

2005 Race and Ethnic Material

April 12, 2005

RACE AND ETHNIC PANELS OBJECTIVES AND DRAFT QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2005 NATIONAL CENSUS TEST (NCT)

Below are the race and ethnic objectives for the 2005 National Census Test (NCT). For the upcoming advisory committee meetings, we are asking you to review Objectives 1 through 3. We are not ready to discuss Objective 4 at this time.

Also, attached is a copy of the WORD version of the proposed race and ethnic questions for the race and ethnic panels included in this test. Please focus on the content of the questions and not formatting concerns.

Objective 1: Maximize Self Identification by Reducing Nonresponse

The Census Bureau's goal is to maximize self-identification in the race and Hispanic origin questions. This objective will examine item nonresponse, editing, distributions, and imputation rates.

Numerous respondents in Census 2000, especially Hispanics, either did not respond to the question on race or reported as Some Other Race. In the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congress directed that any collection of census data on race identification must include Some Other Race as a response category. Regardless of the presence or absence of the Some Other Race category, maximizing self-identification is an important data quality goal. We will evaluate different presentations to see which presentation results in the greatest response to the race and Hispanic origin questions, examining both the full census file and the modified race file.

The Census Bureau recognizes that some of the experimental treatments represent a markedly different way of obtaining data about race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry. If the Census Bureau is unable to use any of the 2005 experimental treatments in the 2010 Census, it will have to consider using a version of the Census 2000 question series. **Panel 6** is designed, therefore, to test whether a modified version of the questions used in Census 2000 can be improved by including an instruction designed to increase response to both items.

Objective 2: Improve the Quality of the Race and Hispanic Origin Data Using a Shorten Race and Hispanic Origin Questions

The Census Bureau will evaluate its ability to improve the collection of race and Hispanic origin data using only the five minimum Office of Management and Budget race groups, plus the Some Other and the Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino designations. We are proposing to test a revised question format that drastically simplifies both the race and Hispanic origin questions, and includes a modified ancestry question to obtain detailed information. Our goals are to simplify and clarify the response task for respondents, and obtain more complete data.

One primary proposal is to test whether shortened race and Hispanic origin questions can be used in conjunction with a third question on ancestry. Ancestry was formerly asked on the long form. Answers to the ancestry question can potentially supply rich data about detailed populations that will improve imputations for non-response, while significantly limiting the space required to collect detailed race and ethnic data.

Cognitive and field testing have consistently shown problems with the Census 2000 race and Hispanic origin questions. Hispanics who do not find a race category with which they identify may skip the question, and many respondents are confused by the inclusion of numerous national groups as race categories. Some respondents complain that some groups are provided a chance to write in detailed information about their backgrounds, while others are not. All of these problems can lead to missing data and reporting errors.

In addition, one of the Census Bureau's major goals for the tests leading up to the 2010 Census is to determine whether using additional residence instructions and coverage questions can improve coverage and reduce duplication. These potential changes take up a lot of space on the short form questionnaire. We may not be able to fit them with the Census 2000 version of the race and ethnicity questions that included a large number of check boxes and write-in boxes. Since research has shown that higher response rates and better coverage can be achieved with a respondent-friendly design, we are trying to develop a one-page questionnaire that includes all the required content. The one-page design may not be achievable unless we use more concise questions. Repeating the lengthy Census 2000 race and Hispanic origin questions also is problematic because of pressure to add additional national origins to the existing list of check boxes. There is, however, a real and legitimate need for detailed race and ethnic information for all groups, a need that we may not be able to meet in the context of the Census 2000 question format. Consequently, the Census Bureau is testing whether it can shorten and clarify the race and Hispanic origin questions without harming data quality, while still obtaining important information about detailed populations.

Objective 3: Obtain Information on Tribal Affiliation and Enrollment

Another goal is to determine whether we can obtain information on tribal enrollment from a separate question, rather than from a combined ancestry or tribe question. The Census 2000 questionnaire solicited tribal affiliation in a write-in box in the race question, but did not request information about enrolled status. Tribal representatives have expressed a need for enrollment information, as well as tribal affiliation. Therefore, this test will examine two areas:

- Whether information about tribal affiliation can be satisfactorily obtained in a combined ancestry or tribe question, or whether a separate tribal question produces better data, and
- Whether a separate checkbox for enrollment yields useful data.

Objective 4: Assess the Use of Ancestry Data for Editing and Imputing Missing Data for Race and Hispanic Origin

The major reasons for the Census Bureau to collect ancestry as a short form item is to improve our editing and imputation procedures. Specifically, this test will enable us to evaluate how the use of ancestry data could improve Census 2000 edit and imputation practices. In addition, we would collect information on all ethnic groups, not just those listed in the questions on Hispanic origin and race. OMB recognizes five race categories (White; Black or African American; Asian; American Indian or Alaska Native; and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) the reporting of Two or more of the above races; and Hispanic or Not Hispanic. Additionally, Congress has directed the Census Bureau to provide Some Other Race as a response category.

The test will, therefore examine responses to develop algorithms for editing and imputation. We look forward to discussing this objective with you in the future.

**2005 National Census Test
Race and Ethnic Panels**

Panel 1 -- Control Panel (Person 1)

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 8 and 9.

8. Is this person of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?

Mark [X] "No" if *not* of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin.

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

9. What is this person's race? Mark [X] one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

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

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – <i>Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.</i> ↘ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – <i>Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.</i> ↘ | |

- Some other race – *Print race.* ↘

Panel 6 (Person 1)

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

8. Is this person 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, and so on.*↘

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9. What is this person's race? Mark [X] one or more boxes.

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*↘
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- Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian
- Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro
- Filipino Vietnamese Samoan
- Other Asian – *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*↘ Other Pacific Islander – *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*↘

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- Some other race – *Print race.*↘

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