

Race & Ethnicity Factsheet

- What will the race and ethnicity questions look like?

This is what the ethnicity question looks like:

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.* ↴

This is what the race question looks like:

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.* ↴

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

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.* ↴

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – <i>Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.</i> ↴	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – <i>Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.</i> ↴	

Some other race – *Print race or origin.* ↴

- **How should Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders answer these questions?**

The person filling out the form should check the box(es) next to the category that they believe represents their race. If you do not identify as White, Black, Asian, or American Indian or Alaskan Native, you can select “Some other race.”

For people checking White, Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or Some other race for their race, they have the option to also write down their specific race such as “Russian” under White, “Somalian” under Black, and “Navajo Nation” under American Indian or Alaskan Native.

While there is only one check box for White, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Some other race respectively, there are numerous check boxes for some Asian and Pacific Islander subgroups, with six check boxes for specific Asian subgroups and three check boxes for specific Pacific Islander subgroups.

- These checkboxes include: Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Native Hawaiian, Tongan or Samoan. **These boxes are ordered by population size with Chinese being the largest, Filipino being the second largest, and so on.**
- If you identify with a different group, you should check the box for “Other Asian” or “Other Pacific Islanders” and write-in the race you identify with.
- Question 9 allows you to check off multiple boxes, so if you have multiple ethnic backgrounds or identities, you can have all of those backgrounds reflected in your response to this question. If you’re ethnic Chinese but culturally Vietnamese, Khmer, Filipino, Thai, Burmese, etc., you can check off multiple boxes to best reflect your ethnic and cultural background. And if your ethnicity or subgroup is not listed, you also have the option of writing it in, so we can have much better information about our communities. For example, if you are Thai, you would check the box for “Other Asian” and write-in “Thai” in the space provided on the form.

- **How should you fill out the form if you are multiracial?**

You are able to check more than one category in these questions, allowing multiracial persons to identify themselves by as many race categories as the person chooses. Because of the increasing diversity in the American population, the Census Bureau in 2000 decided to allow respondents to check all the boxes that they felt applied to their racial identity. This allows, for example, a person who has a White parent and a Bangladeshi parent to check both the White box and the Other Asian box with a Bangladeshi write-in.

- **Why is there a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin Question?**

The government measures race separately from ethnic background, which is defined as “of Latino origin” and “not of Latino origin.” This why there are two questions on the 2020 census form – the first asking about whether the respondent is of Latino ethnicity or not and the second asking about the respondent’s race. People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race. For example, someone could identify as Latino (Yes, Puerto Rican - ethnicity) and also check Black (race).

The policy decision to measure ethnicity separately from race made in the late 1970s resulted in part from growing civil rights activism among the nation’s Mexican American and Puerto Rican communities and a growing recognition that the experiences of what some policymakers called the “Spanish Speaking” communities of the nation were different from those of European immigrants and that data on the demographic characteristics of these communities would help address economic, educational, and other disadvantages.

- **People Identifying as Sikh**

The U.S. Census Bureau has made considerable updates to the race and ethnicity code list for the 2020 Census based on extensive research and outreach over the past decade. “Sikh” will be included as a distinct detailed population group within the “Asian” racial category, and not classified as “Asian Indian” as it was in the 2010 Census when it was viewed as a religious response.

Census Bureau Definitions on Race and Ethnicity

The Office of Management and Budget standards has two categories for data on ethnicity: "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino."

- **Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, "Spanish origin," can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino."

The Office of Management and Budget standards have five categories for data on race: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White.

- **American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.



- **Asian.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- **Black or African American.** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" can be used in addition to "Black or African American."
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- **White.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.