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Scope of Preliminary Results

- Rs were Hispanic & foreign-born
- Rs answered race/origin questions for themselves & for US-born children that lived with them (i.e., largely minors)
- Examined indications of difficulty completing this task for US-born children and incidence of misreporting (answer that does not match question intent)
Background

- Hispanic Rs have difficulty completing the race and origin questions
  - Unfamiliar with task
  - Mismatch between institutional definition and respondent perception
    - "Race: The Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country, and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically or genetically."
    - "Origin: Origin can be considered as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States."
    - "Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish" - "That part about ‘Spanish’ I think should not go there. (Someone who is Hispanic) does not look anything like someone who is Spanish."
What is Person One's race or origin? (Help)
Select one or more boxes.

☐ White
   For example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, and so on.

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

☐ Black or African Am.
   For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, and so on.

☐ Asian
   For example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and so on.

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, and so on.

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, and so on.

☐ Some other race or origin
Detailed Origin Question (Internet)

You said that Person One is:

**Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish**

Next, we will collect detailed information for each race or origin listed above.

**What is Person One's Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

— Enter origin(s), for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran, Colombian, and so on. (Help)
Research Questions

1. Do foreign-born Hispanic Rs have difficulty reporting race & origin for their US-born children?
2. Are foreign-born Hispanic Rs misreporting their US-born childrens’ race/origin?
3. Why would foreign-born Hispanic Rs have difficulty reporting for their US-born children?
Why does this matter?

- Reducing cognitive burden
- Issues of self-identification
  - “None, because I know that ‘white’ is for Europeans. So I would be zero.”
- Data quality
  - 12.9% of US population is foreign born - 46.5% of those are Hispanic (2013 ACS)
  - 17.7% of households have a foreign-born parent of a US-born child in them (2013 ACS, Ryan King analysis)
## Sources of Preliminary Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Q Format</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>No. of Cases</th>
<th>Type of Testing</th>
<th>Conducted by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Testing of US Census Qx</td>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cognitive &amp; Usability</td>
<td>US Census Bureau</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Internet</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cognitive &amp; Usability</td>
<td>US Census Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Testing of US Census Qx</td>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cognitive &amp; Usability</td>
<td>RTI &amp; RSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 29 cases*  
*In 14 cases, it is unknown whether the R had a US-born child
Do Rs Have Difficulty?

- Yes! 11 out of 29* Rs had difficulty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Difficult</th>
<th>No. of Rs**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requesting help</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesitation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported a category was missing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed answer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- “I couldn’t find any option to put that he was born in the US.”
- “I tried to find a category that associated American with Hispanic, but since I did not see such a category, I marked ‘Hispanic.’”
- “I was not sure with my daughter. She is of Hispanic origin but born here. First I put her down as white and then I put her as Hispanic.”

*For 14 out the 29 cases, screening data was not available confirming whether there was a US born HH member.

**Some Rs demonstrated more than one type of difficulty
Are Rs Misreporting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Detailed Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>American Mexican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Dominican, Colombian, &amp; United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Honduran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Honduran American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Latin American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>North American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Salvadoran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Origin: Origin can be considered as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.”
Why Such Difficulty?

- Perception of intent of question
  - Nationality: “In the case of my son - he was born here - he is not Salvadoran.”
  - “American”
  - Origin: “They did not say what ‘nationality’ but what ‘origin.’”
  - “Honduran”

- Salience of citizenship
- Question of Hispanic identity
Recommendations

- Instruction to foreign-born Rs regarding US born children?
- Adding examples similar to ‘African American’ & ‘Mexican American’
  - “For example there is the option that says ‘black or African American.’ An option that links Hispanics with Americans.”
- Further testing
Future Research

- Including Rs from other countries of origin (not just Hispanics)
- More cases investigating the combined question format v. the separate question format
- Including screening questions to determine how many households have a US-born person
- Quantitative analysis of data from ACS & qualitative analysis from other projects
Thank you!

For more information, email:

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Disclaimer:
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