

## **F. Origins and Languages**

Ancestry

Place of Birth, Citizenship and  
Year of Entry

Language Spoken at Home

**HOW WE ASK IT**

*[Sample item]*

**10** What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)*

**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** *(also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):*

- Required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act which prohibit discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin
- Used to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences
- Needed by the Dept. of Labor to draw samples for surveys that provide employment data

**Community Impact:**

- Assists states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of the elderly
- Identifies, under the Public Health Service Act, segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

This question asks the ancestry of all persons, no matter how many generations they have been in this country. Respondents are asked to write in the name of an ancestry group. For individuals who think of themselves as having more than one origin, they are able to write in their multiple ancestry, e.g., German-Irish. This self-identification approach recognizes that strong ethnic identity is not limited to just first- and second-generation immigrants.

REQUIRED NEED

**ANCESTRY** (*continued*) ..... asked since 1980

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- EEOC ..... National Origin Discrimination Guidelines--P  
[29 C.F.R. 1606],  
EEOC Compliance Manual--P  
[Volume II § 623, 6(a)],  
Civil Rights Act (Section 109 on Extra-territorial Employment)--P  
[P.L. 102-166, 105 Stat. 1077]
  
- HHS ..... Older Americans Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 3003(2), 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
Refugee Education Assistance Act--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1521-1523],  
Public Health Service Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1]
  
- JUSTICE ..... Civil Rights Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.]
  
- LABOR ..... Immigration Act of 1990--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P  
[8 U.S.C.1364]

MANDATORY NEED

**PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, and** ..... *place of birth asked since 1850*  
**YEAR OF ENTRY** ..... *citizenship asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-1990*  
..... *year of entry asked 1890-1930, 1970-1990*

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[Sample item]*

**12** **Where was this person born?**

In the United States — *Print name of state.*

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Outside the United States — *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.*

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**13** **Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?**

Yes, born in the United States → *Skip to 15a*

Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents

Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization

No, not a citizen of the United States

**14** **When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.**

Year

| | |

**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

- Federal Uses** *(also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):*
- Provides essential data to set and evaluate immigration policies and laws
  - Needed, under the Voting Rights Act, for the Census Bureau to identify communities where more than five percent of citizens of voting age (or at least 10,000 voting-age citizens) are members of a single language minority or are limited-English proficient
  - Needed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (JUSTICE) to project staffing and other resource needs for non-citizens to complete the naturalization process
- Community Impact:**
- Used, under the Refugee Education Assistance Act, to allocate funds to nonprofit organizations for employment resources aimed at making the foreign born economically self-sufficient
  - Used by state and local agencies on aging to develop health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the foreign-born elderly
  - Required to evaluate voting practices of governmental subdivisions (e.g., states and counties) under the Voting Rights Act

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

This series of questions is used to describe the population as native and foreign born. *Place of birth* is needed to provide information about whether the population was born in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Island Areas, or in a foreign country. Vital information on lifetime migration patterns also comes from the place of birth question. Information on *citizenship* is used to classify the population as foreign born individuals who are naturalized citizens and those who are not. The native population also includes individuals who are born in a foreign country but have at least one American parent. Separate information for name of U.S. state or foreign country is needed to prevent confusion with geographic names. For example, the state of Georgia could be confused with the country of Georgia (formerly part of the Soviet Union). The question on citizenship does not attempt to determine the legal status of immigrants. *Year of entry* is needed to determine how long foreign-born persons have lived in the United States.

MANDATORY NEED

**PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, and** ..... *place of birth asked since 1850*  
**YEAR OF ENTRY** (*continued*) ..... *citizenship asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-1990*  
..... *year of entry asked 1890-1930, 1970-1990*

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- **COMMERCE** ..... National Population Estimates and Projections--P  
[13 U.S.C. 141],  
Intercensal Estimates of Population Characteristics--P  
[13 U.S.C. 181],  
Voting Rights Act - Bilingual Election Requirements--M  
[42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a]
  
- **EEOC** ..... National Origin Discrimination Guidelines--P  
[29 C.F.R. 1606],  
EEOC Compliance Manual--P  
[Volume II § 623, 6(a)],  
Civil Rights Act (Section 109 on Extra-territorial Employment)--P  
[P.L. 102-166, 105 Stat. 1077]
  
- **HHS** ..... Older Americans Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
Refugee Education Assistance Act--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1521-1523],  
Public Health Service Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B) & 42 U.S.C. 254e(b) & (d)]
  
- **JUSTICE** ..... Voting Rights Act of 1965--R  
[42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq., 28 C.F.R. Part 55]
  
- **LABOR** ..... Immigration Act of 1990--R  
[8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--R  
[8 U.S.C. 1364]
  
- **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION** ..... National Science Foundation Act of 1950--P  
[42 U.S.C. 1862],  
National Science Foundation Biennial Report--P  
[42 U.S.C. 1885d]

MANDATORY NEED

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME** ..... asked 1890-1940, 1960-1990

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[Sample item]*

- 11 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?**
- Yes  
 No → Skip to 12
- b. What is this language?**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
- (For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese)*
- c. How well does this person speak English?**
- Very well  
 Well  
 Not well  
 Not at all

**WHAT IT MEANS TO EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** (also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):

- Provides government agencies with information for their programs that serve the needs of the foreign born and specifically those who have difficulty speaking English
- Used under the Voting Rights Act to meet statutory requirements for making voting materials available in minority languages
- Used by the Census Bureau, under the Voting Rights Act, to determine whether illiteracy rates of citizens in language minorities within states or governmental subdivisions exceed the national average
- Used by the Dept. of Education for preparing a report to Congress on the social and economic status of children served by different local school districts

**Community Impact:**

- Used under the Bilingual Education Program to allocate grants to school districts for children with limited English language proficiency
- Needed under the Adult Education Act so that state and local educational agencies may receive grants for programs to improve educational skills, complete secondary schooling, and provide job training and placement for adults
- Used by state and local agencies to develop health care and other services under the Older Americans Act that are tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the elderly
- Needed under the Voting Rights Act to assess the fairness of voting practices in governmental subdivisions

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

This series of questions is used to identify the populations who have difficulty communicating in English. The first item identifies people who use another language in addition to or in place of English. The next item identifies the specific language, and the last measures the individual's proficiency in English. Together, these items identify the size and location of populations who may be isolated by their limited English proficiency and by the languages in which they can communicate.

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME** *(continued)* . . . . . *asked 1890-1940, 1960-1990*

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMERCE . . . . . Voting Rights Act - Bilingual Election Requirements--M  
[42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a]
  
- EDUCATION . . . . . Migratory Children Program--R[20 U.S.C. 2781],  
Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act--R  
[20 U.S.C. 2421],  
Bilingual Education Act--R  
[20 U.S.C. 3281, 3291 (part a), 3301 (part b), 3321 (part c)],  
Grants for Basic Skills of Dropouts--P [20 U.S.C. 7261-7268 (replaces 20 U.S.C. 3245 & 3246)],  
Provisions on Higher Education to Serve Adult Learners--R  
[20 U.S.C. 1002 & 1011],  
Adult Education Act--R [20 U.S.C. 1201 as amended by P.L. 102-73],  
Emergency Immigrant Education Act--P [20 U.S.C. 3121]
  
- EEOC . . . . . National Origin Discrimination Guidelines--P [29 C.F.R. 1606],  
EEOC Compliance Manual--P [Volume II § 623, 6(a)],  
Civil Rights Act (Section 109 on Extra-territorial Employment)--P  
[P.L. 102-166, 105 Stat. 1077]
  
- EPA . . . . . Regulatory Review--P [Executive Order 12866, Oct. 1, 1993];  
Environmental Justice--P [Executive Order 12898, Feb. 11, 1994];  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--P [42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.];  
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.]
  
- HHS . . . . . Older Americans Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
Refugee Education Assistance Act--R [8 U.S.C. 1521-1523],  
Public Health Service Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1]
  
- HUD . . . . . Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Evaluation--P [42 U.S.C. 12701]
  
- JUSTICE . . . . . Voting Rights Act of 1965--R  
[42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq., 28 C.F.R. Part 55],  
Equal Employment Opportunity Act--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e]
  
- LABOR . . . . . Immigration Act of 1990--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1364]