Measuring Race/Ethnicity: Setting the Stage

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics**

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Why Consider Change?

Improve Data Quality

- **Fewer "some other race"**

- **Provide categories in which respondents can "see themselves"**

Major Areas of Proposed Change

- **Combined race/ethnicity question**

- **Addition of Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) category**

- **Terminology**

- **Design**

Major Areas of Proposed Change

- **Combined race/ethnicity question**

Current Two Question Approach

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ **No,** not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↗

9. What is Person 1's race? *Mark* ☒ *one or more boxes.*

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Other Asian — *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.* ↗

- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Vietnamese

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.* ↗

- ☐ Some other race — *Print race.* ↗

→ If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.

Combined Approach

8. What is Person 1's race or origin? *Mark* ⊠ *one or more boxes* **AND** *write in the specific race(s) or origin(s).*

☐ White — *Print origin(s), for example, German, Irish, Lebanese, Egyptian, and so on.* ↗

☐ Black, African Am., or Negro — *Print origin(s), for example, African American, Haitian, Nigerian, and so on.* ↗

☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin(s), for example, Mexican, Mexican Am., Puerto Rican, Cuban, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↗

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo, Mayan, Tlingit, and so on.* ↗

☐ Asian — *Print origin(s), for example, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.* ↗

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander — *Print origin(s), for example, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.* ↗

☐ Some other race or origin — *Print race(s) or origin(s).* ↗

→ If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.

Major Areas of Proposed Change

- **Addition of Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) category**

Combined Approach with MENA

8. **Which categories describe Person 1?**
Mark all boxes that apply AND print details in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.

☐ **White** – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish** – *Print, for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Black or African Am.** – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Asian** – *Print, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.* ⇗

☐ **American Indian or Alaska Native** – *Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Middle Eastern or North African** – *Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – *Print, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.* ⇗

☐ **Some other race, ethnicity, or origin** – *Print details.* ⇗

Relevance to NCHS

- **Surveys**
  - **Trends**
  - **Oversamples**
  - **Post stratification weights**

Relevance to NCHS

- **Vital Statistics**
  - **Trends**
  - **Need denominators for rates**
  - **Provide births and deaths to Census for postcensal estimates**

NCHS Concerns

- **Trends**

- **Small population sizes**

- **Mismatch between numerators provided by states in vital records and denominators provided by Census**

- **Amount of race data imputed**

Next Steps

- **OMB undertaking a periodic review of the race/ethnicity standards using an established process**

- **Opportunity for public and agency comment**

- **Anticipated that comment period will begin soon**

- **Census questions to Congress 2018**

Next two presesntations

- **Bridging to create consistent numerators and denominators**

- **Effect of potential changes on vital statistics**