

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

1996 Race and Ethnic Targeted Test (RAETT) and Its Content Reinterview, Also Identified as the 1996 Census Survey

ACTION: Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Gerald Taché, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Nampeo R. McKenney, Assistant Division Chief, Population Division, at the Bureau of the Census, Room 2011, FOB#3, Washington, D.C. 20233; or call (301) 457-2075.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The June 1996 Race and Ethnic Targeted Test (RAETT) is the principal vehicle for testing and evaluating several major proposed changes in, or alternatives to, the 1990 census race and ethnic questions. These include:

- A "Multiracial or biracial" category;
- A "Check more than one category" approach to reporting as multiracial;
- Alternative sequencing of the race and Hispanic origin items;
- A combined race, Hispanic origin and ancestry question;
- A combined "Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native" category; and
- A "Native Hawaiian" category.

These proposals arose from:

- The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) review of the Federal standards for racial and ethnic classification (Statistical Policy Directive No. 15), with particular attention to the research agenda developed by the Research Subcommittee of the OMB Interagency

Committee for the Review of Racial and Ethnic Standards;

- Evaluation research on the 1990 census data, on early tests of alternative 2000 census forms (e.g., the Alternative Questionnaire Experiment and the Simplified Questionnaire Test), and on the Current Population Survey, May 1995 Supplement on Race and Ethnicity funded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

- Consultations with the Census Advisory Committees and other data users, including a conference on undercounted ethnic populations, an international conference on the measurement of race and ethnicity, and recommendations in reports by the National Research Council and the General Accounting Office.

The RAETT is essential for evaluating how proposed changes to Directive No. 15, such as a multiracial classification and combined race and Hispanic origin questions, might affect the distribution and quality (e.g., reinterview consistency) of responses in the current race and Hispanic origin items. Substantial changes could affect the historical continuity of race and ethnic data and the usefulness of data for Federal agencies that monitor and enforce legislation (e.g., the Voting Rights Act). In addition, the RAETT is needed to determine whether alternative sequencing of the race and Hispanic origin items or combining the Indian (Amer.) and Alaska Native categories provide improvements over the 1990 census. The RAETT will also be used for evaluating the terminology of "Native Hawaiian."

The RAETT will target about 90,000 urban and rural households representing American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Blacks, White ethnic groups, and multiracial persons.

The RAETT will include a reinterview which will permit assessments of effects of changes on relatively smaller populations not reliably measured in national samples.

The test will also assess alternative approaches to household rostering, including special probes designed to improve coverage in undercounted minority households.

The RAETT will include six forms (one control and five experimental). We are only including the questions on race and ethnicity in this notice because they are pertinent to the survey. If you want to obtain a copy of the questionnaire in its entirety, you may write to Nampeo R. McKenney, Assistant Division Chief, Population Division, at the address listed above. The following is a list of

the form numbers and précis of the race and ethnicity questions.

Form No.	Précis of race and ethnic questions on forms
DL-1A	Control.
DL-1B	Separate Hispanic origin and race questions; multiracial category; combined "Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native" category.
DL-1C	Separate Hispanic origin and race questions; mark more than one race; combined "Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native" category.
DL-1D	Race question followed by Hispanic origin question; combined "Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native" category; "Native Hawaiian" category.
DL-1E	Combined race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry; multiracial category.
DL-1F	Combined race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry; mark more than one box.

Attachment A, "Proposed Race and Ethnic Questions for RAETT," is included to assist with the review of the race and ethnic questions. Attachment B contains the race and ethnic questions that will appear on forms DL-1A through DL-1F.

II. Method of Collection

The proposed information collection will be a one-time mailout-mailback census test needed for planning the 2000 census. The mailing operations for the proposed RAETT will be conducted through the U.S. Postal Service, using first-class postage rates for all pieces.

The RAETT will also include a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) reinterview, which will compare individual responses collected on the self-enumeration forms to those collected in the CATI reinterview. Measures of response error will be generated from the reinterview to estimate the error associated with question wording.

Repeated callbacks will be made to each household to obtain a completed reinterview. The automatic call scheduler in the CATI instrument is designed to maximize response by optimizing the callback times based on prior call records for the household.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not Available
Form Number: DL-1A, DL-1B, DL-1C, DL-1D, DL-1E, and DL-1F.
Type of Review: Regular Submission.
Affected Public: Households and Individuals.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 90,000 Households.

Estimated Time Per Response:
Mailout—10 minutes Reinterview—20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden
Hours: Mailout—15,000 hours;
Reinterview—15,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$2.2 Million.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 22, 1995.

Gerald Taché,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

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ATTACHMENT A

11/9/95

PROPOSED RACE AND ETHNIC QUESTIONS FOR RAETT

CONTROL: Separate Race, Hispanic Origin	EXPERIMENTAL FORMS				Combined Race, Hispanic Origin, Ancestry
	Separate Race, Hispanic Origin		DL-1D	DL-1E	
DL-1A	DL-1B	DL-1C	DL-1D	DL-1E	DL-1F
Modified 1990 Race Question	Separate w/ "multiracial or biracial" category	Separate w/ "Check more than one box"	Separate w/ "multiracial or biracial" category	Combined w/ "multiracial or biracial" category	Combined "Check more than one box"
Separate categories for: Indian (Amer.) Eskimo Aleut	Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native category	Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native category	Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native category	Indian (Amer.) or Alaska Native category	
Modified 1990 Hispanic origin Question	Separate	Separate	Separate	Separate	
1990 Census Sequence--- Race followed by age, marital status, and then Hispanic origin	Hispanic origin first immediately followed by race	Hispanic origin first immediately followed by race	Hispanic origin Race first immediately followed by Hispanic origin		

Note: Terminology for the Black and Hispanic Origin populations will be consistent across all panels.

