Reporting of Middle Eastern and North African Responses in the 2020 Census Race Question

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Overview of This Research Paper

This report presents findings from the 2020 Census on the reporting of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) identities in the question on race. This research adds to the growing body of research on the MENA population in the United States. It is important to emphasize that while a distinct MENA category was not included in the 2020 Census, two MENA examples (Lebanese and Egyptian) were added to the White racial category, along with a new dedicated write-in response area, to solicit information about detailed MENA responses for the first time in the history of the decennial census question on race. This research aims to shed light on the reporting patterns of the MENA population within the separate race and ethnicity questions design that was used in the context of the previous 1997 standards on race and ethnicity, and to inform future data collected within the updated 2024 race/ethnicity standards framework that uses a combined race/ethnicity question with a newly required MENA category.

Objective

The overall objective of this research is to evaluate the reporting of detailed MENA responses in the 2020 Census race question. This research examines which write-in areas on the race question were utilized by respondents to report detailed MENA responses, in the absence of a distinct MENA category and write-in area, as well as whether or not a major race category was selected for these respondents. We also conduct the same analysis for groups not included in the MENA classification used for the 2020 Census, such as Sudanese and Turkish, to understand more about the reporting patterns for these groups as they have been recommended to be added to the MENA definition by stakeholders.

Background

Since the 1980 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau has adhered to federal standards for classifying data on race and ethnicity. This followed the establishment of federal standards which were first delineated and promulgated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1977 with Directive No. 15. Since Census 2000, the Census Bureau has adhered to OMB's 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, and followed this guidance for the 2000, 2010, and 2020 Censuses. MENA was not included as a minimum reporting category until the updated standards were released in 2024.

In the 1997 OMB standards, the racial category "White" was defined as "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa." During its review of the original 1977 standards in the mid-1990s, OMB received a number of public comments recommending the addition of a category for Arabs and Middle Easterners to the minimum groups listed in the standards, in opposition to the original 1977 standards which defined "White" similarly, as "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East." OMB did not accept the recommendation to add a minimum category for Arabs and Middle Easterners and instead encouraged further research on how to collect and improve data on this population group. Thus, in the 2000 Census, MENA responses were classified as part of the White racial category. The leadup to the 2010 Census saw renewed energy for a distinct MENA category and many MENA leaders advised people to report that they were Arab or MENA on the census and not to check the White racial category.

2010 Alternative Questionnaire Experiment

The Census Bureau's 2010 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE) was part of the research effort that followed the release of the 1997 Standards. In the AQE, six focus groups were conducted with 71 participants of MENA origin to understand more about their self-identity on census

questionnaires. The AQE focus groups sought to understand how and why people identify their race and ethnicity in different ways and in different contexts. The results from the focus groups indicated that many of the MENA participants had difficulty responding to the existing OMB race categories. They often did not know how to respond and/or felt excluded. In addition, many AQE focus group respondents – both within the MENA focus groups as well as across other focus groups – expressed that the inclusion of the terms "Lebanese" and "Egyptian" as examples under the White racial category was wrong or incorrect. These comments often led to a recommendation by focus group participants, across communities, that there be a separate racial category for those who would identify as Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab.

In response to a December 2014 Federal Register Notice about the plans for the 2015 National Content Test (NCT), the Census Bureau received thousands of public comments from the MENA community, and other communities, supporting the testing of a MENA category. These sentiments were echoed during a May 2015 Census Bureau Forum on Ethnic Groups from the Middle East and North Africa, where over 30 MENA experts were updated on the Census Bureau's research plans for testing a distinct MENA category and invitees shared their feedback on the potential MENA category. The experts provided feedback on the term "Middle Eastern or North African," as well as the Census Bureau's working classification of MENA and potential tabulations of MENA responses to the question(s) on race and ethnicity in the 2020 Census. These findings led the Census Bureau to test of a separate Middle Eastern or North African category in the 2015 NCT.

2015 National Content Test

The Census Bureau's 2015 National Content Test (NCT) examined respondents' reporting patterns to different questionnaire formats. A key dimension of this research was testing questionnaire designs that had a distinct MENA category and write-in area and designs that did not have a distinct MENA category or write-in area. For the purposes of the 2015 NCT research, the Census Bureau's working MENA classification was used. The Census Bureau's working classification of MENA groups was geographically based and includes both Arab groups, such as Egyptian and Jordan, and non-Arab groups, such as Iranian and Israeli. It also included ethnic groups from the region such as Assyrian and Kurdish.

The working classification of MENA included the following 19 nationalities: Algerian, Bahraini, Egyptian, Emirati, Iraqi, Iranian, Israeli, Jordanian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Libyan, Moroccan, Omani, Palestinian, Qatari, Saudi Arabian, Syrian, Tunisian, and Yemeni. In addition to the nationalities listed above, transnational groups, including both ethno-linguistic and ethno-sectarian groups, whose origins are in the Middle East and North Africa, were included in the working classification. These groups include Amazigh or Berber, Assyrian, Bedouin, Chaldean, Copt, Druze, Kurdish, and Syriac. Pan-ethnic terms and general geographic terms that respondents may report, such as "Arab," "Middle Eastern," or "North African" were also included in our classification. Religious designations, such as Muslim or Jewish, were not included in the working classification.

Based on stakeholder feedback, we also included groups not in the MENA working classification in the MENA sampling stratum so we could analyze how these groups responded by the presence of a MENA category. The following groups were also included in the MENA stratum: Afghan, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Cypriot, Djiboutian, Georgian Commonwealth of the Independent States, Mauritanian, Somali, South Sudanese, Sudanese, Turkish, and Turkish Cypriot

The 2015 NCT research found that many people of MENA background -- nearly 80 percent -- used the MENA category when it was available. When no MENA category was present, a MENA response was reported in the

White category about 85 percent of the time. The NCT research also found that reporting of MENA responses in the Some Other Race (SOR) category was significantly reduced from 11.5 percent when no MENA category was included to 3.7 percent with the inclusion of a distinct MENA category.

The NCT research findings showed that the use of a distinct MENA category elicited higher quality data; and people who identified as MENA used the MENA category when it was available, whereas they had trouble identifying as only MENA when no category was available. Based on the successful results of the 2015 NCT research and extensive feedback and support from MENA community leaders and researchers, the Census Bureau recommended moving forward with a combined race/ethnicity question design that included a dedicated "Middle Eastern or North African" response category. This approach was under review by the OMB. However, OMB did not revise the race/ethnicity standards prior to the 2020 Census, so a distinct MENA category was not included in the 2020 Census.

2020 Census

In accordance with 1997 OMB standards, the 2020 Census used two separate questions for collecting data on race and ethnicity. Within the 1997 OMB Standards, the Census Bureau was still able to make significant improvements to the 2020 Census race question design by adding a write-in response area to the White racial category, and including German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, and Egyptian as examples. The MENA examples were included with the White category following the standards set OMB 1997, which classify MENA responses as part of the White racial category. These changes enabled the first collection and tabulation of disaggregated decennial census statistics for MENA groups and provide the means for the analyses undertaken in this research.

All MENA responses were included as part of the total White population in the 2020 Census. However, the Census Bureau was able to disaggregate data for the MENA population because of the collection of detailed responses through write-in areas. In the 2020 Census, respondents who reported a detailed MENA response, such as Egyptian, Iranian, or Chaldean, in any write-in area in the race question, were included in the total White population and in the disaggregated MENA population.

Methodology

The race reporting patterns for people reporting MENA identities in the 2020 Census were examined by producing special tabulations from internal 2020 Census data files. The internal data used included unedited and edited demographic variables. The universe of this research was the total U.S. resident population who self-reported their race (i.e., their race response was not imputed through assignment, allocation or substitution). The data presented in this paper were privacy protected using a discrete Gaussian methodology with a privacy-loss budget of 0.01 rho.

In this research, we use the Census Bureau's 2020 Census classification of the MENA population. The Census Bureau's classification for the MENA population that was used in the 2020 Census is geographically based and includes Arabic-speaking groups, such as Egyptian and Jordanian, and non-Arabic speaking groups, such as Iranian and Israeli. It also includes ethnic and transnational groups from the region, such as Assyrian and Kurdish.

To address concerns raised about the exclusion of certain nationalities in the MENA definition, we also examine groups which were not included in the 2020 Census MENA classification. Several nationalities have been recommended by some community experts, stakeholders, and researchers as groups that should be added to the MENA classification. This includes Afghan, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Comorian,

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Cypriot, Djiboutian, Georgian CIS, Mauritanian, Turkish, Turkish Cypriot, Somali, South Sudanese, and Sudanese. Previous research showed that most members of these groups in the United States did not identify with a MENA category when it was offered. The present study provides more information on how these identities are reported in the context of the 2020 Census race question without a dedicated MENA category.

Results

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of the self-reported MENA population in the 2020 Census and in which write-in area self-reported MENA responses were reported. There were approximately 3.1 million self-reported MENA responses to the race question in the 2020 Census, accounting for 1.1 percent of the total self-reported population. Of these responses, nearly 80 percent (over 2.4 million) of all self-reported MENA responses were provided in the White write-in area. Approximately 16 percent of self-reported detailed MENA responses were reported in the SOR write-in area, 4.5 percent were reported in the Asian write-in area, and less than 2 percent were reported in the Black or African American write-in area.

The write-in area respondents self-reported their detailed MENA responses on is shown in Table 2. Over 90 percent of Lebanese (97.0 percent) and Syrian (91.8 percent) responses were reported in the White write-in area, while over 80 percent of Jordanian (89.5 percent), Iraqi (88.4 percent), Egyptian (88.3 percent), Israeli (86.4 percent), Libyan (86.1 percent), Algerian (85.9 percent), Tunisian (83.5 percent), Bahraini (82.7 percent), and Palestinian (82.5 percent) responses were reported in the White write-in area. Less than half of respondents reporting the terms Arab (41.1 percent), Middle Eastern (47.2 percent), North African (42.8 percent), Omani (43.9 percent), and Yazidi (29.2 percent) did so on the White write-in area.

The terms North African (20.7 percent), Berber (13.8 percent), and Moroccan (12.4 percent) had the largest percentages reported on the Black or African American write-in area. Ten groups had less than one percent of their responses reported on the Black or African American write-in area.

Omani (24.1 percent), Emirati (22.3 percent) and Saudi (18.0 percent) had the largest percentages reported on the Asian write-in area. The terms North African (0.3 percent), Egyptian (0.5 percent), and Lebanese (0.6 percent) had the smallest shares written on the Asian write-in area.

Over half of the self-reported population who reported their detail as Arab (51.5 percent) or Yazidi (59.5 percent) did so in the SOR write-in area. More than 40 percent of the write-ins of the term “Middle Eastern” (46.0 percent), Berber (45.5 percent) and Assyrian (42.5 percent) were reported on the SOR write-in area. The terms Lebanese (2.5 percent), Bahraini (6.0 percent), and Syrian (6.0 percent), had the smallest shares on the SOR write-in area.

Bahraini had the highest share reporting in another category, at 16.0 percent, followed by Omani at 10.8 percent and Emirati at 5.9 percent. Lebanese (0.1 percent) and Algerian (0.2 percent) were the terms with the smallest shares reported in another category.

The checkboxes selected by respondents who self-reported a detailed MENA response are shown on Table 3. The vast majority of MENA respondents (90.5 percent) selected only one major racial category checkbox,

such as White or Black or African American.[1] Nearly 75 percent of all MENA respondents only selected the White checkbox, while 12.1 percent only selected the SOR checkbox.

About 7 percent of MENA respondents selected at least two checkboxes indicating multiple racial categories. Of self-reported respondents selecting multiple checkboxes, White and SOR was the most common combination (2.3 percent), followed by White and Asian (1.6 percent).

Within the self-reported MENA population, 2.7 percent did not select any checkboxes, meaning all their responses to race question were provided in the write-in response area.

The detailed groups shown in Table 4 have been identified by stakeholders as groups that may identify as MENA and should be included in future iterations of the Census Bureau's MENA classification. The table also includes Comorian, which was not included in the 2015 NCT. Comorian was included for this analysis as it is part of the Arab League, and stakeholders have suggested we include all member states in the MENA category.

Armenian, Azerbaijani, Cypriot, Georgian CIS, Turkish, and Turkish Cypriot were classified within the White racial category in the 2020 Census, and at least 85 percent of each of these responses were self-reported in the White write-in area. Respondents from the four groups classified as Black or African American in the 2020 Census (Djiboutian, Somali, South Sudanese, and Sudanese) overwhelmingly reported their detailed responses in the Black or African American write-in area. Of these groups, South Sudanese (95.5 percent) and Somali (95.1 percent) were most frequently reported on the Black or African American write-in area, followed by Sudanese (90.4 percent) and Djiboutian (88.5 percent).

Over half of the Afghan population, the only potential MENA group classified as Asian in the 2020 Census, provided their response on the Asian write-in area, while about a quarter of the Afghan population reported their response in the White write-in area.

Mauritanian, which was classified as SOR in the 2020 Census, was most frequently reported in the Black or African American write-in area (57.8 percent), while 18.0 percent and 13.0 percent came in on the SOR and White write-in areas, respectively. Comorian, another group classified as SOR in 2020, was reported on the Black or African American write-in area 65.4 percent of the time.

Table 5 shows the checkboxes selected by self-reported respondents who identified as one of the groups stakeholders have recommended as being potential candidates for inclusion in the MENA inclusion. The results of Table 5 mirror those in Table 4.

Of the selected detailed groups in Table 5 that were classified within the White racial category in the 2020 Census, those who identified as Georgian CIS (93.1 percent) most often selected the White checkbox, followed by Cypriot (91.3 percent), Azerbaijani (86.3 percent), Turkish (84.9 percent), Armenian (81.2 percent), and Turkish Cypriot (22.5 percent). Those who identified as Turkish Cypriot frequently did not select a checkbox, with 77.5 percent of this population not selecting a checkbox.

Those who identified as South Sudanese (90.7 percent) most often selected the Black or African American checkbox. This was followed by those who identified as Somali (90.2 percent), Sudanese (84.2 percent),

[1] Major racial category checkbox refers to White, Black or African American, etc. rather than detailed checkbox, which includes groups such as Chinese, Native Hawaiian, etc.

and Djiboutian (77.0 percent). Those who identified as Djiboutian had the highest share (15.6 percent) of these groups that did not select any checkbox.

Over half of those who identified as Afghan selected the Asian checkbox, while over 20 percent selected only the White checkbox.

Nearly half of those who identified as Mauritanian or Comorian selected only the Black or African American checkbox. Nearly 16 percent of the Mauritanian and 7.1 percent of the Comorian population selected multiple checkboxes. Overall, those who identified as Turkish Cypriot had the highest rate of not selecting a checkbox, 77.5 percent, whereas only 1.1 percent of Georgians did not select a checkbox. Over 15 percent of the Mauritanian population selected multiple checkboxes, the highest of all groups on this table. In contrast, less than 3 percent of Georgia CIS, Somali, and South Sudanese respondents selected multiple checkboxes.

Comparison to the 2015 National Content Test Results

The results of this research into 2020 Census reporting patterns align with the results of the 2015 NCT and show that in the absence of a distinct MENA category, MENA respondents most frequently report their detailed MENA identity in the White write-in area. Among MENA respondents, 79.1 percent reported on the White write-in area in the 2020 Census, compared to 85.5 percent in the 2015 NCT. Similarly, the SOR write-in area was the second most common place where MENA responses were reported, with 16.2 percent in the 2020 Census and 11.5 percent in the 2015 NCT. In both the 2020 Census and the 2015 NCT less than 2 percent of MENA responses were written on the Black or African American write-in line.

Most groups recommended by some stakeholders for inclusion in the Census Bureau's MENA classification showed similar reporting patterns between the 2015 NCT and the 2020 Census. Of these groups, over 80 percent of 2020 Census write-in responses for groups classified as White (Armenian, Azerbaijani, Cypriot, Georgian CIS, Turkish, and Turkish Cypriot) or Black or African American (Djiboutian, Somali, South Sudanese, and Sudanese) were reported on the write-in area of their classification. These groups also had over 80 percent reporting on these lines in the 2015 NCT with the exception of Azerbaijani, which was reported approximately 70 percent of the time on the White write-on area, and Turkish Cypriot, which did not have enough observations to estimate variance in the 2015 NCT.

Conclusion

The reporting patterns of the self-reported MENA population in the 2020 Census are similar to those of the 2015 NCT in question designs when no MENA category was present. In the 2020 Census, the majority of MENA respondents reported their response on the White write-in area, followed by reporting in the SOR write-in area, and then the Asian write-in area. This is not surprising, given the Census Bureau's previous research and understanding of reporting patterns within the separate questions design that does not include a MENA category. This research showed that the inclusion of a dedicated MENA category in future data collections will enable respondents of MENA heritage to more accurately self-identify and report their detailed identities.

For groups not included the MENA category, we explored their reporting patterns and found that they had similar reporting patterns in the 2020 Census as in the 2015 NCT when no MENA category was present. These groups reported mainly on the write-in of the major race category they were classified in. The only exceptions were the two SOR groups, Mauritanian and Comorian, which were classified as SOR and were reported more frequently on the Black or African American write-in area.

OMB updated the race/ethnicity standards in 2024 and this final decision requires a new "Middle Eastern or North African" minimum reporting category and the use of a combined race/ethnicity question. The Census Bureau implementation of the new combined race/ethnicity question and MENA category in data collections such as the 2027 American Community Survey and the 2030 Census will utilize the same detailed race/ethnicity checkbox groups as shown in the updated 2024 OMB standards. With the new combined question, the Census Bureau will be able to examine how respondents report their racial/ethnicity identities with a designated MENA category.

Data interpretation

When interpreting the data in the tables, data users should take the following into consideration:

- All tables were subject to noise infusion that may result in percentages summing to more or less than 100 percent.
- Tables 2 and 4 are tally tables, meaning a respondent may be in multiple categories. As a result, the percentages in these tables may sum to over 100 percent. Additionally, the percentages shown in these tables are based off a noise-infused total of respondents, not shown in these tables, whereas the counts shown in the table reflect the number of responses. As a result, calculating percentages based off the counts may not match the percentages shown in the table.
- Do not infer suppressed totals (shown with an 'X') by adding or subtracting data. These data were suppressed for demographic reasonableness. Inferred totals may be unreliable (such as negative numbers).
- Do use caution if aggregation of counts is necessary to produce statistics for custom groups. Aggregations get noisier in proportion to the number of counts that are included in the aggregation.
- Do not expect consistency across tables. For example, the sum of detailed MENA responses will not sum to the total self-reported MENA population. This is due to two factors: 1) noise was infused in each individual count, meaning any sum of these counts will be noisier or less accurate and 2) Tables 2 and 4 are tally tables, meaning a respondent may be in multiple categories. As a result, the sum of these counts may be higher than the numbers shown in Tables 1,3 or 5, where respondents are only counted once.

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Appendix:

Table 1. Self-Reported Detailed MENA Responses by Write-in Response Area

	Number	Percent of Self-Reported MENA Population	Percent of Total Self-Reported Population
Total Self-Reported MENA Population	3,090,016	100.0	1.1
White[1]	2,443,643	79.1	0.8
Black or African American	49,680	1.6	0.0
Asian[2]	138,917	4.5	0.0
Some Other Race	499,546	16.2	0.2
Another Category[3]	21,383	0.7	0.0

[1] In 2020 Census questionnaire designs, the White category includes two detailed MENA examples (Lebanese and Egyptian) to elicit detailed MENA responses.
[2] Asian responses are from the Asian write-in area of Internet Self Response forms.
[3] "Another Category" includes American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, as well as the paper form's Other Asian and Other Native Pacific Islander write-in area.
Note: The total MENA population in this table may not add to the sum of the total MENA population because people may report multiple detailed MENA responses on mulitple write-in lines. For example, a repondent reporting detailed MENA responses on the White write-in line and the Some Other Race write-in line would be included in the White numbers as well as the Some Other race numbers.
Note: The MENA population includes people who self-reported to be of a detailed MENA origin. This population does not include responses that were assigned, allocated, or substituted during data processing.
Note: The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Decennial Data Review Committee (DDRC) number: CBDDRC-FY24-021, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0421).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Unedited File; 2020 Census Edited File

Table 2. Self-Reported Detailed MENA Groups by Write-in Response Area

Self-Reported Detailed MENA Group	Write-in Response Area									
	White		Black or African American		Asian[2]		Some Other Race		Another Category[3]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Algerian	27,864	85.9	1,845	5.7	297	0.9	2,914	9.0	71	0.2
Arab	82,715	41.1	1,898	0.9	14,337	7.1	103,649	51.5	2,485	1.2
Assyrian	29,016	57.5	61	0.1	1,416	2.8	21,429	42.5	219	0.4
Bahraini	596	82.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	43	6.0	115	16.0
Berber	1,901	55.5	474	13.8	41	1.2	1,559	45.5	103	3.0
Chaldean	42,935	75.9	(X)	(X)	864	1.5	14,043	24.8	247	0.4
Egyptian[1]	309,162	88.3	11,578	3.3	1,606	0.5	30,945	8.8	1,054	0.3
Emirati	707	62.1	(X)	(X)	254	22.3	274	24.1	67	5.9
Iranian	349,723	72.2	732	0.2	59,016	12.2	85,828	17.7	7,395	1.5
Iraqi	164,162	88.4	302	0.2	9,527	5.1	13,490	7.3	1,465	0.8
Israeli	141,574	86.4	5,920	3.6	1,985	1.2	14,697	9.0	672	0.4
Jordanian	94,975	89.5	185	0.2	4,041	3.8	7,752	7.3	604	0.6
Kurdish	15,686	66.2	(X)	(X)	1,696	7.2	6,874	29.0	248	1.0
Kuwaiti	2,871	68.7	(X)	(X)	598	14.3	804	19.2	15	0.4
Lebanese[1]	614,827	97.0	749	0.1	3,786	0.6	15,640	2.5	732	0.1
Libyan	10,093	86.1	903	7.7	92	0.8	883	7.5	120	1.0
"Middle Eastern"	112,924	47.2	1,077	0.4	15,164	6.3	110,091	46.0	2,158	0.9
Moroccan	85,393	68.0	15,536	12.4	902	0.7	24,767	19.7	1,961	1.6
"North African"	14,402	42.8	6,969	20.7	107	0.3	12,124	36.0	516	1.5
Omani	399	43.9	(X)	(X)	219	24.1	218	24.0	98	10.8
Palestinian	131,743	82.5	166	0.1	6,387	4.0	22,017	13.8	504	0.3
Qatari	287	72.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	84	21.2	18	4.5
Saudi	13,432	60.7	349	1.6	3,983	18.0	4,678	21.1	180	0.8
Syriac	1,601	69.1	101	4.4	22	0.9	573	24.7	82	3.5
Syrian	184,365	91.8	493	0.2	5,117	2.5	12,091	6.0	738	0.4
Tunisian	10,761	83.5	731	5.7	231	1.8	1,322	10.3	40	0.3
Yazidi	166	29.2	20	3.5	(X)	(X)	338	59.5	(X)	(X)
Yemeni	56,174	70.6	420	0.5	9,234	11.6	13,939	17.5	980	1.2
Other Middle Eastern or North African responses	1,971	57.0	198	5.7	163	4.7	659	19.1	67	1.9

[1]Used as an example of a detailed race group for the White write-in line.
[2] Asian responses are from the Asian write-in area of Internet Self Response forms.
[3] "Another Category" includes American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, as well as the paper form's Other Asian and Other Native Pacific Islander write-in area.
Note: The category Arab refers to those who reported a response of "Arab" or "Arabic." The category "Middle Eastern" refers to those who reported a response of "Middle Eastern." The category "North African" refers to those who reported a response of "North African." The category Other Middle Eastern or North African responses refers to those who reported other Middle Eastern and North African responses, such as "Druze" and "Bedouin."
Note: The numbers by detailed MENA group do not add to the total population. This is because the detailed MENA groups are tallies of the number of MENA responses rather than the number of MENA respondents. Respondents reporting several MENA groups are counted several times. For example, a respondent reporting “Israeli” and “Jordanian” would be included in the Israeli as well as the Jordanian numbers. Consequently, the percentages may sum to more than 100 percent.
Note: The MENA population includes people who self-reported to be of a detailed MENA origin. This population does not include responses that were assigned, allocated, or substituted during data processing.
Note: Due to noise infusion (1) some counts may be negative. These negative counts are suppressed and are denoted with an "X" in tables. (2) Percentages sum to more or less than 100 percent. Percentages shown are based of a noise-infused total of respondents, not shown in this table, whereas the counts shown reflect the number of responses. As a result, calculating percentages based off the counts may not match the percentages shown in the table.
Note: The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Decennial Data Review Committee (DDRC) number: CBDDRC-FY24-021, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0421).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Unedited File; 2020 Census Edited File

Table 3. Checkboxes Selected by Respondents Who Self-Reported Detailed MENA Responses

	Number	Percent
Total Self-Reported MENA Population	3,090,005	100.0
Single Checkbox	2,797,819	90.5
White[1]	2,300,670	74.5
Black or African American	29,867	1.0
Asian[2]	92,458	3.0
Some Other Race	372,615	12.1
Another category[3]	2,209	0.1
Multiple Checkboxes	208,182	6.7
White and Black or African American	27,018	0.9
White and Asian	48,313	1.6
White and Some Other Race	70,796	2.3
All other combinations[4]	62,055	2.0
No Checkboxes	84,004	2.7

[1] In 2020 Census questionnaire designs, the White category includes two detailed MENA examples (Lebanese and Egyptian) to elicit detailed MENA responses.
[2] Respondents are included in the "Asian" category if they selected any detailed Asian checkbox or the "Other Asian checkbox."
[3] "Another category" includes American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
[4] "All other combinations" includes all other combinations of race checkboxes not listed.
Note: The MENA population includes people who self-reported to be of a detailed MENA origin. This population does not include responses that were assigned, allocated, or substituted during data processing.
Note: The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Decennial Data Review Committee (DDRC) number: CBDDRC-FY24-021, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0421).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Unedited File; 2020 Census Edited File

Table 4. Selected Self-Reported Detailed Race Groups by Write-in Response Area Categorized by 1997 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 Classification

Self-Reported Detailed Group	Write-in Response Area									
	White		Black or African American		Asian[2]		Some Other Race		Another Category[3]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White										
Armenian	401,652	85.1	394	0.1	6,443	1.4	71,433	15.1	2,462	0.5
Azerbaijani	8,932	86.1	38	0.4	442	4.3	878	8.5	34	0.3
Cypriot	8,484	93.9	(X)	(X)	25	0.3	521	5.8	76	0.8
Georgian CIS	20,799	94.7	(X)	(X)	225	1.0	930	4.2	(X)	(X)
Turkish	191,648	88.8	483	0.2	5,749	2.7	19,511	9.0	1,105	0.5
Turkish Cypriot	221	99.6	1	0.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Black or African American										
Djiboutian	137	10.3	1,181	88.5	(X)	(X)	206	15.4	174	13.0
Somali[1]	812	0.4	191,327	95.1	604	0.3	8,839	4.4	1,014	0.5
South Sudanese	(X)	(X)	11,183	95.5	(X)	(X)	430	3.7	88	0.8
Sudanese	1,838	3.4	49,034	90.4	135	0.2	3,459	6.4	432	0.8
Asian										
Afghan	41,663	25.1	635	0.4	102,568	61.7	22,701	13.7	7,180	4.3
Some Other Race										
Comorian	15	5.7	172	65.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	76	28.9
Mauritanian	621	13.0	2,763	57.8	436	9.1	862	18.0	283	5.9

[1]Used as an example of a detailed race group for the Black or African American write-in line in the 2020 Census questionnaire.

[2] Asian responses are from the Asian write-in area of Internet Self Response forms.

[3] "Another Category" includes American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, as well as the paper form's Other Asian and Other Native Pacific Islander write-in area.

Note: The numbers by selected detailed group do not add to the total detailed group population. This is because the selected detailed groups are response tallies rather than the number of selected detailed group responses. Respondents reporting several select detailed groups are counted several times. For example, a respondent reporting “Somali” and “Afghan” would be included in the Somali as well as the Afghan numbers. Consequently, the percentages may sum to more than 100 percent.

Note: These detailed populations include people who self-reported to be of these selected detailed groups. These populations do not include responses that were assigned, allocated, or substituted during data processing.

Note: Due to noise infusion (1) some counts may be negative. These negative counts are suppressed and are denoted with an "X" in tables. (2) Percentages sum to more or less than 100 percent. Percentages shown are based of a noise-infused total of respondents, not shown in this table, whereas the counts shown reflect the number of responses. As a result, calculating percentages based off the counts may not match the percentages shown in the table.

Note: The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Decennial Data Review Committee (DDRC) number: CBDDRC-FY24-021, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0421).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Unedited File; 2020 Census Edited File

Table 5. Checkboxes Selected by Respondents from Selected Detailed Race Groups by 1997 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 Classification

Detailed Group	Single Checkbox										Multiple Checkboxes[4]		No Checkboxes	
	White		Black or African American		Asian[2]		Some Other Race		Another Category[3]					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White														
Armenian	383,284	81.2	39	0.0	2,524	0.5	47,694	10.1	230	0.0	28,297	6.0	9,777	2.1
Azerbaijani	8,925	86.3	(X)	(X)	286	2.8	563	5.4	(X)	(X)	435	4.2	135	1.3
Cypriot	8,118	91.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	200	2.3	128	1.4	441	5.0	(X)	(X)
Georgian CIS	20,351	93.1	35	0.2	144	0.7	477	2.2	95	0.4	521	2.4	241	1.1
Turkish	183,270	84.9	177	0.1	2,747	1.3	12,272	5.7	167	0.1	14,009	6.5	3,145	1.5
Turkish Cypriot	47	22.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	162	77.5
Black or African American														
Djiboutian	(X)	(X)	1,166	77.0	(X)	(X)	87	5.7	25	1.7	(X)	(X)	236	15.6
Somali[1]	495	0.2	181,788	90.2	84	0.0	6,092	3.0	270	0.1	5,546	2.8	7,167	3.6
South Sudanese	64	0.5	10,611	90.7	1	0.0	215	1.8	165	1.4	238	2.0	411	3.5
Sudanese	1,373	2.5	45,833	84.2	2	0.0	2,524	4.6	152	0.3	3,147	5.8	1,433	2.6
Asian														
Afghan	37,399	22.5	21	0.0	87,794	52.8	16,395	9.9	398	0.2	13,267	8.0	10,937	6.6
Some Other Race														
Comorian	15	4.8	148	47.4	92	29.5	10	3.2	25	8.0	22	7.1	(X)	(X)
Mauritanian	814	15.9	2,384	46.4	283	5.5	719	14.0	27	0.5	802	15.6	104	2.0

[1]Used as an example of a detailed race group for the Black or African American write-in line.
[2] Respondents are included in the "Asian" category if they selected any detailed Asian checkbox or the "Other Asian checkbox."
[3] "Another Category Alone" includes the American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander checkbox.
[4] "Multiple Responses" includes people who reported multiple checkboxes.
Note: These detailed populations include people who self-reported to be of these selected detailed groups. These populations do not include responses that were assigned, allocated, or substituted during data processing.
Note: Due to noise infusion, some counts may be negative. These negative counts are suppressed and are denoted with an "X" in tables.
Note: The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Decennial Data Review Committee (DDRC) number: CBDDRC-FY24-021, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0421).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Unedited File; 2020 Census Edited File