

Racial and Ethnic Identity of US-Born Children of Foreign-Born Parents: How do parents' proxy reports of race and ethnicity for US-born children differ from parents' own self-reported race and ethnicity?

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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.”

Race Question (Internet)

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

| Study | Q Format | Mode | No. of Cases | Type of Testing | Conducted by |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| 2014 Testing of US Census Qx | Combined | Internet | 6 | Cognitive & Usability | US Census Bureau |
| 2015 Testing of US Census Qx | Combined | Internet | 20 | Cognitive & Usability | US Census Bureau |
| 2015 Testing of US Census Qx | Combined | Internet | 9 | Cognitive & Usability | RTI & RSS |
| | | | 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

| Type of Difficult | No. of Rs** |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Requesting help | 7 |
| Hesitation | 5 |
| Reported a category was missing | 3 |
| Changed answer | 1 |

- “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?

| Race | Detailed Origin |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Hispanic | American |
| Hispanic | American |
| Hispanic | American Mexican |
| Hispanic | Dominican, Colombian, & United States |
| Hispanic | Guatemalan |
| Hispanic | Honduran |
| Hispanic | Honduran American |
| Hispanic | Latin American |
| Hispanic | Mexican |
| Hispanic | North American |
| Hispanic | Salvadoran |

“**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?

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.

- 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 identify

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.”

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.

- 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!

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Disclaimer:

This presentation is intended to inform people about research and to encourage discussion. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.