RACE/ETHNICITY IN FEDERAL STATISTICS

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CURRENT STANDARD: 1997 Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

5 Minimum Categories for Data on Race:

1. American Indian or Alaska Native

2. Asian

3. Black or African American

4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

5. White

Mark one or more … select one or more

2 Minimum Categories for Data on Ethnicity:

1. Hispanic or Latino

2. Not Hispanic or Latino

1997 Standard Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

✓ These categories are a minimum standard.

✓ Additional categories can be used as long as they can be aggregated to the standard categories.

✓ Used for the decennial census, current surveys, and administrative records

1997 Standard Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

- ✓ In 1997 the Interagency Committee on race/ethnicity recommended that an Arab or Middle Eastern ethnic category should not be added to the minimum standard

- ✓ Self-identification – two question format - Hispanic origin question should precede race question

What region of origin does Census consider for each race category?

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Europe	Africa	North America	Far East	Hawaii
Middle East		South America	Southeast Asia	Guam
North Africa		Central America	Indian	Samoa
				Pacific Islands

Following 2010 Census:
Review of the 1997 Standard

Motivation:

➢ an increasing number of individuals find the current race and ethnicity categories confusing, or

➢ they want to see their own specific group reflected on the census questionnaire, e.g., Middle Eastern and North Africans

➢ the number of individuals who check the "Some Other Race" is increasing, especially among Hispanics

Following 2010 Census:
Review of the 1997 Standard

Focus of the review:

➢ the use of separate questions or combined question to measure race and ethnicity and question phrasing;

➢ the classification of a Middle Eastern and North African group and reporting category;

➢ the description of the intended use of minimum reporting categories; and

➢ terminology used for race and ethnicity classifications

Following 2010 Census:
Review of the 1997 Standard

Census Bureau undertook several evaluations for possible changes in the 1997 Standard

➢ 2010 Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE)

➢ 2015 National Content Test

➢ 2018 End to End test

Question Format

Separate

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

8. Is Person 1 Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish?
Mark all boxes that apply AND print ethnicities in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.

☐ No, not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ethnicity – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

9. What is Person 1's race?
Mark all boxes that apply AND print ethnicities in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.

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

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

☐ Chinese ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Filipino ☐ Korean ☐ Samoan
☐ Asian Indian ☐ Japanese ☐ Chamorro
☐ Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. ☐ Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

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

☐ Some other race – Print race or ethnicity.

Combined w/ Write-Ins

8. What is Person 1's race or origin?
Mark all boxes that apply AND print origins 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 origin – 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 or origin – Print race or origin.

Combined w/ Checkboxes

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 – Provide details below.
☐ German ☐ Irish ☐ English
☐ Italian ☐ Polish ☐ French
Print, for example, Scottish, Norwegian, Dutch, etc.

☐ HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH – Provide details below.
☐ Mexican or Mexican American ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Cuban
☐ Salvadoran ☐ Dominican ☐ Colombian
Print, for example, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

☐ BLACK OR AFRICAN AM. – Provide details below.
☐ African American ☐ Jamaican ☐ Haitian
☐ Nigerian ☐ Ethiopian ☐ Somali
Print, for example, Ghanaian, South African, Barbadian, etc.

☐ ASIAN – Provide details below.
☐ Chinese ☐ Filipino ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Vietnamese ☐ Korean ☐ Japanese
Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

☐ AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE – Provide details below.
☐ American Indian ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Central or South American Indian
Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

☐ MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN – Provide details below.
☐ Lebanese ☐ Iranian ☐ Egyptian
☐ Syrian ☐ Moroccan ☐ Algerian
Print, for example, Israeli, Iraqi, Tunisian, etc.

☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER – Provide details below.
☐ Native Hawaiian ☐ Samoan ☐ Chamorro
☐ Tongan ☐ Fijian ☐ Marshallese
Print, for example, Palauan, Tahitian, Chuukese, etc.

☐ SOME OTHER RACE, ETHNICITY, OR ORIGIN – Print below.

Question Format
Summary of Preliminary Findings

The combined question format appears to elicit higher quality data on race and ethnicity; this is in keeping with the results of the 2010 AQE

- No changes to distribution for major groups

- Decreased Some Other Race reporting

- Lower item nonresponse for the combined race/ethnicity question than for the separate race question

- Same or higher level of detailed reporting

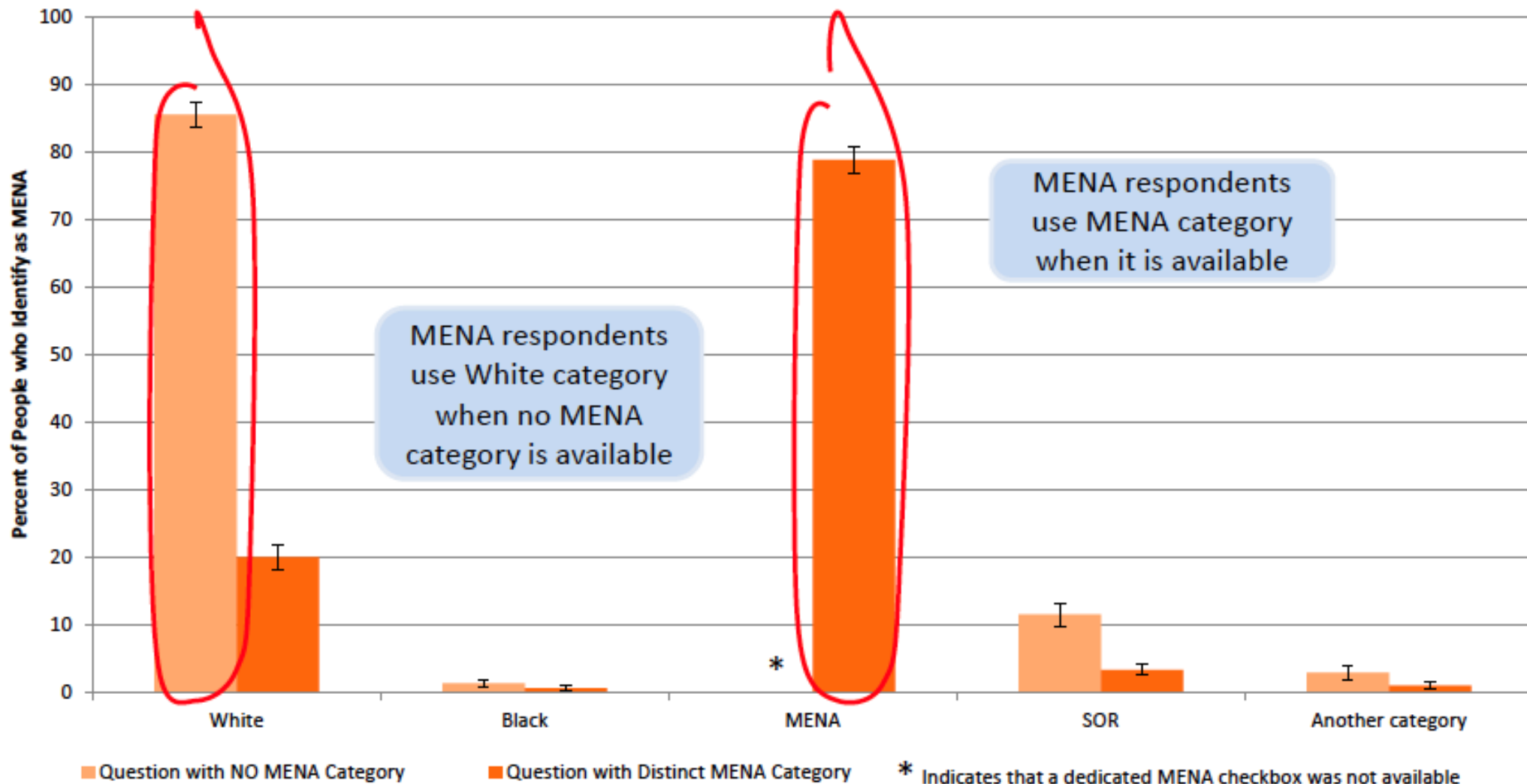- Higher overall consistency for Hispanics

MENA Classification

- Researched MENA classifications from 15 government, academic, and non-governmental organizations

- Nationalities in more than half of classifications researched are included in the Census Working Classification

- Census Working Classification of MENA includes:

  - 19 nationalities (e.g., Egyptian, Lebanese, Israeli, etc.)

  - 11 ethnicities and pan-ethnic terms (e.g., Kurdish, Arab, "Middle Eastern," etc.)

Where MENA Responses are Reported by Presence of MENA Category
(Percent Alone or in Combination)

MENA respondents use White category when no MENA category is available

MENA respondents use MENA category when it is available

Percent of People who Identify as MENA

White — Black — MENA — SOR — Another category

■ Question with NO MENA Category   ■ Question with Distinct MENA Category   * Indicates that a dedicated MENA checkbox was not available

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

PRE-DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

Source: 2015 NCT   29

Inclusion of MENA Category – Summary of Preliminary Findings

The use of a distinct Middle Eastern or North African category appears to elicit higher quality data for people who would identify with MENA

- People who identify as MENA use the MENA category when it is available

- People who are MENA have trouble identifying as only MENA when no category is available

Combining data on race/ethnicity from dual data sources

Problems from inconsistencies in coding –

Constructing race/ethnicity specific life tables

➤ For death rates: Numerator data come from death certificates & denominator data come from Census population estimates

➤ Race/ethnicity reporting on death certificates must be agreed upon between states and the federal government – revisions of death certificate race reporting does not necessarily coincide with census data

➤ Similar issues for calculating birth rates by race/ethnicity