Spotlight on U.S. Census Bureau Research to Inform Discussions for Improving Federal Race and Ethnicity Data Standards

Nicholas Jones, Director, Race and Ethnicity Research and Outreach
Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics
Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
“A Renewed Direction for Directive 15: A Convening on OMB Race and Ethnicity Data Standards Revision”
March 21, 2023
Presentation Topics

• Purpose of Census Bureau's research
• Major studies and key findings
• Approaches for tabulating data
• Key findings from the 2020 Census
• Open discussion
Purpose for Research on Race and Ethnicity

Concerns have been raised for several decades:

• Concern about non-response over decades, particularly among Hispanics not reporting a race response

• Numerous campaigns and lobbying of the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Congress by key stakeholders and public for changes to the race and Hispanic origin questions

• Growing “Some Other Race” population since 1980

• “Some Other Race” now the 2nd largest race group in the country

• Qualitative research and focus groups found that respondents expressed confusion and frustration with the separate race and ethnicity questions

Our team responded by conducting research and outreach:

• Extensive engagement with stakeholders, advisors, and the public

• 2010 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE)

• 2014 AIAN Research

• 2015 National Content Test (NCT)

• 2016 ACS content test

• 2017 Census test
Examples of U.S. Census Bureau Race/Ethnicity Research Over Recent Decades

- 1986 National Content Test
- 1997 OMB Race & Ethnic Standards
- 2003 National Census Test
- 1995 Race & Hispanic CPS Supplement
- 2010 Alternative Questionnaire Experiment
- 2005 National Census Test
- 1996 Race & Ethnic Targeted Test
- 2012 Census Test
- 1996 National Census Test
- 2015 National Content Test
- 2016 ACS Test

Note: "AIAN" refers to American Indian and Alaska Native. "ACS" refers to American Community Survey
• 15 experimental questionnaire panels
• 2 control questionnaire panels
• Mailed to national sample of housing units
  - about 30,000 per panel
  - about 500,000 total
• Design focused on oversampling of various race and ethnicity groups in mail survey
• One-in-five housing units from mail survey were selected for a reinterview study
• Conducted 67 qualitative focus groups, with about 800 people across the country, including Puerto Rico, Alaska, and Hawaii
2010 AQE Main Research Findings

Results for the Combined Question

- Did not reduce Hispanic, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Reduced reporting of Some Other Race (from 7% to under 0.5%)
- Reporting of White in combined question reflects levels of Non-Hispanic White from separate questions approach
- Yielded lower item nonresponse rates
- Increased detailed reporting for most groups, but decreased for others
- Better reflects self-identity, per reinterview

Results from the AQE Focus Groups

- Fair, equitable treatment for all groups with a combined question
- Middle Eastern and North African participants did not see themselves in the current race/ethnicity categories and recommended a separate Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab response category
Foundation Laid by 2010 AQE Research

Research was foundational
- Research identified several promising ways to improve our race and ethnicity questions so that they better measure our nation
- Qualitative research and ongoing conversations with stakeholders across country revealed many Americans view “race” “ethnicity” differently than in decades past

Established three key goals to improve race ethnicity data to address race ethnicity reporting issues and racial/ethnic community concerns
- Increasing accuracy and reliability of reporting in major race/ethnicity categories
- Lowering item nonresponse rates
- Collecting detailed data for myriad groups
2015 NCT Methodology: National Survey, Oversample, Reinterview

- 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
- Continue testing different contact strategies for optimizing self-response
- Overall response rate 51.9%
- Extensive reinterview
2015 NCT Oversample

- Large, nationally representative sample of 1.2 million addresses, including Puerto Rico
- NCT sampling methodology was designed to measure content testing differences for relatively small population groups.
- This enabled us to make comparisons for groups such as Afro-Latinos, detailed groups being considered for the MENA category, and detailed groups in multiple communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratum</th>
<th>Number of Tracts</th>
<th>Number of HUs</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>MENA %</th>
<th>AIAN %</th>
<th>Asian/NHPI %</th>
<th>Black %</th>
<th>Hispanic %</th>
<th>2010 Mail Response Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>1,176,267</td>
<td>3,112,719</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<td>1,874,151</td>
<td>5,194,351</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
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<td>30,048,814</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
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<td>20.0</td>
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<td>Black</td>
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<td>9,393,227</td>
<td>31,049,979</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<td>62.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>45,369</td>
<td>75,865,280</td>
<td>195,988,644</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015 NCT Scientific Refinements
Testing SEPARATE vs COMBINED Question Formats

Separate Questions

- NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic ethnicity and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic ethnicities are not Race.

8. Is Person 1 Hispanic, Latino or Spanish?
   - Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Spanish
   - Yes, Puerto Rican
   - Yes, Cuban
   - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ethnicity

9. What is Person 1’s race?
   - White - Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.
   - Black or African American - Print, for example, African-American, Jamaican, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.
   - American Indian or Alaska Native - Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Arapahoe, Salish-Secwepemc, Traditional government, Native American Community, etc.
   - Asian - Print, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, etc.
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - Print, for example, Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
   - Some other race or ethnicity

Combined Question with Write-Ins

- What is Person 1’s race or origin?
  - Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.
  - Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
  - Print, for example, Mexican, Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadorian, Argentinean, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spanish, Colombian, etc.

Combined Question with Checkboxes

- Which categories describe Person 1?
  - Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.
  - Hispanic, Latino or Spanish
  - Print, for example, Mexican, Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadorian, Argentinean, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spanish, Colombian, etc.
  - Black or African American
  - Print, for example, African-American, Jamaican, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.
  - Asian
  - Print, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, etc.
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - Print, for example, Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
  - Some other race or origin
  - Print, for example, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, etc.
  - Some other ancestry or origin

Middle Eastern or North African
- Print, for example, Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Israeli, etc.

Middle Eastern or North African
- Print, for example, Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Israeli, etc.

Some other ancestry or origin
- Print, for example, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, etc.

Some other ancestry or origin
- Print, for example, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, etc.

Some other ancestry or origin
- Print, for example, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, etc.

Some other ancestry or origin
- Print, for example, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, etc.
Key results from testing a combined race and ethnicity question format:

- Reporting of Hispanic ethnicity was higher when using the combined question format
- “White” dropped to levels reflecting the “Non-Hispanic White” population that we see in traditional separate question approaches
- “Some Other Race” became one of the smallest response categories, demonstrating that a combined question approach is more in-line with how Hispanic respondents view themselves
- Like the 2010 AQE, no changes to other major race groups (e.g., Black, AIAN, etc.)


For additional information, refer to: 2015 National Content Test Final Report

Source: 2015 NCT, internet responses
Percent Race Distribution for Hispanic Respondents by Question Format: 2015 NCT

Key results from testing a combined race and ethnicity question format:

• Large differences in Some Other Race alone and Two or More responses – due in part to differences in how Hispanic responses must be coded and edited, but mainly to how Hispanics answer separate race question.

• For people who want to just report they are Hispanic, many struggle with how to answer separate race question. Roughly 70 percent of Hispanic respondents on combined question identified as Hispanic alone. The 2015 NCT reinterview confirmed that this is how they prefer to self-identify.

• The 2015 NCT followed 1997 SPD 15 guidance – when using a combined question, multiple responses are encouraged; collect both race and ethnicity when feasible; but one response is acceptable.

For additional information, refer to: 2015 National Content Test Final Report

Percent Race Distribution for Hispanic Respondents by Question Format: 2015 NCT

Key results from testing a combined race and ethnicity question format:

- No differences in Hispanics identifying as Black when comparing separate questions (blue bar) with all combined question formats (red bar and green bar)

- But specifically focusing on optimal combined question with detailed checkboxes format (green bar), a higher percentage of Hispanics identified as Black than in the two separate questions format (blue bar)

- No clear differences in reporting of American Indian or Alaska Native between separate questions (blue bar) and combined question formats (red bar and green bar)

For additional information, refer to: 2015 National Content Test Final Report


Source: 2015 NCT, internet responses
Percent Distribution of MENA Respondents by Presence of MENA Category: 2015 NCT
(Percent Alone or in Combination)

Key results from testing a MENA category:

1. People who identified as MENA used the MENA category when it was available – nearly 80 percent

2. People who are MENA had trouble identifying as only MENA when no category was available

3. The nationalities and ethnicities in the 2015 NCT working classification of MENA identified as MENA when the category was available

Note: "MENA" refers to Middle Eastern and North African. "SOR" refers to Some Other Race. For additional information, refer to: 2015 National Content Test Final Report
Detailed Reporting for Selected Groups by Presence of MENA Category: 2015 NCT (Percent Alone or in Combination)

Key results from testing a MENA category:

- The *left side* of this figure shows that many of the selected groups (for example Lebanese and Moroccan) report most frequently in the White category (represented by pink bars), when there is *no MENA category present*.

- The *right side* of this figure shows where detailed responses were reported when a *MENA category was included*. When a MENA category is available, the detailed groups shown report in the MENA category (represented by orange bars).

Source: 2015 National Content Test data.

Note: "MENA" refers to Middle Eastern and North African. For additional information, refer to: [2015 National Content Test Final Report](#).
2015 NCT Methodology: Reinterview

- Content reinterview with subsample of NCT respondents, to measure accuracy
- About one-in-eight respondents from initial survey were selected to participate in 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
- 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 follow-up question for those who said yes only to Hispanic question
Consistency of Reinterview and Self-Response by Race/Ethnicity Group by Question Format (Percent Alone or in Combination)

For those who identify as a given group based on reinterview, how many identified in same way in initial self-response phase?

- Largely, results were very similar across different question formats, with few differences. This is a good thing. We want to be able to elicit the same responses at different points in time for each of our census data collections.

- We did see significantly lower level of consistency for Hispanic respondents, between the separate questions compared to the combined question with detailed checkboxes.

- Some bars are lower for smaller groups, such as AIAN, MENA, or NHPI, in part because these groups tend to be smaller in population size and more multiracial (e.g., someone who at one point may identify as White and Native Hawaiian, at another time may just want to tell us they are Native Hawaiian).

For additional information, refer to: 2015 National Content Test Final Report

Question Format: Summary of 2015 NCT Findings

Combined question with detailed checkboxes design appears to elicit higher quality data on race and ethnicity for the decennial census and the ACS, supporting results from 2010 Alternative Questionnaire Experiment

- White population distribution dropped to levels reflecting non-Hispanic White population
- Decreased Some Other Race reporting
- No changes to other major race groups
- Hispanic ethnicity reporting was higher
- Lower item nonresponse for combined race/ethnicity question than for separate race question
- Same or higher level of detailed reporting
- Higher overall consistency for Hispanics

Results were used to refine question design testing for 2017 Census Test, particularly for the AIAN category and MENA category
Race and Ethnicity Research
2017 Census Test Design Improvements for AIAN and MENA in Combined Question

- Revised instructions and data collection design for American Indian and Alaska Native category
- Revised detailed checkboxes and examples for Middle Eastern or North African category
Common Conceptual Tabulation for Civil Rights and Voting Rights Data Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Respondents who reported Hispanic AND White, or Hispanic AND Black, or Hispanic AND AIAN, etc…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) Special Tabulation from the 2017-2021 5-Year American Community Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native Alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American Alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native and White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American and White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder of Two or More Race Responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents who reported Hispanic AND White, or Hispanic AND Black, or Hispanic AND AIAN, etc...

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey (5-Year File)
## Education: School Enrollment Data from U.S. Department of Education

### Example of Race/Ethnicity Tabulation

Table 203.65. Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by level, grade, and race/ethnicity: Selected years, fall 1999 through fall 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All grades</th>
<th>Pre-kindergarten through grade 8</th>
<th>Grades 9 through 12</th>
<th>Un-graded 1,2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>22,368</td>
<td>15,218</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>1,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7,388</td>
<td>5,123</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>14,059</td>
<td>9,686</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>1,824</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian, Alaska Native</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>2,337</td>
<td>1,721</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Respondents who reported Hispanic AND White, or Hispanic AND Black, or Hispanic AND AIAN, etc...**

Source: U.S. Department of Education
Example of Race/Ethnicity Tabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim characteristic</th>
<th>Populationa</th>
<th>Violent hate crime victimizations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Rateb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,672,974,360</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,301,950,340</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,371,024,020</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitec</td>
<td>1,725,137,350</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackc</td>
<td>324,567,800</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>423,787,920</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>151,421,920</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otherc</td>
<td>485,059,360</td>
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<td>Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–17</td>
<td>248,575,290</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–24</td>
<td>301,596,250</td>
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<td>25–34</td>
<td>433,819,250</td>
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<td>35–49</td>
<td>614,690,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>50–64</td>
<td>617,322,150</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 or older</td>
<td>456,971,210</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents who reported Hispanic AND White, or Hispanic AND Black, or Hispanic AND AIAN, etc...

If the Census Bureau were to use a combined question format, how would a response of both “Hispanic or Latino” and “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AIAN) be tabulated?

- If a respondent reports that they are both Hispanic and AIAN in a combined question format,
  - then they are counted as both categories, for the Hispanic population and for the AIAN population:
    - Hispanic and AIAN
    - Hispanic alone or in combination
    - AIAN alone or in combination

- This concept follows the same logic with multiple race reporting in the 2000, 2010, and 2020 censuses

- Our research shows a combined question yielded more accurate and reliable data, especially for multiracial and multiethnic populations
Combined Question Permits Reporting of Race and/or Ethnicity

If a respondent reports Hispanic ethnicity and Black as their race in a combined question, they are counted as part of both categories for the Hispanic population AND for the Black population.

Tabulation:
- Hispanic alone or in combo
- Black alone or in combo
- Hispanic and Black

Multiple Responses: Hispanic and Black

- Total:
  - White and Hispanic
  - White and Black
  - White and Asian
  - White and AIAN
  - White and MENA
  - White and NHPI
  - White and SOR
- Hispanic and Black
- Hispanic and Asian
- Black and AIAN
- Black and MENA
- ... etc. (repeat for all combinations)
### Potential Future Tabulations: Hispanic and Black

#### Minimum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
<th>White alone</th>
<th>Hispanic alone</th>
<th>Black alone</th>
<th>Asian alone</th>
<th>AIAN alone</th>
<th>MENA alone</th>
<th>NHPI alone</th>
<th>SOR alone</th>
<th>Multiple Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Multiple Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White and Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and AIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and MENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and NHPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and SOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black and AIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black and MENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... etc. (repeat for all combinations)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Maximum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Note: Adds to more than 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHPI alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOR alone or in combination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Combined Question Permits Reporting of Race and/or Ethnicity

If a respondent reports Black as their race and MENA as their ethnicity in a combined question, they are counted as part of both categories for the Black population AND for the MENA population.

Tabulation:
- Black alone or in combo
- MENA alone or in combo
- Black and MENA

Multiple Responses:

**Black and MENA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White and Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and AIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and MENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and NHPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and SOR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hispanic and Black

Hispanic and Asian

... etc. (repeat for all combinations)
## Potential Future Tabulations: Black and MENA

### Minimum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
<th>White alone</th>
<th>Hispanic alone</th>
<th>Black alone</th>
<th>Asian alone</th>
<th>AIAN alone</th>
<th>MENA alone</th>
<th>NHPI alone</th>
<th>SOR alone</th>
<th>Multiple Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Multiple Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
<th>White and Hispanic</th>
<th>White and Black</th>
<th>White and Asian</th>
<th>White and AIAN</th>
<th>White and MENA</th>
<th>White and NHPI</th>
<th>White and SOR</th>
<th>Hispanic and Black</th>
<th>Hispanic and Asian</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>Black and AIAN</th>
<th>Black and MENA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Maximum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total:</th>
<th>White alone or in combination</th>
<th>Hispanic alone or in combination</th>
<th>Black alone or in combination</th>
<th>Asian alone or in combination</th>
<th>AIAN alone or in combination</th>
<th>MENA alone or in combination</th>
<th>NHPI alone or in combination</th>
<th>SOR alone or in combination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Note: Adds to more than 100%*
What 2020 Census Results Tell Us About Persisting Problems with Separate Questions on Race and Ethnicity in the Decennial Census

- 49.9 million people identified as Some Other Race, surpassing Black population as second-largest race group
- 33.8 million people reported multiple race groups, up from 9 million in 2010
- White and SOR largest combination at 19.3 million people

- 53.0% of Hispanics identified as White alone in 2010, compared with 20.3% in 2020
- 42.2% of Hispanics reported responses that were classified as Some Other Race alone in 2020, compared with 36.7% in 2010
- 32.7% of Hispanics reported multiple groups in 2020, compared with 6.0% in 2010

Race Reporting by Hispanics: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

Source: 2010 Census and 2020 Census
Hispanic Race Reporting and Nonresponse: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

A large proportion of Hispanics did not report an OMB race group in 2020 (43.6%), just like in 2010 (43.5%)

Many Hispanics reported their Hispanic origin as their response to the race question, which are classified as “Some Other Race” (30.5% in 2010 and 35.4% in 2020)

13.0% of Hispanics in 2010 and 8.1% in 2020 did not answer the separate race question at all

While 47.4% in 2010 of Hispanics identified as White alone in 2010, 17.6% did so in 2020

2020 showed changes in the reporting of multiple race groups by Hispanics, such as 28.6% reporting White and SOR compared to 2.7% in 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Hundred-Percent Detailed File and 2020 Census Edited File

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 (Data Management System (DMS) number: P-1234567, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRD-FY23-227).
Where Are We Now? Understanding 2020 Census Results to Inform Race and Ethnicity Improvements

• Extensive research and outreach over the past decade, with two groundbreaking national studies, on how to improve the collection of race and ethnicity information.

• Findings showed a combined race and ethnicity question with multiple detailed checkboxes and a dedicated Middle Eastern and North African category is the optimal design for improving race and ethnicity data for the decennial census and the American Community Survey.

• The Census Bureau continues to support OMB during its review of the 1997 Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards: Co-Chairing Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG); race/ethnicity experts serving on ITWG and providing support; engaging with stakeholders and public to discuss research findings.
Examples of Outreach & Engagement to Improve Race Ethnicity Data
THANK YOU!
Questions and Discussion