The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010

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Overview

• 2010 Census Questionnaire
• OMB definition of “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AIAN)
• Population Characteristics
• Census Bureau Summary Data on “AIAN” Population
• Non-Response & Bureau Rejection Rate
  • “AIAN” Race Term
  • Tribal Sub-question & Instructions
2010 Census Race Question

6. What is this person’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
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.
- Some other race — Print race.
Definition of “AI or AN” Used by U.S. Census Bureau (DOC)

According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), “American Indian or Alaska Native” refers to 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.
OMB Definition of “American Indian or Alaska Native” Used in the 2010 Census

• Includes people who marked the “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AIAN) race category

• Respondents also asked to report tribal names such as:
  - North American Indian groups (e.g., Navajo)
  - Alaska Native groups (e.g., Yup’ik)
  - Central American Indian groups (e.g., Mayan)
  - South American Indian groups (e.g., Taino)
Race Concepts

- Race **alone** population – people who reported a single race group (e.g., American Indian and Alaska Native alone)

- Race **in combination** population – people who reported more than one race group (e.g., American Indian and Alaska Native and White; American Indian and Alaska Native and Black)

- Race **alone or in combination** population – all people who reported a particular race group, either alone, or in combination with one or more other race groups
### AIAN Population: 2000 and 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIAN alone or in any combination</td>
<td>4,119,301</td>
<td>5,220,579</td>
<td>1,101,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN alone</td>
<td>2,475,956</td>
<td>2,932,248</td>
<td>456,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN in combination</td>
<td>1,643,345</td>
<td>2,288,331</td>
<td>644,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage Distribution of the AIAN Population by Area of Residence: 2010

1Includes federal American Indian reservations and/or off-reservation trust lands, Oklahoma tribal statistical areas, tribal designated statistical areas, state American Indian reservations, and state designated American Indian statistical areas. Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native.
The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010 AIAN Brief

The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010

Table 7. Pg. 17
Footnote 1-4

### AI or AN Tribal Sub-Question: Two Types of Non-Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIAN Response Rejected by Bureau</td>
<td>264,253</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN No Response</td>
<td>1,545,963</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN Response Rejected &amp; No Response</td>
<td>1,810,216</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Post 2010 Census Review & Research

• In 2010-2014, the Census Bureau conducted the Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE)

• Qualitative data captured and measured significant confusion and/or apprehension among mixed race AIAN and AIAN only research participants on AIAN race term

• Significant amount of confusion and apprehension with tribal sub-question under the AIAN checkbox and the instructions
National Advisory Committee: Recommended Further Testing on Race Question

• In 2014, the NAC recommended additional testing of the proposed combined race and Hispanic origin question.

• NAC also recommended further testing on Race question concerning the AIAN race name and tribal sub-question

• The Bureau designed and conducted a series of qualitative research activities carried out in the fall of 2014

• The research didn’t include testing AIAN race name changes
AIAN Race Term & Tribal Sub-Question

- AIAN is a political and legal status for federally recognized tribes and their membership within in the United States.
- OMB Definition has geographical components much larger in scope than “AI or AN” Race Title.
- Large numbers of people originating from North, Central, and South America don’t identify nor are familiar with AIAN as a term for race.
- OMB definition sets forth a tribal affiliation and community involvement standard and not a membership or enrollment standard.
- Millions of Americans are racially AIAN and aren’t enrolled members.
Reasons for Response Rejection

• Respondents check the AIAN box and:
  • Write in a generic name like “Native American” or “Indian”
  • For the large tribal groupings, many respondents write in “Sioux” or “Apache”
  • Write in the traditional name of their tribe or clan name

• U.S. Census Bureau maintains a Detailed Tribal Classification List
  • If tribal sub-question responses do not match with a tribal name on the list, the response is disqualified
  • Unlike non-response follow up by field operations, there is no follow-up with AIAN respondents whose response on tribal sub-question fails to match the classification list
Reasons for Non-Responses To Sub-Question

• Respondents are confused
  • What does Principal Tribe mean?
  • Must I be an enrolled member to write in a tribal name?

• The AIAN Checkbox and Tribal Sub-Question work together
  • “I know I’m part (INSERT TRIBE), but I’m not enrolled so I don’t check the box”
  • “I know I am part Indian but I don’t know which tribe so I don’t check the box”
  • “I know my tribe, I check the box, but don’t write in the name because ____.”

• Historical Racism
Need For New Race Category Consistent with OMB Definition

• Geographical component of OMB Definition is correct
• Tribal Affiliation and Community Involvement Component does not reflect reality of race component
• Census Bureau lacks resources to validate tribal enrollment
• If tribal enrollment numbers are needed, the Tribes are proper organizations for that data
Example Changes for AIAN Race Term

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous of the Americas
- Indigenous or Original Peoples of North, Central or South America
- Original Person of the Americas
- Native of North, Central or South America (NNCSA)
Why Is This Important?

• Representation (Congressional Districting)

• Funding
  • Healthcare
  • Education
  • Housing
  • Infrastructure

• Single biggest Civil Rights Issue for the “AIAN” community