

# **Overview of 3 Qualitative Census Research Projects on Race and Tribal Enrollment Questions with American Indian/Alaska Native populations: American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Latin American Indigenous Immigrants**

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# Background

- U.S. Census Bureau is conducting race-related research to improve the 2020 Census
- “American Indian/Alaska Native” category: people in U.S. from hundreds of indigenous tribes/groups from North, Central, South America
- Multi-cultural, multi-regional, multi-national
  - American Indians
  - Alaska Natives
  - Central/South American indigenous in U.S.

# Outline of this talk

- Compare results from 3 projects with people in U.S. in American Indian/Alaska Native category:
  - American Indians
  - Alaska Natives
  - Central/South American indigenous immigrants
- Compare results for race question stems and instructions, and “tribal enrollment”
  - 2014 focus groups: stems, instructions, meaning
  - 2015 cognitive testing: stem, new AIAN checkboxes
  - 2016 focus groups: new tribal enrollment question

# Outline (cont)

- Discuss lessons learned
- Identify takeaways for multi-cultural, multi-regional, hard-to-count populations



# 2014 Focus Group Census Form

**What is your race or origin?** *Mark all boxes that apply AND print your specific origin(s) in the lines below. Note, you may report multiple groups.*

☐ **White** – *Print*, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, and so on.

☐ **Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin** – *Print*, for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran, Colombian, and so on.

☐ **Black or African Am.** – *Print*, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, and so on.

☐ **Asian** – *Print*, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and so on.

☐ **American Indian or Alaska Native** – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s)*, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, and so on.

☐ **Middle Eastern or North African** – *Print*, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, and so on.

☐ **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – *Print*, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, and so on.

☐ **Some other race or origin** – *Specify*.

# 2014 Focus Groups: Stems and Instructions Tested in English & Spanish

	Form 1	Forms 2 - 6
Question Stem	Which Categories describe You?	What is your race or origin?
AIAN Category Write-In Instruction	<b>1. Print, for example,...</b>	<b>2. Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s)</b>  <b>3. Print name(s) or enrolled or affiliated tribe(s)</b>  <b>4. Print name(s) of affiliated tribe(s)</b>  <b>5. Print name(s) of tribe(s) or village(s)</b>  <b>6. Print specific origin(s)</b>
Write-in Examples	<b>Navajo Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government</b>	

# 2014 Results: Preferences for Question Stem and Tribal Instruction by Group

Preference for your group	American Indians	Alaska Natives	Central and South American indigenous persons in US
Question Stem	Race or origin (3 FG) Categories (1 FG)	Race or origin	Categories
Tribal Instruction 1 <sup>st</sup> choice	...enrolled or principal	...specific origin(s)	...specific origin(s)
Tribal instruction 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	...tribe(s) or villages (s)	Print, for example... (generic)	Print, for example... (generic)

# 2014 Results: Use and Understanding of Key Terms and Phrases

Key terms/translation issues	American Indians	Alaska Natives	Central and South American indigenous persons in US
“Tribe”/” <i>tribu</i> ”	Widely used/understood	Not all use it/no standard definition	Word is pejorative
“Enrolled tribe”/ <i>Tribu en las que esta inscrito</i>	Widely used/generally understood	Not paired with “tribe”/Sometimes with corporation	U.S. culture-bound: No such entity; no familiarity
“Corporation”	?	Widely used/seems to be understood by AN	?
Translation → navigation	N/A	N/A	Stem doesn’t ask for “your” origins-



# 2014 Spanish Form does not say mark only those that apply “to you”

**¿Cual es su raza u origen?** *Marque todas las casillas que apliquen Y escriba en los siguientes espacios sus orígenes específicos. Puede reportar múltiples grupos.*

- ☐ **Blanco(a)** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, alemán, irlandés, inglés, italiano, polaco, francés, etc.*
- ☐ **Origen hispano, latino o español** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, mexicano o mexicano americano, puertorriqueño, cubano, dominicano, salvadoreño, colombiano, etc.*
- ☐ **Negro(a) o afroamericano(a)** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, afroamericano, jamaquino, haitiano, nigeriano, etíope, ghanés, etc.*
- ☐ **Asiático(a)** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, chino, filipino, indio asiático, vietnamita, coreano, japonés, etc.*
- ☐ **Indígena de las Américas o nativo(a) de Alaska** — *Especifique abajo el nombre de la tribu o tribus en las que esta inscrito o afiliado, por ejemplo, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Maya, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.*
- ☐ **Del Medio Oriente o del Norte de África** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, libanés, iraní, egipcio, sirio, marroquí, argelino, etc.*
- ☐ **Nativo(a) de Hawaii o de otra de las islas del Pacífico** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, nativo de Hawaii, samoano, guameño o Chamorro, tongano, fiyiano, marshalés, etc.*
- ☐ **Alguna otra raza u origen** — *Especifique.*

# 2014 Spanish form misreporting

**¿Cuál es su raza u origen?** *Marque todas las casillas que apliquen Y escriba en los siguientes espacios sus orígenes específicos. Tenga en cuenta que puede reportar múltiples grupos.*

☐ **Blanco(a)** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, alemán, irlandés, inglés, italiano, polaco, francés, etc.*

☐ **Origen hispano, latino o español** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, mexicano o mexicano americano, puertorriqueño, cubano, dominicano, salvadoreño, colombiano, etc.*

☐ **Negro(a) o afroamericano(a)** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, afroamericano, jamaquino, haitiano, nigeriano, etíope, ghanés, etc.*

☐ **Asiático(a)** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, chino, filipino, indio asiático, vietnamita, coreano, japonés, etc.*

☐ **Indígena de las Américas o nativo(a) de Alaska** — *Escriba el nombre de la tribu o tribus en las que está inscrito o las tribus principales, por ejemplo, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, maya, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.*

☐ **Del Medio Oriente o del Norte de África** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, libanés, iraní, egipcio, sirio, marroquí, argelino, etc.*

☐ **Nativo(a) de Hawaii o de otra de las islas del Pacífico** — *Escriba, por ejemplo, nativo de Hawaii, samoano, guameño o Chamorro, tongano, fiyiano, marshalés, etc.*

☐ **Alguna otra raza u origen** — *Especifique.*

# 2014 Focus Groups: sources of error on Spanish form

- Translation of instructions does not specify “of your” specific origin
- Lack of question number and blank lines imply multiple answers
- Literacy issues

## 2. 2015 Cognitive Interviews: Forms Tested

Stem: “Which categories describe Person 1?”

Checkboxes for main categories

Checkboxes for nationalities and ethnic groups of each main category

Write-in space with examples for each main category

**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 ORIGIN** – 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 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: ?

**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 ORIGIN** – Provide details below.

☐ Mexican or Mexican American ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Cuban  
☐ Salvadoran ☐ Dominican ☐ Colombian  
*Print, for example, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. ?*

# 2015 Cognitive Interviews: 3 Versions

FORM

W1

☐ **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. 7*

W2

☐ **AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE**

☐ 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. 7*

W3

☐ **AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Navajo Nation    ☐ Blackfeet Tribe    ☐ Mayan

☐ Aztec    ☐ Native Village of Barrow Inupiat    ☐ Nome Eskimo Community

*Print, for example, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Taino, Orutsarmuit Native Village, etc. 7*

Three broad AIAN subcategories

Vs

Six specific AIAN subcategories

# 2015 Cognitive Interview Findings

- AIAN Design Preference
  - AI and AN preferred three broad category design (W1) while CSAI voted 4 to 3 for six named categories
  - Starting broad, then getting specific with the write-in fit how respondents thought about their race/ethnic identity.

☐ **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. 7*



# 2014 Spanish Form

**¿Cual es su raza u origen?** *Marque todas las casillas que apliquen Y escriba en los siguientes espacios sus orígenes específicos. Puede reportar múltiples grupos.*

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- ☐ **Indígena de las Américas o nativo(a) de Alaska** — *Especifique abajo el nombre de la tribu o tribus en las que esta inscrito o afiliado, por ejemplo, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Maya, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, etc.*

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- ☐ **Nativo(a) de Hawaii o de otra de las islas del Pacífico** — *Especifique, por ejemplo, nativo de Hawaii, samoano, guameño o Chamorro, tongano, fiyiano, marshalés, etc.*

- ☐ **Alguna otra raza u origen** — *Especifique.*

# 2015 cognitive testing findings: indigenous Spanish speakers

- Ordering of race categories: “Hispanic” is placed two categories above “AIAN” category: some Rs will stop reading at Hispanic which could lead to AIAN undercount
- Spanish translation
  - “Indigenous from Central and South America” is redundant because they are part of “Indigenous of the Americas,” which encompasses all ethnicities [*“abarca a todas las etnias.”*].



### 3. 2016 Focus Groups: New Tribal Enrollment Question

- Considering feasibility of adding a new tribal enrollment question to 2020 Census
- Conduct 11 focus groups to explore meaning of tribal enrollment, if Census should collect it, and how to ask it
  - Included American Indians and Alaska Native Tribes
    - recognized by federal government
    - recognized by state government
    - without US government recognition
  - Did not include Central/South American indigenous immigrant) in this project

# 2016 Focus Groups: Questions for Cognitive Testing

Topic	
	<div>Format 1</div> <div>Format 2</div>
<b>Preferred Enrollment Question Formats</b>	<div> <p><b>On April 1<sup>st</sup>, was Person 1 enrolled in a tribe?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, not enrolled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, enrolled – Print enrolled tribe(s) below.</p> <div></div> </div> <div> <p><b>On April 1<sup>st</sup>, was Person 1 enrolled in a tribe?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, not enrolled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, enrolled – Print enrolled tribe below.</p> <div></div> <p><b>Is the tribe above federally recognized, state-recognized, or non-recognized?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, federally-recognized</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, state-recognized</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, non-recognized</p> </div>

# 2016 Focus Groups: New Tribal Enrollment Question

- Participants' views: should Census Bureau collect data on tribal enrollment?
  - Pro:
    - Improve count of those committed to & engaged in tribes
    - Identify pockets of tribe members elsewhere to contact
  - Con:
    - Tribal privacy concerns
    - Enrollment counts from self-identification on census form will not match counts from tribal enrollment lists.
    - Can't control uses of census data. If census counts are lower than tribe counts, federal funding and benefits might be reduced.

# 2016 Focus Group Results: Tribal Enrollment Question Formats for Cognitive Testing

1

1. On April 1, 2016, was Person 1 enrolled in any American Indian tribe or Alaska Native tribe, village, or corporation?

- ☐ No, not enrolled
- ☐ Yes, enrolled → Print enrolled tribe(s), village(s), or corporation(s) below. ↓

2

1. On April 1, 2016, was Person 1 enrolled in any American Indian tribe or any Alaska Native council, association, or community?

- ☐ No, not enrolled
- ☐ Yes, enrolled → Print enrolled tribe(s), council(s), association(s), or community(ies) below. ↓

2. On April 1, 2016, was Person 1 a shareholder of any Alaska Native regional or village corporation?

- ☐ No, not a shareholder
- ☐ Yes, a shareholder → Print Alaska Native regional or village corporation(s) below. ↓

3

1. On April 1, 2016 was Person 1 enrolled in any American Indian tribe or Alaska Native tribe or village?

- ☐ No, not enrolled → Skip to question 3
- ☐ Yes, enrolled

2. What is the name of the American Indian tribe or Alaska Native tribe or village Person 1 was enrolled in on April 1, 2016?

Print **enrolled** tribe(s) or village(s) below. ↓

3. On April 1, 2016, was Person 1 a shareholder of an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation?

- ☐ No, not a shareholder
- ☐ Yes, a shareholder → Print Alaska Native Corporation(s) below. ↓



# New 2016 Cognitive Testing

- 63 cognitive interviews in 6 sites
- Includes AI, both enrolled and not enrolled
  - Federally recognized
  - State recognized
  - Not officially recognized
- Includes Alaska Native
- Includes Central/South American indigenous immigrants
- Starts in early August
- Select 2 versions for 2017 Census Test by mid-September

# Lessons Learned

- American Indians: Tribe and enrollment questions appear to be appropriate and understood
- Alaska Natives do not uniformly use the term, “tribe.” They have layers of social complexity that cause confusion when some try to identify their tribe. “Tribal enrollment” confuses some, who may answer in terms of corporations.
- Latin Americans do not use “tribe” in a positive sense. There is no concept of “tribal enrollment” They are confused by the race question format and categories.
- The challenge for survey methodologists is to find a way to factor in these differences when developing questions that may be answered by all (in a census).

# Takeaways: developing and testing questions for multicultural and hard-to-count populations

- Within race and tribe groups (e.g., American Indians and Alaska Natives) expect that cultural, social, regional, or national diversity may lead to different interpretations and response patterns.
- Identify component populations ; include respondents from each at all stages of questionnaire development and testing
- Choose diverse respondents from as many small groups as possible, to try to get the range of responses
- Test questionnaires in component population languages
- Recognize that some concepts, such as tribal enrollment, may be culture- or region-bound and may confuse respondents in other cultures
- Recognize that some practices, like tribal enrollment, are very culture-specific, and may be considered private and sensitive

# Thanks for coming to our session!

## Questions?

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