

THE US CENSUS HAS A RELIABILITY PROBLEM



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Many Americans are unable to accurately identify their race and ethnicity on the US Census, despite changes made to the question of race throughout the past century.

Who is at risk?

Americans with more complex or ambiguous racial and ethnic backgrounds are at risk of not being represented by the US Census.



Imagine this:

A female, multiracial American has a father who is half Ashkenazi Jewish and half African American. Her mother is 100% white Venezuelan, but Venezuelan culture is not a part of her life or identity. Though she has a darker complexion herself, both of her parents present as white and live in a predominately white neighborhood.

Now take a second to look at the 2020 Census response to the right.

Do these responses adequately represent this citizen?

7. What is this person's race?

Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. ↴

Eastern European??

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

West African?

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), 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. ↴

Some other race – Print race or origin. ↴

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic origin and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

6. 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, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. ↴

Venezuelan

Now imagine this:

Though this individual decided to include all of her identifiers, her sister who identifies as white decided against labelling herself as Black or of Latino origin on the census.

Two members of the same background are being classified differently, though their lived experiences are very similar.

Standardization is needed!

For more on the importance of race on the census: [Click Here](#)