

**US CENSUS BUREAU NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RACIAL, ETHNIC AND
OTHER POPULATIONS
WORKING GROUP CHARTER**

Race and Hispanic Origin Research Working Group

Purpose

Results from recent decennial censuses and Census Bureau surveys and research tests, as well as communication with numerous race and ethnic organizations, advocacy groups, and individuals, reveal that the questions on race and Hispanic origin are problematic for a growing number of respondents. Changing U.S. population demographics and the fluidity of people's perception of their identity contributes to the issues that respondents have with finding themselves within Census Bureau race and Hispanic origin categories. Thus, the Census Bureau is exploring alternative approaches for collecting race and Hispanic origin data.

This Working Group will advise on the development, implementation, and analysis of research associated with alternative approaches to collecting data on race and Hispanic origin during the 2013-2014 Early Research and Testing Phase. Additionally, this Working Group will advise on engaging race and ethnic communities, key stakeholders, and academia about the race and Hispanic origin research being developed, in order to make this process as transparent as possible.

Working Group Focus

- *Advising on Research* – During the 2013-2014 Early Research and Testing Phase, this Working Group will advise on the development of the Census Bureau's research plans for the Census race and Hispanic origin questions. This includes advising on priorities for further analyzing results from the 2010 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Alternative Questionnaire Experiment, which will inform further testing. Also, this includes assisting with refining race and Hispanic origin question design strategies for research, experimentation and testing. This Working Group will recommend strategies for the implementation of quantitative and qualitative research in upcoming census tests. Additionally, reviewing research study plans and analysis plans and advising on methods and approaches to analyzing data and assessing results will be a focus of this Working Group.
- *Advising on Engaging with the Public* – This Working Group will recommend strategies to be transparent and engage and inform the public of race and Hispanic origin research and recommendations during the 2013-2014 Early Research and Testing Phase. This includes making recommendations for soliciting feedback from key stakeholders, race and ethnic communities, and academia on major question design strategies and research results.

Working Group Meetings and Members

- Working Group meetings will be held once a month.
- Membership in the Working Group will consist of 6 to 8 National Advisory Committee (NAC) members (one will be designated as the Working Group lead), plus if needed, other participants as agreed upon by the NAC members of the working group.

Working Group Deliverables

- A work plan that details the Working Group's activities through March 2014 will be presented at the March 14-15, 2013 NAC meeting.
- Findings from the Working Group will be presented at the October 31-November 1, 2013 NAC meeting.
- A final report will be submitted to the Census Bureau at the March 20-21, 2014 NAC meeting.

Sources of Information

- 2010 Census Race and Ethnicity Brief Series
- 2010 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Alternative Questionnaire Experiment Research Results
- 2012 National Census Test results (forthcoming)
- 2020 Census Research and Testing Programs and Projects Summary

Census Bureau Staffing/Subject Matter Experts

- Karen Humes, Population Division
- Tom Loo, Office of External Engagement