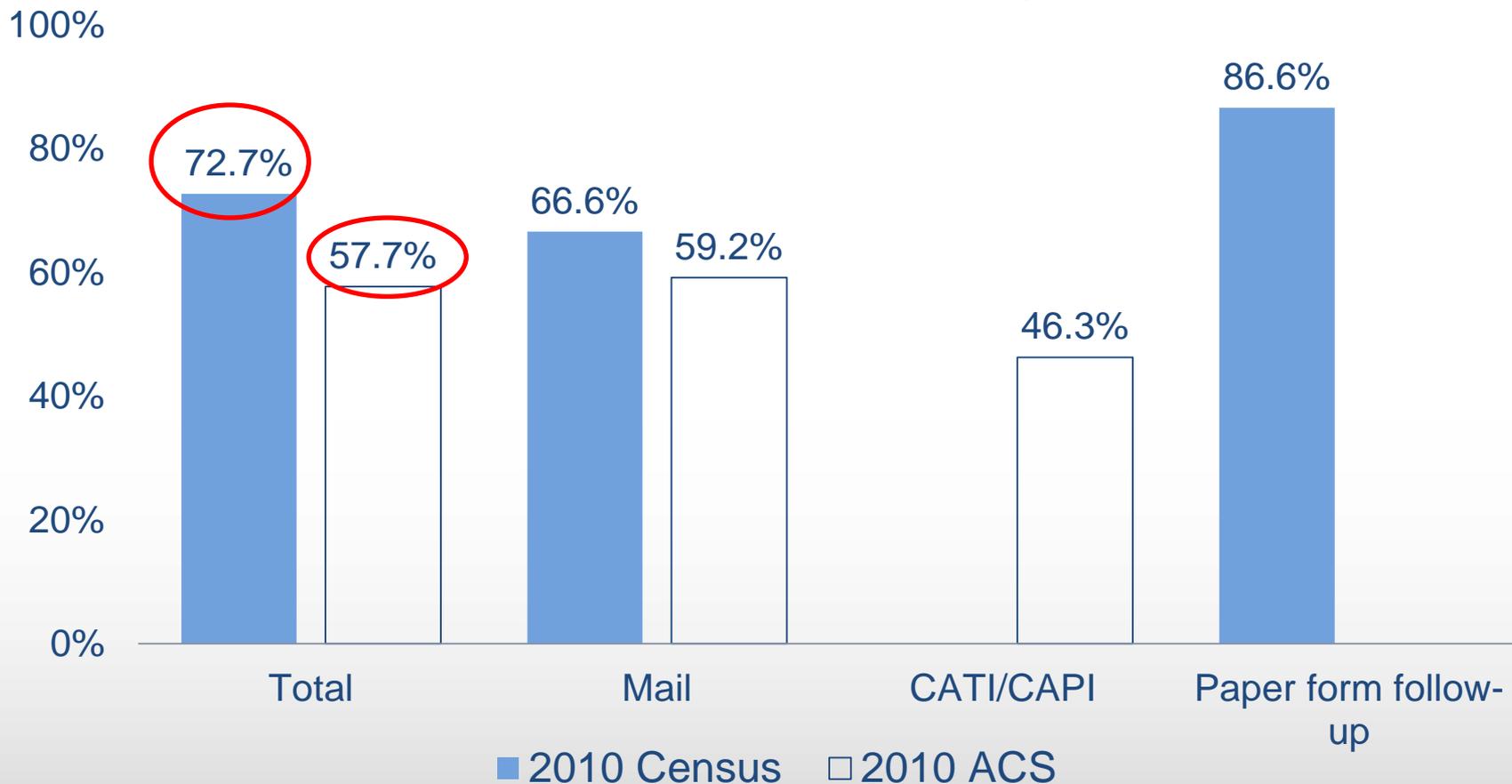
Within-Household Coverage

- 2015 Test: Question-based approach
 - Ask guided questions to elicit a household roster
 - Who lives or stays here?
 - Questions to identify potentially missing people such as babies, relatives, or people with no permanent place to live
 - Questions about people who sometimes stay somewhere else, such as college students, people with vacation homes, people in nursing homes, and those in the military
- Compare a rules-based approach to a question-based approach
 - Reinterview used to assess the approaches

Relationship Question Background

- “Unmarried partner” first placed on 1990 Census
- Change in 2000 to editing procedure: switched relationship to “unmarried partner” for those who reported as same-sex spouses rather than switching gender
- Census 2010 first to show estimates of same-sex married couples in special report/tables
- Also discovered significant error in estimates in 2010

Percent of Same-Sex Married Households with Inconsistent Sex Reporting Between Census Forms and Social Security Records: 2010 Census and 2010 ACS by Mode



Source: Lofquist and Lewis, 2014

Relationship Question Testing

- Since 2010, Census has participated in the OMB-led interagency group (Measuring Relationships in Federal Household Surveys), along with some 20 other agencies
- Census conducted focus groups and cognitive testing
- Developed new relationship question

Relationship Question Testing

- Since the June 2013 Supreme Court decision on the Defense of Marriage Act, estimates of same-sex married couples would inform planning for federal agencies who administer programs that depend on marital status
- Census has been in conversation with the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada, who already use very similar questions
- Recent tests include 2014 Site Test, AHS 2013, ACS-QDT

2010 Relationship Question

2. How is this person related to Person 1? Mark ONE box.

Husband or wife

Biological son or daughter

Adopted son or daughter

Stepson or stepdaughter

Brother or sister

Father or mother

Grandchild

Parent-in-law

Son-in-law or daughter-in-law

Other relative

Roomer or boarder

Housemate or roommate

Unmarried partner

Other nonrelative

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

2015 Relationship Question

How is this person related to Person 1? *Mark (X) ONE box.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opposite-sex unmarried partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex husband/wife/spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Son-in-law or daughter-in-law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex unmarried partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other relative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological son or daughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Roomer or boarder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted son or daughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Housemate or roommate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stepson or stepdaughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Other nonrelative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father or mother | |

Relationship Question Testing

- We are also planning to test a relationship/sex consistency check
- For couples whose relationship does not match the sex reports of householder and spouse/partner
- Check to be implemented in electronic modes
- Check will allow re-collection of relationship and sex for cases that were inconsistent
- Testing in another survey (American Housing Survey) indicates that such a check may reduce the error by roughly half in those modes

Race and Hispanic Origin Question(s)

- 2010 Census Alternative Questionnaire Experiment Research (AQE)
- Outreach and stakeholder engagement
- Mid-decade research and testing plans
- Timeline for making decisions

2010 AQE Design Strategies

Separate questions

Combined question

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 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, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↗

9. What is Person 1'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.* ↗

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — <i>Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.</i> ↗ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — <i>Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.</i> ↗ | |

- Some other race — *Print race.* ↗

8. What Is Person 1's race or origin? Mark one or more boxes AND write in the specific race(s) or origin(s).

- White — *Print origin(s), for example, German, Irish, Lebanese, Egyptian, and so on.* ↗

- Black, African Am., or Negro — *Print origin(s), for example, African American, Haitian, Nigerian, and so on.* ↗

- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin(s), for example, Mexican, Mexican Am., Puerto Rican, Cuban, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↗

- American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo, Mayan, Tlingit, and so on.* ↗

- Asian — *Print origin(s), for example, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.* ↗

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander — *Print origin(s), for example, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.* ↗

- Some other race or origin — *Print race(s) or origin(s).* ↗

2010 AQE Main Findings

Results for the Combined Question

- Did ***not*** reduce Hispanic, Black, AIAN, Asian, NHPI
- “Some Other Race” and “White” reduced
- Yielded lower item non-response rates
- Increased detailed reporting for most groups, but decreased reporting for others
- Reflects better self-identity, per reinterview
- Fair, equitable treatment for all, per focus groups

Engagement and Discussion With Stakeholders and Advisors

- Census Bureau National Advisory Committee
- OMB Federal Interagency Committee
- Myriad racial and ethnic communities, organizations, and leaders
- Academic scholars and expert researchers

Goals for Mid-Decade Race and Hispanic Origin Research

Four 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

Dimension 1: Separate vs. Combined

**** NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.**

8. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? Mark one or more boxes **AND** print the specific origin(s).

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(s), for example, Dominican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Colombian, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

9. What is this person's race? Mark one or more boxes **AND** print the specific race(s) and/or origin(s).

White – Print origin(s), for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print origin(s), for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.

Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Guamanian or Chamorro

Other Asian – Print origin(s), for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, Thai, Laotian, Bangladeshi, etc.

Other Pacific Islander – Print origin(s), for example, Tongan, Fijian, Palauan, Marshallese, Tahitian, Papua New Guinean, etc.

Some other race – Print race(s) and/or origin(s).

What is this person's race or origin? Mark one or more boxes **AND** print the specific race(s) and/or origin(s).

White – Print origin(s), for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

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

Black or African Am. – Print origin(s), for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, etc.

Asian – Print origin(s), for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print origin(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – Print origin(s), for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

Some other race or origin – Print race(s) and/or origin(s).

Dimension 2: “MENA” Category

What is your race or ethnicity? *Mark all boxes that apply AND print your specific ethnicities in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.*

- White** – *Print specific ethnicities, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.*

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

- Black or African Am.** – *Print specific ethnicities, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, etc.*

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

- American Indian or Alaska Native** – *Print specific ethnicities, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.*

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

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

- Some other race or ethnicity** – *Print specific race(s) and/or ethnicities.*



Dimension 2: “MENA” Category

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

Dimension 3: Instructions and Terms

Instruction Wording:

- *Mark [X] one or more boxes.*
- *Mark all boxes that apply...*

Note, you may report more than one group.

Alternatives for Terminology:

- “Race,” “Ethnicity,” “Origin”
- Which categories describe you?

Dimension 4: Web-Based Designs

Initial Screen for Race and Ethnicity

What is JOHN A DOE's race or origin? *Select one or more boxes AND enter the specific race(s) or origin(s).* [\(Help\)](#)

White – For example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, and so on.

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – For example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran, Colombian, and so on.

Black or African Am. – For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somalian, and so on.

Asian – For example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese and so on.

American Indian or Alaska Native – For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, and so on.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, and so on.

Some other race or origin

Dimension 4: Web-Based Designs

Subsequent Screens for Detailed Responses

Screen for Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish

Select all boxes that apply and/or enter detailed ethnicities in the space below.

HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH

- Mexican or Mexican American
- Puerto Rican
- Cuban
- Dominican
- Salvadoran
- Colombian

Enter other ethnicities below (for example, Spaniard, Honduran, Ecuadorian, etc.)

Screen for Black or African Am.

Select all boxes that apply and/or enter detailed ethnicities in the space below.

BLACK OR AFRICAN AM.

- African American
- Jamaican
- Haitian
- Nigerian
- Ethiopian
- Ghanaian

Enter other ethnicities below (for example, South African, Barbadian, Liberian, etc.)

Screen for Asian

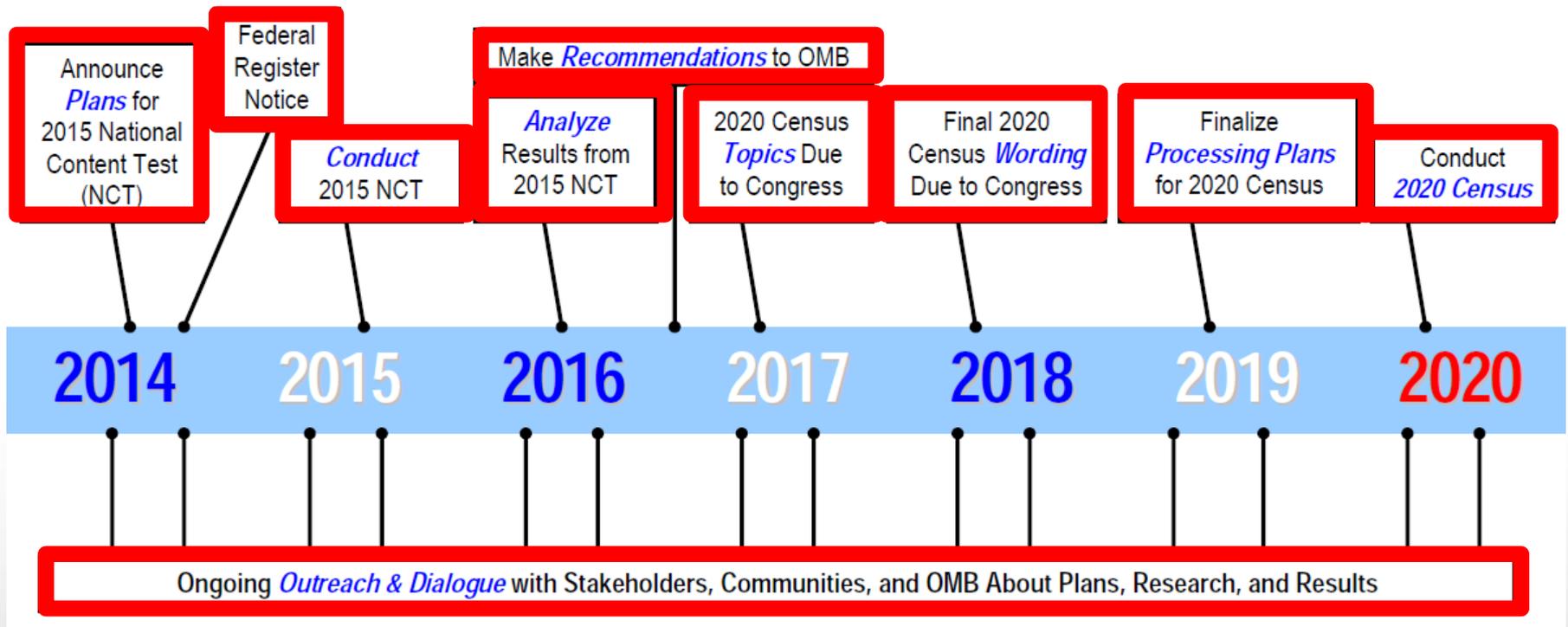
Select all boxes that apply and/or enter detailed ethnicities in the space below.

ASIAN

- Chinese
- Filipino
- Asian Indian
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Japanese

Enter other ethnicities below (for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.)

Timeline for Making Decisions



Additional Background on www.census.gov

Search “Same Sex Couples” for:

- Research reports
- Annual ACS data tables on characteristics of same sex couple households
- Report: “Same-sex Couple Household Statistics from the 2010 Census”

Random Samplings blog:

“Shedding Light on Race Reporting Among Hispanics”

<http://blogs.census.gov/2014/03/28/shedding-light-on-race-reporting-among-hispanics/>

“2010 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Alternative Questionnaire Experiment”

<http://www.census.gov/2010census/news/press-kits/aqe/aqe.html>

Questions for NAC

- What official federal programmatic needs for these data are you aware of, and at what geographic level?
- Do you have ideas about how to clearly communicate the specific relationship categories we are trying to capture to communities whose first language is other than English?
- Are there specific tabulations for same-sex married couples and for race and ethnicity that you would like to see in the future?