

American Community Survey

Population: Question on Race

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

6 What is Person 1's race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↴

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian

Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino Vietnamese Samoan

Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. ↴

Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on. ↴

Some other race — Print race. ↴

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Race is key to implementing any number of federal laws and is a critical factor in the basic research behind numerous policies. Race data are required by federal programs promoting equal employment opportunity and are needed to assess racial disparities in health and access to care, among other uses. Racial classifications used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies meet the requirements of standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity). These standards set forth guidance for statistical collection and reporting on race and ethnicity used by all federal agencies.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Education

Under Title 20, race is used as part of the formula to fund programs that foster equal opportunity through postsecondary education for African Americans. This is achieved by funding programs at historically Black colleges and universities in professional and academic areas where African Americans are underrepresented in society.

Employment

Race, under the Civil Rights Act, is used to assess fairness of employment practices.

Social Services

For the Public Health Service Act, race is a key factor in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

Government

States require data about the racial makeup of the voting-age population to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Data about race are needed to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act by local jurisdictions.

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