

2015 National Content Test: Race/Ethnicity

COMMENTS

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Key Issues/Questions

- Combined question versus the current format:
separate questions on Hispanic origin and race
- Addition of the MENA category
- Question wording, including the use of check boxes
- Order of the categories
- Mode effects: Internet, paper, telephone
- Use of administrative records and non-response follow-up
- Linking past with the future
- Impact on other federal and state data collection efforts
- Educating the public

Combined question versus the current format; Question wording; addition of MENA; Order of categories

- Compelling evidence for a combined question
- Within the 'traditional' race categories a move towards national origin – allows individuals to 'find themselves' – likely to be particularly important for the foreign born
- The proposed combined format may also encourage reporting of multiple races
- Use of check boxes improves reporting in most instances
- “Mark all that apply” versus mark one or more
- The addition of the MENA category?
- Order of categories – does it matter?

Mode effects: Internet, paper, telephone

- Response mode varies by characteristics of individuals
- Disadvantaged groups and rural residents less likely to use the internet
- Response prompts vary by mode
- How will this variability by mode affect individual responses?

Use of administrative records & non-response follow-up

- Disadvantaged groups and rural residents less likely to use the internet
- Less likely to return the paper questionnaire?
- Non-response follow-up may be particularly important for these groups – should be considered in designing NRFU
- Administrative records will be based on current reporting practices, if any race/ethnicity data are in the record

Linking past with the future

Impact on other federal and state data collection efforts

- Linkage past with the future
 - Linkage with prior censuses to assess reporting patterns by same individuals
 - Guidance for data users with examples of how to harmonize data across censuses
- Impact on other federal and state data collection efforts
 - Vital statistics – birth and death records
 - Linkage of 2020 census or ACS to sample of birth and death records
- Educating the public