Collecting and Analyzing Data for the Multiracial Population in the United States: Research by the U.S. Census Bureau

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Symposium on Multiple Racial Identities and What They Mean for Health
Emory Conference Center, Atlanta, GA | June 8, 2017
The Multiple-Race Population in the United States: Results from the 2010 Census

Census 2000 and 2010 Census present *first* comparisons of self-identified multiple-race population in the United States
Growth of the Multiple-Race Population

Census 2000: 6.8 million

2010 Census: 9.0 million

32% Growth
2010 Census Race Alone or In Combination

- **White alone or in combination (231.0m)**: 74.8%
- **Black alone or in combination (42.0m)**: 13.6%
- **American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination (5.2m)**: 1.7%
- **Asian alone or in combination (17.3m)**: 5.6%
- **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination (1.2m)**: 0.4%
- **Some Other Race alone or in combination (21.7m)**: 7.0%
- **Two or More Races (9.0m)**:

Source: 2010 Census
Percent of Major Race Group Reporting More Than One Race: 2010

- **Total Population (9.0m)**: 2.9%
- **White (7.5m)**: 3.2%
- **Black (3.1m)**: 7.4%
- **American Indian and Alaska Native (2.3m)**: 43.8%
- **Asian (2.6m)**: 15.3%
- **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.7m)**: 55.9%
- **Some Other Race (2.6m)**: 12.1%

Note: Specified race group refers to the alone or in combination population.

Source: 2010 Census
Percent Distribution of Multiple-Race Population: 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White; Black</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White; SOR</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White; Asian</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White; AIAN</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black; SOR</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black; AIAN</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian; SOR</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black; Asian</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White; NHPI</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian; NHPI</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN; SOR</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHPI; SOR</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN; Asian</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black; NHPI</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN; NHPI</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more races</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The acronym SOR refers to Some Other Race; AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; and NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Source: 2010 Census
Change in Largest Multiple-Race Combinations: 2000 to 2010

- Two or More Races (+2.2 m): 32.0%
- White; Black (+1.0 m): 133.7%
- White; American Indian and Alaska Native (+0.3 m): 32.3%
- White; Asian (+0.8 m): 86.9%
- White; Some Other Race (-0.5 m): -21.1%
Change in Selected Multiple-Race Combinations: 2000 to 2010

- Two or More Races (+2.2 m): 32.0%
- White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (+57,000): 50.5%
- Black; American Indian and Alaska Native (+87,000): 47.6%
- Black; Asian (+79,000): 73.8%
- White; Black; American Indian and Alaska Native (+119,000): 105.7%
- White; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (+54,000): 59.7%
2010 Census Race, Hispanic Origin, Minority Distribution: All Ages

- White alone, Not Hispanic (196.8m) 63.7%
- Black alone, Not Hispanic (37.7m) 12.2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Not Hispanic (2.2m) 0.7%
- Asian alone, Not Hispanic (14.5m) 4.7%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Not Hispanic (0.5m) 0.2%
- Some Other Race alone, Not Hispanic (0.6m) 0.2%
- Two or More Races, Not Hispanic (6.0m) 1.9%
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race) (50.5m) 16.3%

Minority Population (111.9m) 36.3%

Note: Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the 2010 Census.

Source: 2010 Census
2010 Census Race, Hispanic Origin, Minority Distribution:
Under Age 18

- White alone, Not Hispanic (39.7m) 53.5%
- Black alone, Not Hispanic (10.4m) 14.0%
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Not Hispanic (0.6m) 0.9%
- Asian alone, Not Hispanic (3.2m) 4.3%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Not Hispanic (0.1m) 0.2%
- Some Other Race alone, Not Hispanic (0.2m) 0.3%
- Two or More Races, Not Hispanic (2.8m) 3.8%
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race) (17.1m) 23.1%
- Minority Population (34.5m) 46.5%

Source: Census 2000 and 2010 Census

Note: Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the 2010 Census.
Percent Change 2000 to 2010: All Ages

Note: Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the 2010 Census.
Percent Change 2000 to 2010: Under Age 18

- **Total Population**: +1.9m
  - **White alone, Not Hispanic**: -4.3m (-2.6%)
  - **Black alone, Not Hispanic**: -0.2m (-2.3%)
  - **American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Not Hispanic**: -0.04m (-5.6%)
  - **Asian alone, Not Hispanic**: +0.8m (31.2%)
  - **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Not Hispanic**: +0.03m (23.8%)
  - **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Not Hispanic**: +0.03m (16.1%)
  - **Some Other Race alone, Not Hispanic**: +0.9m (46.3%)
  - **Two or More Races, Not Hispanic**: +4.8m (38.8%)
  - **Minority Population**: +6.2m (21.9%)

Note: Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the 2010 Census.

Source: Census 2000 and 2010 Census
What may the future bring?
Research to Improve Race/Ethnicity Data: Results from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 National Content Test

Nicholas A. Jones, U.S. Census Bureau

Data Disaggregation Symposium
Atlanta, GA | June 8, 2017
2015 National Content Test (NCT)

- Census Day of September 1, 2015
- Large, nationally representative sample of 1.2 million addresses, including Puerto Rico
- Evaluate and compare different census content
- Refine estimates of national self-response and Internet response rates and continue testing different contact strategies for optimizing self-response
- Content reinterview with subsample of NCT respondents, to measure accuracy
- Overall response rate was 51.9%
Goals for 2015 NCT
Race/Ethnicity Research

Key Dimensions to Explore

• Separate questions vs. combined question
• Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) category
• Instruction wording and terminology
• Web-based designs to improve question understanding and optimize reporting of detailed racial and ethnic groups
### Separate Questions

**Question Format**

**NOTE:** Please answer BOTH question about Hispanic ethnicity and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic activities are not race.

3. **What is Person's race or origin?**
   - Mark all that apply AND print or write in the spaces below. You may select more than one group:
   - White – Print, for example, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Ecuadorian, etc.
   - Black or African American – Print, for example, African, Jamaican, Nigerian, Ghanaian, etc.
   - Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Mexican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Cuban, Dominican, Colombian, etc.
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Samoan, Hawaiian, Tongan, Hawaiian, etc.
   - Some other race or origin – Print, below.

4. **What is Person's Hispanic origin?**
   - Print, for example, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Ecuadorian, etc.

5. **Is Person 1 Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish?**
   - Write a list of Hispanic activities that apply AND print or write in the spaces below. You may select more than one group:
   - Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
   - Yes, Puerto Rican
   - Yes, Cuban
   - Yes, another Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish ethnicity – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Dominican, Ecuadorian, etc.

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### Combined Question with Write-Ins

5. **What is Person 1's race or origin?**
   - Mark all that apply AND print or write in the spaces below. You may select more than one group:
   - White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.
   - Black or African American – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Nigerian, Ghanaian, etc.
   - Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, etc.
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Samoan, Hawaiian, Tongan, Hawaiian, etc.
   - Other Asian or Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, etc.
   - Some other race or origin – Print, below.

6. **What is Person 1's Hispanic origin?**
   - Print, for example, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Ecuadorian, etc.

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### Combined Question with Checkboxes

5. **What is Person 1's race or origin?**
   - Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.
   - Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Mexican, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, etc.
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Samoan, Hawaiian, Tongan, Hawaiian, etc.
   - Other Asian or Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, etc.
   - Some other race or origin – Print, below.

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### Combined Question with Checkboxes

6. **What categories describe Person 1?**
   - Print, for example, Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, etc.
   - Black or African American
   - Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   - Other Asian or Other Pacific Islander
   - Some other race, ethnicity, or origin – Print, below.
Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) Category
Instructions and Terminology

Instruction Wording:

• Mark [X] one or more boxes.
• Mark all boxes that apply…

   Note, you may report more than one group.

Alternatives for Terminology:

• “Race,” “Origin,” “Ethnicity”

   What is Person 1’s race or origin?
   What is Person 1’s race or ethnicity?

• Which categories describe you?

   Which categories describe Person 1?
• About one-in-eight respondents from the initial survey were selected to participate in the reinterview by phone
• Reinterview response rate was 56.5%
• Probed more extensively into the racial/ethnic background of respondents
• Ascertained respondents’ “true” racial/ethnic identity for comparison to their initial responses
Reinterview Questions

• Open-ended question that asked “What is your race, ethnicity, or origin?”

• Series of yes/no questions for each of the major race/ethnicity categories
  – Each “yes” response prompted a question asking for the detailed origin
  – Additional followup question for those who said yes only to Hispanic question

• The final question related to race and ethnicity was about how the respondent was perceived by others
Web-Based Designs

Separate Question for Hispanic Origin

Separate Question for Race
Web-Based Designs

Combined Question for Race and Ethnicity with Write-In Areas
Web-Based Designs

Combined Question for Race and Ethnicity with Detailed Checkboxes
Wording of the Question Instructions

• Control
  – Internet: Select one or more boxes.
  – Paper: Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.

• Experiment
  – Internet: Select all boxes that apply.
    Note, you may report more than one group.
  – Paper: Mark all boxes that apply AND print origins in the spaces below.
    Note, you may report more than one group.
Consistency Between Self-Response and Reinterview for Major Race/Ethnicity Groups by Instructions

Source: 2015 NCT, Internet responses
Summary of Findings for Instructions

• Few changes in race or ethnicity distributions

• Few differences in the rate of consistency
  – Responses with multiple race groups saw a significant increase in consistency when using the new instruction
2015 NCT Report on Race & Ethnicity

Visit:
www.census.gov/2020census

Select:

Open:
2015 National Content Test Race and Ethnicity Analysis Report
Video on 2015 NCT Report

Press Kit: 2015 National Content Test
February 28, 2017

Presentation

Overview of 2015 National Content Test Analysis Report on Race and Ethnicity [2.3 MB]
Remarks on Video for 2015 NCT Race and Ethnicity Analysis Report [<1.0 MB]

Optimal Elements from 2015 NCT Research

**Question Format:**
combined question with detailed checkboxes

**Middle Eastern or North African category**

**Instructions:**
Select all boxes that apply ...
Note, you may report more than one group.

**Terminology:**
race or ethnicity
Combined Question Permits Reporting of Race and/or Hispanic Origin

- Afro Latino
- Dominican
- Puerto Rican
### Potential New Tabulation Categories for 2020 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total: Population of one Race or Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern and North African alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population of Two or More Responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a combined question is approved by OMB: under review now!

If MENA is approved as a minimum category by OMB: under review now!
### Potential Future Mapping: Hispanic and Black

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
<th>Population of one Race or Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic or Latino alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middle Eastern and North African alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some Other Race alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population of Two or More Responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... White and Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... White and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... Hispanic and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... Black and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Potential Tabulations for 2020: Hispanic and Black

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Multiple Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>White alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic alone</td>
<td>Hispanic alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black alone</td>
<td>Black alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>Asian alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and AIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN alone</td>
<td>AIAN alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and MENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA alone</td>
<td>MENA alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and NHPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHPI alone</td>
<td>NHPI alone or in combination</td>
<td>White and SOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOR alone</td>
<td>SOR alone or in combination</td>
<td>Hispanic and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two or More Responses</strong></td>
<td>Hispanic and Black</td>
<td>Hispanic and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Adds to more than 100%*
Timeline for 2020 Census

• Discuss 2015 NCT Research with Advisors, Stakeholders, Researchers, Public *(Spring 2017)*
• Prepare and Submit Question Design for 2018 End-to-End Census Test *(Spring - Summer 2017)*
• OMB Decides on Race/Ethnicity Standards *(Fall - Winter 2017)*
• Prepare and Submit Final Question Wording for 2020 Census *(Winter 2018 - Spring 2018)*
• Prepare for 2020 Census
QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION