

U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Tribal Enrollment Cognitive Testing Discussant Comments

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Capturing Tribal Enrollment: Challenges and Opportunities

- AIAN's are not a racial minority; political status as citizens of tribal nations, yet this is not afforded to all AIANs
- Tribes have the sovereign right to determine and govern enrollment; what is the value of self-identified enrollment?
- A wealth of new data for tribes, agencies, communities, and researchers alike, but what about consequences? Potential alternatives, such as investing in tribal censuses?



Focus Group Comments

- 11 focus groups in 5 weeks was an ambitious undertaking- well done research team!
- Facilitated development of questions for cognitive testing
- Can high level descriptives be provided detailing # participants per site, # tribes represented, gender, reservation residency?
- Did any focus groups not meet the minimum number of participants? Will those findings still be utilized?



Paucity of Reservation Outreach

- A homogeneous conceptualization of tribal identity and enrollment cannot be assumed among urban Indians and reservation Indians
- Not a single focus group was held on a reservation; how were/can barriers to research participation be mitigated?
- Only one reservation site is proposed for cognitive testing, is there opportunity to add additional reservation sites?



Complexity of Alaska Native Identity

- Over 40% of federally recognized tribes are in Alaska (N=229), not including state and non-recognized.
- 3 questions are proposed capturing varying levels of complexity, largely focused on that among Alaska Natives
- Why “federally recognized” wording for Alaska Natives only?
- Could a targeted Alaska-specific strategy be explored?



Cognitive Interview Comments

- How were 63 cognitive interviews, and only 15 with federally recognized tribal members (N=567) and 12 with Alaska Natives (N=229), determined adequate to capture the diversity within the AIAN population?
- Understandably there are resource constraints, however, is there opportunity to expand this sample?
- Expanding the sample deserves further consideration given the many “diversity” factors sought in the recruitment plan (e.g. tribal engagement, age, gender, education, etc.)



NAC Feedback

- Deadline for NAC feedback on the questions, proposed sites, and recruitment strategy is April 29, 2016
- What is the process for NAC members to submit feedback?
- Will official NAC recommendations be considered?
- Nea'ese (thank you) for the opportunity to share my comments

