

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Ancestry

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**13** 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.)*

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Ancestry identifies the ethnic origins of the population. Federal agencies regard this information as essential for fulfilling many important needs. Ancestry is required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin. More generally, these data are needed to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

Data about ancestry assist states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of the elderly in these groups.

Under the Public Health Service Act, ancestry is one of the factors used in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

### Employment

Data about ancestry are used to evaluate the effectiveness of equal employment opportunity policies and programs for different ethnic groups under the Civil Rights Act.

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