

2020 Census Question on Race

Information for American Indians and Alaska Natives

How should I respond to the race question if I am American Indian or Alaska Native?

An individual's response to the 2020 Census race question is based upon self-identification. The U.S. Census Bureau does not tell individuals which boxes to mark or what heritage to write in.

People who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native may mark the American Indian or Alaska Native checkbox and enter the name of their enrolled or principal tribe(s) in the write-in area.

People may report multiple races and/or report multiple detailed groups. Each specific write-in area will record up to 200 characters and up to 6 detailed groups, allowing for long names and multiple groups to be reported.

Improvements to the 2020 race question.

Several question design improvements were made to help improve reporting of detailed American Indian and Alaska Native identities.

- Examples included for the "American Indian or Alaska Native" checkbox category.
- Detailed American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and indigenous Central and South American responses collected via a dedicated write-in area.

Identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native on the census is a matter of self-identification.

The Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the 1997 U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity. The 1997 OMB standards define "American Indian or Alaska Native" as "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."

Why does the census ask a question about race?

The question on race is asked of all people in the United States. These data are required for federal, state, and tribal programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups.

These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

7. What is this person's race?

Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.

- White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. ↴

- Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. ↴

- American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. ↴

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. ↴ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ↴ | |

- Some other race – Print race or origin. ↴

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