

# It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



## Race and Ethnicity in the 2010 Census

The census form that every household in America will receive in February or March 2010 includes questions about each person's race (Question 9) and whether or not a person identifies as "Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin" (Question 8).

**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    ☐ 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.*

☐ Some other race — *Print race.*

**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.*

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

These questions are included because information on race and ethnicity is required by federal law and is important to evaluating the effectiveness of federal programs and civil rights protections. For example, data on race are used to promote equal employment opportunities and to assess racial disparities in health and environmental risks. State officials also consider the data when drawing new congressional and legislative districts based on census population counts.

The Census Bureau recognizes that its "race" question includes both racial classifications and some designations that reflect national origin or cultural groups. The categories generally reflect a social definition of race as the term is recognized in this country. They are not an effort to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.

Federal policy requires the Census Bureau to collect information using the following racial and ethnic categories:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (may be of any race)

# It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



The 2010 census form allows Native Americans to specify their tribe. Asians and Pacific Islanders are asked to specify a subgroup (i.e.: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean), as are people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (i.e.: Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran). People can also choose to check “Some other race” and write in their preferred race.

#### Important facts:

- It's up to every individual to decide which answers best describe them. Parents should decide how to report their children's race and ethnicity.
- People may choose more than one race, such as American Indian and White, or Black and Chinese.
- People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

Some people may not be sure how to identify themselves. For example, people of Middle Eastern descent may not be comfortable identifying as “White” (the race question does not include an “Arab” category). Individuals can either choose which of the categories listed best describes them or check “Some other race” and write in their preferred race.

The Census Bureau reports racial and ethnic data in different ways for different purposes, such as evaluating the effectiveness of equal opportunity laws and other civil rights enforcement. For general reporting purposes, people who choose more than one racial category will be tabulated and reported in a category called, “Two or more races.” The Bureau will also make available more detailed tabulations of different reported race combinations.

A person's decision on how to report their race will not affect the distribution of federal funds, but it could have an indirect effect on other ways census data are used, such as evaluations by the federal Office of Minority Health comparing health outcomes across communities with different concentrations of racial and ethnic groups.

Households with adults of different races may wish to give some consideration to which adult fills out the census form. That person, who is classified as the “householder,” describes other residents of the household in relation to himself or herself. For example, if a household consists of one black and one white adult and their two children, the decision about which adult to list as the ‘head of household’ will determine whether or not that family is classified as a minority household. This could have implications for research on the characteristics and progress of families of color.

More detailed information on ancestry and national origin, previously asked on the census “long form,” is now gathered through the American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing data-collection effort that is separate from the 2010 census.