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Ann Morning | April 5, 2017

**Discussant Remarks on  
2015 National Content Test  
Race & Ethnicity Analysis Report**

U.S. Census Bureau  
National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations

# Overall Assessment of Report

- ★ Clear, both organizationally and visually
- ★ Comprehensive
  - ★ Including lots of behind-the-scenes effort (e.g. updating code lists, resolving ambiguous cases, 34-37)
- ★ Transparent and responsive to stakeholders
  - ★ E.g. receptive to testing MENA category, and to previous NAC recommendations
- ★ Effective analysis of mixed-methods data
  - ★ Survey, reinterview, and qualitative cognitive testing

# Overview of Remarks: Highlighted Findings

1. Census Bureau goals for data quality prompt selection of combined-format, MENA-inclusive format with new instructions and “race or ethnicity” terminology
2. Additional observations and questions of interest
  - Re: combined format
  - Re: Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) origin checkbox

# 1. High rates of detailed reporting

## Reporting of detailed origin boosted by combined format + detailed checkboxes, especially on Internet form

- Examples: 93% among whites, 95% Hispanics

*(See Tables 10 & 11, pp. 49-50)*

- Suggests a wealth of new data not previously available

## 2. Multiple-race reporting across formats

**Question: Why are multiple-race responses more consistent in the separate-question format than in either combined format?**

- 74% consistency in separate-question format vs. 50-54% in combined formats

*(Table 16, p. 57)*

### 3. MENA working classification

**While most respondents in “working classification” MENA groups identified as MENA when that checkbox was available, most respondents in the oversample (i.e. in potential MENA groups) did not**

- 76% in “MENA definition” groups chose the MENA checkbox when available, versus 14% of those in “oversample” groups

*(Table 21, p. 62)*

- Suggests current MENA definition works well

## 4. MENA inclusion and OMB checkboxes

**Question: It's not surprising that "White" and "SOR" responses decline when a MENA checkbox is included. But why do "Black" and "Hispanic" responses increase?**

*(Table 19, pp. 60-61)*

## 5. *Device matters*

**Logistic regression models suggest that compared to computers, using smaller devices (i.e. phones or tablets) to fill out the census results in:**

- a small decrease in detailed reporting
- a small increase in race nonresponse
- a substantial increase in multiple-race reporting

*(pp. 80-82)*