

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
**WEBINAR: Updating the Race/Ethnicity Code List for the American Community Survey
and Decennial Census**

November 19, 2024
2:00 pm Eastern

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode into the question-and-answer session at today's conference. You may press Star 1 on your phone now to join the queue for questions. I'd like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. I'd like to turn the conference over to Julie. Thank you, you may begin.

Julie Iriondo: Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us. I'm Julie Iriondo, Chief of the Media Relations Branch in the Public Information Office of the US Census Bureau. Today, we'll share important new details about the work underway on the Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project.

The Census Bureau follows race and ethnicity data guidelines standards set by the US Office of Management and Budget. This is otherwise known as Statistical Policy Directive 15, or SPD 15. The proposed race/ethnicity code list aligns with these standards and informs how data are tabulated for the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey.

Our presenters for today's Webinar are Merarys Ríos-Vargas, Chief of the Ethnicity and Ancestry Branch, and Jessica Peña, Acting Chief of the Racial Statistics Branch, both are from our Population Division. Immediately after

their presentations, we'll begin taking your questions on the phone line.

Please note we are only taking questions related to today's Webinar. And if you already know what you'd like to ask, you can join the queue now by dialing Star 1. Without further delay, I'll now turn it over to Merarys.

Merarys Ríos-Vargas: Thank you, Julie. Good afternoon everyone. We are happy to be here today to update you on the Census Bureau's Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project. As you know, the Census Bureau has a long history of collecting and tabulating detailed race/ethnicity data in the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey.

This project provides a critical opportunity for the public to provide feedback to our Census Bureau team on how detailed race, ethnicity groups and tribal populations are coded. This is critically important because how groups are coded directly translates to how they are tabulated. Please note that the proposed race/ethnicity code list is based on the Census Bureau's interpretation of the updated 2024 Office of Management and Budget race/ethnicity standards. So let's get started.

Leading up to the 2020 Census we conducted research and worked with stakeholders to improve our code list to add unique codes for additional group - population groups. The addition of unique codes enabled us to provide more disaggregated data than ever before.

In 2020, we added hundreds of codes for all detailed groups to help us better capture and present the broad diversity within these populations, some of which had not previously been coded and tabulated before in the decennial race questions such as white, Black or African-American, and Middle Eastern or North African, or MENA.

All of these improvements allowed people to more accurately report their detailed racial and ethnic identities. And they sharpened our collection, our coding, and tabulation of detailed disaggregated racial and ethnic groups. In the 2010 Census, we processed about 55 million write-in responses.

In 2020, this rose to 350 million people reported more detailed identities than ever before. The code list is crucial because it is the key input to the development of our data products, and input by you all and all our stakeholders is critical to ensuring our code list is accurate.

What is the goal of this project? Well, the goal is to ensure detailed race/ethnicity responses are accurately coded in the American Community Survey and the 2030 Census while providing a critical opportunity for the public to provide feedback. All updates must meet three criteria, that there is a strong federal scientific research and evidence to support the update, that stakeholder feedback supports the update internal and/or external, and that the update aligns with the definition of the minimum reporting categories in the SPD 15.

Now, before we continue, as a refresher, a code list is used to provide a listing of all detailed responses to the race/ethnicity question to show how they are uniquely coded and classified. The race/ethnicity code list contains thousands of detailed responses that must aggregate to a minimum reporting category.

The proposed race/ethnicity code list will be organized in the following manner with the graphic on the right providing us with an excerpt as a visual reference. Within the code list there are major category headers. These are the minimum required race/ethnicity reporting categories. Here we see the minimum category Asian, which contains a range of codes from 4000 through

4999. Note that all terms within this code range are classified as Asian regardless of the write-in area they are provided on.

Underneath the major categories, there are group headers. These are the bolded detailed race ethnicity groups with a code range in the first column such as Japanese and Korean under the minimum category of Asian. Here we see that Japanese includes the codes ranging from 440, 4040 I'm sorry, to 4049. And Korean which includes codes ranging from between 4050 to 4059.

These group headers are eligible to be tabulated in many of our data products. For example, when we publish a count or estimate for the Japanese population, all of the terms included in codes 4040 through 4049 are reflected in that final count or estimate.

The code descriptions are the individual terms that are listed underneath the group headers. These are indicated with a single four-digit code in the first column. These include unique codes for the detailed checkboxes on the form, such as Japanese checkbox and the Korean checkbox.

Code descriptors can also include multiple terms with different codes under the same group header. For example, Ainu is code 4041 and Okinawa is code 4042. And both are listed under Japanese. These codes recognize distinct identities that have been reported in previous decennial censuses or the ACS (American Community Survey).

Now what types of terms are included on the code list? As previously mentioned the code list includes thousands of terms including abbreviations and the codes assigned to them. These terms represent a variety of different race/ethnicity responses including nationalities, transnational groups, ethnoreligious responses, subnational ethnic groups, pan-ethnic terms,

broad geographic terms, terms indicating multiracial/multiethnic responses, federally and state-recognized tribes and villages, unrecognized tribes, and general terms for tribes in the United States, Canadian First Nations, and Central and South American Indian groups.

On the other hand what types of terms are not included on the code list? There are many types of responses that people may report in the race/ethnicity question that are not coded as a race/ethnicity response. These include responses such as protest responses, nonsensical responses, responses that do not represent a race/ethnicity or tribal population.

Not shown on the code list are terms we assign invalid codes to such as state names. These invalid codes may be used during processing before they are removed. For example, during processing of the 2020 Census data if the state name Kansas was reported next to Potawatomi, we were able to transform this response into the more specific response of Prairie Band for the Potawatomi Nation.

In the next few slides we will take a look at some examples on the code list. The first excerpts from the race/ethnicity code list that we will look at is for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. As we mentioned the race/ethnicity code list includes federally recognized tribes, state-recognized tribes, and unrecognized tribes.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe is an example of a federally recognized tribe coded within the American Indian and Alaska Native minimum reporting category. You'll notice that there are multiple variations of the tribe's names listed. You'll notice that we can see such as Coeur D'Alene, Coeur D Alene Tribe, and Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians. The native name of the tribe, Schitsu'umsh, is also included. Leading up to the 2020 Census our research,

along with consultations with tribes, concluded that all of these terms represent the Coeur D'Alene Tribe. So all of them receive the exact same code in the code list.

Next, we'll look at all the detailed groups for Japanese or at the detailed group of Japanese, which is a detailed race/ethnicity group within the Asian minimum reporting category. You'll notice that there is a range of codes associated with Japanese in the first line, codes 4040 through 4049. This means that all of the codes in this code range are included in the Japanese detailed category.

When a respondent selects the Japanese detailed checkbox they receive the code 4040. If a respondent provides a write-in response of Japanese or an alternative term indicating they are Japanese such as Japan, Ryukyu, they receive the code 4041.

And based on internal research responses of Okinawan receive a different code of 4042. However, responses of Japanese, whether through check boxes or write-ins, and responses of Okinawan are included in the overall Japanese detailed category.

In the last row, you see there are "Not Used" codes. These codes are not currently assigned to any term. And they are in the code list as placeholders in the event that a new term or code needs to be added to the code list in the future. I'll now pass the presentation on to Jessica.

Jessica Peña: Thank you Merarys. In the next few slides I'll be walking through how the code list is used for tabulation, the timeline for the research project, demonstrating how to navigate the proposed race/ethnicity code list, as well as how you can provide feedback through the FRN.

As mentioned, I want to walk - I want to take some time to walk through how we use the code list and why public feedback is so important to ensure an accurate count for specific racial ethnic groups, tribes, or native village population groups. When a write-in response is provided, as in step one on the screen, we assign it a four-digit code that we can use in tabulation.

In step two you can see that we give the same four-digit code of 5708 that represents the Coeur d'Alene Tribes to all these variations in the name. As Merarys explained, a group may have several variations on our code list, but they all receive the exact same code.

This is where feedback is incredibly important. We need feedback on if there are any other terms, spellings, or abbreviations that someone might use to indicate they are part of this group, or in this example, a citizen of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

This is important because we then take the codes from our code list to populate our data tables as we see in step three. In this example every term associated with Code 5708 is included in the population count for Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

As Merarys explained, on our code list, you will also see race/ethnic groups that have a range of codes associated with them. So I want to walk you through what that means and how we use that in our tabulations. In this example we have a response of Okinawan provided in the response area, seen in step one.

In step two you can see the section of the code list for Japanese where Okinawan is included. In the top line Japanese is shown with a range of codes

listed, codes 4040 through 4049. This means that all codes in that range are included in the tabulation for Japanese.

So in our example of Okinawan, this response would receive the code 4042. However, ultimately it would be included in the Japanese group. And in step three where we have our data table the Okinawan response is included in the population count for Japanese.

So why do we give Okinawan a unique code if we're just going to tabulate it as Japanese? While currently we tabulate Okinawan as Japanese providing it with its own code allows us to continue to conduct research on the term and see how often people are reporting this term. We will often provide unique codes for groups and tabulate them to a larger group when we start to see more instances of the group being reported. It also keeps the door open to disaggregating the data in the future.

Now let's discuss the timeline of this project. There are four phases to this research project. The next few slides will provide an update on where we are and next steps. Phase one is now completed. This includes internal research only. We are ready for public and stakeholder feedback on our proposed race/ethnicity code list.

In the initial phase, as shown on the screen, our research team conducted internal research and investigated the results of the 2020 Census. They reviewed terms reported for the first time in the 2020 Census in which write-in areas terms were reported, and which checkboxes were selected when terms were reported. The results of this internal research will be used to update the 2020 Census Hispanic Origin and Race Code List and develop a proposed Race/Ethnicity Code List.

Currently, we are in the second phase of the project. In Phase 2, we published a Federal Register notice yesterday seeking feedback from the public and stakeholders on the proposed Race/Ethnicity Code List and will be conducting related outreach.

During Phase 3, after we receive all feedback, our race/ethnicity research team will carefully review it and develop a summary of all the feedback received. And during Phase 4, once all updates resulting from public and stakeholder feedback are implemented, we will continue to make updates as necessary. We'll discuss further in the next few slides.

For Phase 2 the Census Bureau published a Federal Register notice seeking feedback on the proposed code list yesterday. Please note that the public comment period ends on February 18, 2025. We are asking you to share the FRN with your stakeholders, and we're seeking feedback on any terms or groups that are missing, how groups are classified, alternative terms for groups on the proposed code list, and the utility of regional groups.

This 90-day period will be the primary opportunity this decade to provide feedback on the Race/Ethnicity Code List. We know the beginning of 2025 seems early for feedback, but we will need to finalize the code list in order to implement in the 2027 American Community Survey.

Getting feedback now ensures that all changes are implemented in time for data collection. As a result, we will not be accepting feedback after the FRN deadline. We plan to conduct tribal consultations and additional outreach during the FRN comment period.

In this slide, we share an excerpt of the FRN questions for which the Census Bureau is seeking feedback from the public. First, are there any groups

missing from the proposed code list? If so, please identify them and suggest how the groups should be classified and why.

Second, are any groups on the proposed code list misclassified? If so, please identify them and suggest an alternative classification or indicate if the term should be removed. Third, are there alternative terms, abbreviations, or in language terms people may use to identify with the specific groups that should be added to the proposed code list? If so please identify them and suggest a classification.

Now before I get to the last question, the 2020 Census race/ethnicity code list was organized into regional categories, for example Chinese and Japanese aggregated into East Asian. And counts for these regional categories were published in the 2020 Census data products.

Based on stakeholder feedback, and the challenging nature of categorizing groups into regional categories when the boundaries are not clearly defined, may change over time or may overlap. The Census Bureau is proposing to remove its definitions and concepts of regional categories so that data users would have more flexibility to create their own regional categories using the disaggregated data.

In the FRN we are asking, how do you use the data produced for regional categories from the 2020 Census? And would removing regional categories from the code list and tabulated products impact your ability to use the detailed race/ethnicity data? To find out how the Census Bureau classified regional categories for the 2020 Census, access the 2020 Census race/ethnicity code list using the link provided in the FRN.

Here we have a screenshot of the proposed race/ethnicity code list that you

can access via the FRN. I'll now switch over to sharing my screen and show the FRN, the proposed race/ethnicity code list, and how to submit a comment.

So you should be seeing my Excel sheet, but I will jump back over here to the Federal Register. So again this is the Federal Register Notice. This is what you'll see when you access the Federal Register Notice. I'll scroll down and here you'll see instructions for submitting a comment, but all the way at the bottom you'll see a link to access the code list.

When you click this link it'll bring you to this landing page. So here you'll see an Excel file. And you'll want to click this file and download the file. It might look different on your browser, but it'll be in your download file. Let me open up the code list.

So the proposed race/ethnicity code list is in an Excel file separated into different tabs located along the bottom. As you see here we have the README tab, a tab for white, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, Asian, AIAN, MENA, NHPI, some other race-ethnicity, and multi-code terms but I'll go over what this means in a second.

So again, as a reminder, the code list reflects the Census Bureau's interpretation of the Office of Management and Budget's SPD 15 definitions. We recommend that you start off at this README tab. This tab provides the definitions of the major reporting categories the Census Bureau is required to use, as well as the description of the proposed multi-code terms list.

Here - so you'll also see the full written out names of the ones that are abbreviated along the bottom, the different groups that you see. And you'll also see a written description of how to interpret and understand the contents

of this Excel file. Now, Merarys and I have covered much of this information in today's Webinar. Further down you'll also see a link to the random sampling blog with more information.

So as we mentioned the code list reflects the interpretation of the standards. So all of the terms that are listed in each of these tabs so all the terms listed under the white tabs are all classified as white, regardless of the write-in line that they're provided on.

Now I'll show you Hispanic for example. I'm going to take you down here and show you an example of Costa Rican. So Costa Rican receives the code 2100. And it's located in the Hispanic or Latino tab. And all the terms, again, under the Hispanic or Latino tab are classified as Hispanic regardless of the write-in line where that response is provided. However, we are currently finalizing our coding procedures. And if you identify terms that are incorrectly classified, and you have supporting research, please respond to that FRN and provide a comment.

So now what's new for this code list is this Multicode Terms tab. Now the Multicode Terms tab includes terms that are classified within two major race/ethnicity categories. This tab is largely in response to stakeholder feedback that certain terms should not be located in only one section of the code list.

This tab shows the terms that indicate identities that cross major race/ethnicity categories. The Multicode Terms tab contains three columns, the terms reported column, which lists terms that are classified within two major race/ethnicity categories, the classified as column in the middle that shows how terms in the first column will be classified, and the final major categories column, which lists the race/ethnicity categories of the given response.

You'll notice that there are some terms with a superscript one next to them and others without a superscript one. Throughout the code list there are terms that have a superscript one next to them. These indicate that along with being in the designated race/ethnicity tab, the term is also listed on the Multicode Terms tab.

So let's take a look at what that looks like. So let's navigate over to the NHPI tab for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and let's look at the code 7712 or 7712 for Indo-Fijian. And here you'll see what we mean by that superscript one of what you'll be finding.

So you'll find that superscript one on the cell. And if you click the cell it'll navigate you back to the Multicode Terms tab. Here we find that Indo-Fijian, right here, is classified as Asian and Fijian. And is in the final major categories of Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

So now what about those terms without the superscript one? So let's use the example of Afro-Latino. So for the term Afro-Latino we see that it's classified as Afro and Latino. And it's in the final major categories of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino.

Again, we are currently finalizing our coding procedures. And if you identify terms that are incorrectly classified, including on this Multicode Terms tab, and you have supported research, please respond to the FRN and provide a comment.

Now a last minute tip for navigating through this document. Let's say that you're interested in a specific term and are not sure where it's listed. You can use the Excel search within workbook feature. So if you hit Ctrl F you'll

find the - you'll access the find and replace.

And let's say we want to search the term Antiguan. And we're going to search within, from instead of within sheets we're going to search within the entire workbook. We're going to hit, Find All. And it'll show all the instances where Antiguan is listed on the code list. Here we see Antiguan is in the Black or African-American range. And all the examples of Antiguan on the code list, or all instances of Antiguan on the code list, are all here listed below.

Now, let's walk through how to provide feedback. So let's navigate back to the FRN. So you can click here on the Submit a Public Comment, but you'll also find instructions down here below that guide you to regulations.gov and provide the docket number.

So you'll copy over this docket number and go to www.regulations.gov. And you can enter that docket number and hit Search. And this is what it'll look like. Then you can hit the Comment button. And here you can provide your comment, provide attachments, and fill out all the required information. And then make sure you submit comments at the end.

And so, again, as a reminder, the public comment period closes February 18, 2025. And we can get back to the slide deck. Thank you, Alli.

So now for Phase 3 throughout the comment period our research team will thoroughly review all the feedback received. Updates to the code list will be made during this time period. All updates must meet the following criteria.

First, that there is strong federal scientific research and evidence to support the update. Second, that stakeholder feedback supports the update. And lastly,

that the update aligns with the definition of the minimum reporting categories in SPD 15.

Now for Phase 4, we plan to make updates to the code list as needed. While this version of the code list is not expected to undergo extensive updates before being implemented in the ACS or 2030 Census, it is expected that some updates will continue to be made.

For example, we know that the formal names of tribes can frequently change and we strive to have the most up-to-date names in our code list. For this reason our code list undergoes frequent updates in the names of tribes to align with the Bureau of Indian Affairs annual FRN.

And lastly, outreach as always is an essential part of our work. On the screen is one of our most recent engagements, our current Webinar, and upcoming engagements. We will be hosting virtual tribal consultations with tribal leaders on December 11 and January 15.

We also published a random sampling blog yesterday with more information on the proposed code list and the FRN that we encourage you all to check out. Now this concludes our presentation. Thank you so much for joining us today. I'll now pass it on to Julie for the Q&A segment.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you Jessica. As Jessica mentioned the blog all of those resources are in our press kit and our newsroom. We'll talk more about that later on in the Webinar. We're now ready to begin taking your questions.

And joining us now to help answer your questions are three other subject matter experts from the Population Division. They are Roberto Ramirez, Assistant Division Chief of Special Population Statistics, Rachel Marks,

Senior Advisor on Race and Ethnicity, and Alli Coritz, Senior Analyst for the Racial Statistics Branch. And as a reminder, we are only taking questions related to today's Webinar, which is the Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project.

If you have any questions that are out of scope please contact the Public Information Office at pio@census.gov. We are happy to help. Operator, can you please provide instructions on how people can submit their questions?

Coordinator: Yes, thank you. At this time if you'd like to ask a question please press Star 1 on your phone. Please ensure that your phone is unmuted and state your name and organization clearly when prompted. Again, that is Star 1 to ask a question. If you need to withdraw from the queue, press Star 2. One moment, please.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you operator. As we wait for questions to queue up I'd like to mention the resources for today's Webinar. They can all be found on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Just go to the News tab in the upper right-hand corner, then click on the Press Kit icon. You will find it there.

Our Press Kit includes a link to the new Federal Register Notice, a tip sheet, blog, today's slide deck, and we'll add the recording of this Webinar when it's available. Okay, now let's go to the questions. Operator, do we have our first caller?

Coordinator: Yes, our first question is from Tim Henderson with Stateline. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi Tim.

Tim Henderson: Yes hi. My question is generally I've been looking at some comments, and I see some concern about the Black Hispanic issues and some concerns that race and ethnicity might be conflated somehow. I see some examples.

You've already discussed the Afro-Latino option. I see Dominican listed under Black or African American. Are those the kinds of things you're doing to address those concerns or is there anything else you'd like to say about that?

Julie Iriondo: Jessica, Merarys, would you like to take this one?

Jessica Peña: Yes, sure. Dominican is listed on the Hispanic code range. I just wanted to offer that clarification. So...

Tim Henderson: Okay.

Jessica Pena: ...are we just practice, basically, what OMB standards dictate on the definition? So we - an Afro-Latino response is classified as both Black and Hispanic, in that Latino is listed under the Hispanic code range and Afro is a Black or African American term.

So when a respondent provides Dominican on the Black write-in line, that's still coded as Hispanic or Latino. Now, if they provide a Black response in addition to that, that's where we would be able to capture both aspects of that identity of Black and Hispanic. Rachel or Merarys, I don't know if you have anything else to add.

Julie Iriondo: Okay, thanks, Tim.

Tim Henderson: Okay, thank you.

Julie Iriondo: Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Our next caller is Lisa Brown from the University of Incarnate Word. Go ahead, your line's open.

Dr. Lisa Brown: Yes.

Julie Iriondo: Hi Lisa.

Dr. Lisa Brown: Hi. Can everybody hear me?

Julie Iriondo: Yes, we can hear you.

Dr. Lisa Brown: Wonderful. Yes, this is Dr. Lisa Brown from the University of Incarnate Word and I have been immersed in this process from the beginning back in November 19, I mean, 2019, I think that's when we first started. Nevertheless, my question is similar to the previous caller.

We were very adamant about there being a US freedmen descendant category and that the previous FRN said that they were going to take them under advisement. I am quite shocked that you've done some kind of disaggregating to make sure that the Hispanic Latino was included under Black, but didn't honor the request for those Blacks who were descendants of slaves in freedmen to be included in the coding. Is there still time for us to make that case, even though we've submitted several articles, including myself and Dr. Darity at Duke University about this need to have that specificity and granularity we were promised?

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question, Lisa. Rachel, would you like to take this one?

Rachel Marks: Yes, thank you for that question. And we appreciate you being involved since 2019. Your feedback's really important to us. And so just for clarification, I think the feedback that you provided previously was through OMB's Federal Register notice on updating the standards that they've recently updated earlier this year.

So what we're asking today about is our code list. And while OMB did not make updates to add an American Descendants of Slaves or American Freedmen category, they did in their updated standards, specifically specify that future research on this topic should be conducted.

And so I would, absolutely, encourage you to send us any research you have about this topic, about, you know, further disaggregating it because as I know you were part of those conversations, there was an agreement during the OMB comment period about which term should be used to identify this population or if it should be disaggregated from the Black or African-American category or stay within it or even perhaps be asked it through a different question. So we welcome your feedback on this topic, and thanks for your continued engagement.

Dr. Lisa Brown: Okay, thank you. We will be submitting some disaggregation recommendations.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you, Lisa. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Next caller is Rosalind Gold from NALEO Educational Fund. Go ahead. Your line is open.

Rosalind Gold: So, thank you so much. It's great to hear from everybody. Thank you for your very comprehensive efforts on this. I'm going to try to get away with two

questions.

So, first question is I want to follow-up on this idea of how what a person writes in and how they're coded relates to the minimum categories they are included in. So, for example, let's say someone checks off that they are racially Black but also under that writes in Dominican. Will they continue to be classified as racially Black and then assigned to the Hispanic minimum category? Or let's say someone indicates that they are ethnically Latino but writes in Afro-Latino, will they be assigned to the African-American Black racial category?

And the second question is, can we request listening sessions beyond the stakeholder engagements that you're making available?

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question, Jessica, Merarys?

Jessica Peña: Yes. I can take that. So for a response where the checkbox of Black is checked and the write-in of Dominican, for example, is provided, we have the code on the code list for the Black checkbox. So it would receive the code for Black and the code for Dominican. And in that event, it's coded as both Black or African American and Hispanic.

And if they say that your other scenario where they provide a Hispanic checkbox and write in Afro-Latino. Now because they've wrote in that Afro, that will be coded as both Black and Hispanic. And of course, we're open to continued engagements. Please reach out to our staff and we can set something up.

Rosalind Gold: Thank you so much.

Jessica Peña: (Unintelligible).

Julie Iriondo: And you can contact the Public Information Office. We're happy to make that connection. And that's pio@census.gov. Thank you so much for your question. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Our next caller is (Sondra Schmidt) from Data Compliance Services. Go ahead. Your line is open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi (Sondra).

Sandra Schlidt: You know, I'm sorry. I thought I just had to do that in case I had a question, but this is also interesting to me, and I'm just listening in and taking notes.

I'm a - I'm actually a Native American who has been involved in data since I was 19 years old, and it's been quite a few years, and it just always amazes me. So this Webinar caught my attention and I wanted to see what it was about. I find it very interesting though.

Julie Iriondo: (Unintelligible).

Sandra Schlidt: Because with Native Americans we - there's so much wrong with even collecting data, period. That's why I've never swayed.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you so much for tuning in. Do you have a question?

Sandra Schlidt: No, I'm taking notes. This is all new to me, this part.

Julie Iriondo: We encourage you to log in to the Federal Register notice and provide your feedback. We'd love to hear it.

Sandra Schlidt: Yes.

Julie Iriondo: Next caller, please.

Sandra Schlidt: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next caller is Tanya Hernandez for Fordham University. Go ahead. Your line is open.

Tanya Hernandez: Thank you very much. A quick follow-up on the Afro-Latino line of questioning. Once someone is coded as both Black and Hispanic, are they counted and reported out as fully Black, that is to say, the old-fashioned Black-only category? Or will they be subsumed into the multiracial, two-or-more races form of report out?

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question Tanya. Jessica, Merarys?

Jessica Peña: And I also like to get Rachel's feedback on tabulation since that's part of the OMB standards. But essentially they would be within the Black and Hispanic count if you have the full list of and so Black, African American, and Hispanic for the full tabulation list, but they would also be in the Black, alone or in combination or the Hispanic alone or in combination. And Rachel can speak more about tabulation.

Rachel Marks: Yes, thanks Jessica. So the updated OMB standards encourage agencies to produce as much data as possible. And in the past, a lot of agencies have fallen back on producing data for the alone population and then one aggregate multiracial group.

But moving forward, agencies are really being encouraged to produce as much detail as possible. So, encouraging agencies to produce data about those combinations. So producing data for the Black and combination population, the Hispanic, Latino, and combination population, and also beyond that, those specific combinations as the Census Bureau has done in the past for the redistricting data.

And I'll - one final thing I'll say is that under the new standards, race and ethnicity are treated co-equally. And so for Afro-Latinos, respondents can report both their Black or African-American identity and their Hispanic identity. Or for some Hispanics, they may just produce one, and that's acceptable in the standards and we will tabulate all of those responses.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question, Tanya. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Next caller is Ricardo from UTR. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi Ricardo.

Ricardo: Hello everybody. It's Ricardo from the UT Office. Can you hear me okay?

Julie Iriondo: Yes, we can hear you.

(Ricardo):: Yes, all right great. So I had a - I had two questions. I think I'll save one for the public comment. What I really wanted to do was ask about some of the racial combinations that are not included in the multi-code list that probably should be there, probably with superscripts.

So I had a question about Black Guyanese and Black Galatians and also about White South Africans. How would they be tabulated in the current code list

that you have now, and would it make sense to include them in a multi-code tabulation where they have subscripts that would assign them to a specific category?

And the other question I have in relation to Afro-Latinos. So if Afro-Latinos are pretty much subsumed into a Black, alone, and in combination category, they're also going to be included in several other different types of multiple race reporting categories that include the Black option and whatnot.

And so, I'm still trying to visualize how that is going to be tabulated across different agencies and how we can go about using that data to distinguish the material outcomes of Black Latinos from other groups. So I'll save the rest for public comment. Thank you.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you. Jessica, Merarys, Rachel?

Jessica Peña: Yes I can answer about the - any terms that you see that are missing on that multi-code terms tab, that's the kind of stuff that we would want in a public comment so that we want that feedback. We would also want some research that supports that change. And again, it would need to align with the standards. So please provide that feedback and we can look into whether or not that would be something that we can do for the code list.

And Rachel, you can take the tabulation question.

Rachel Marks: Yes, so as far as tabulation goes, I can't speak for other agencies. But what the standards do encourage is reporting as much detail as possible so, reporting whether a respondent is Black and Hispanic or Latino, or Black and Asian, or Black and white -- all of those combinations -- as much detail as that data collection will allow.

So I would encourage you to reach out to other data collections and see what they're thinking about for their tabulations and encourage them to report these data if that's something that's useful to you. As far as census goes, we have reported these types of combinations in the past, and we'll continue to do so.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you so much for your question. As we wait for the next questions to queue up, I'd like to note a few of our upcoming major releases. On December 5, we'll release the geographic area statistics as part of the 2022 Economic Census. These data will provide detailed industry statistics by geographic areas for employer businesses in the U.S. This includes states, counties, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

On December 10 embargo access begins for the American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. For information on how credentialed media can get access, please visit the newsroom on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov/newsroom). The public release for the ACS Five-Year Estimates will be on December 12.

And on December 19, we'll release the Vintage 2024 Population Estimates for the Nation and States, Puerto Rico, Components of Change, and Voting Age Population. Also, on December 19, we'll release data for Puerto Rico from the 2022 Economic Census of Island Areas. These data will provide detailed industry statistics for employer businesses in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by geographic area. This includes municipios, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and planning regions. Be sure to subscribe to our newsroom to learn more about these releases or visit the newsroom on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov/newsroom). Operator, do we have any more callers?

Coordinator: Yes, our next caller is Alex from USDA. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi. Thanks.

Alex: Hello. So I have a comment and a question. So first the comment is something we've discussed internally at our agency has been that same kind of concerns about the disaggregation of the African-American Black population and recognizing those historical dichotomies.

So my specific question was to the point of enhancing the amount of data that's available, going to the example of Hispanic populations, so just to make sure I'm understanding correctly, if somebody indicates that they're, say, Cuban, but they don't put anything else, they just mark that they're Cuban, is the implication going to be that we would define them as Hispanic, that they'd be rolled up as Hispanic? Even though there is a possibility like with Cubans that they could be Afro-Cuban, but just marking as Cuban means that they're going to be grouped together with Hispanics more broadly and we wouldn't have that more racial combination data potentially if they just marked Cuban, for example.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question. Merarys, would you like to take this one?

Merarys Rios-Vargas: Absolutely. Thank you so much for your question. And the way that you're interpreting it is correct. So as of right now as a person in this new combined question and under the new standards, if a person were to provide a response where they only were to write in or check Cuban they will be tabulated as Hispanic and their detailed response will be Cuban.

Rachel, I don't know if you want to add a little bit more about tabulation and how that's explained in the new SPD 15 as well.

Rachel Marks: No, I was just going to add to that, you know, what we're talking about today,

these are procedures that we've used for our editing and coding, and we're seeking feedback on our coding. But also, we're still working to finalize our editing. And these procedures are the procedures that are specific to the Census Bureau. So I understand you're calling from, I think you said USDA, so these are Census Bureau-specific procedures.

But like Merarys was saying, what we do at Census is that if someone reports a response of Cuban whether through a checkbox or a write-in response regardless of where that's reported, we do aggregate that up to the larger Hispanic and Latino category.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Yes, our next caller is (Julianne) Phan from Latino Policy Group. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi (Julianne).

Juliana Phan: Hello. Hello, can you hear me?

Julie Iriondo: Yes we can hear you.

Juliana Phan: Okay perfect. I was just wondering -- we've talked about this within our group too -- but I was wondering if you could give some more detail about how you code indigenous Latino?

Julie Iriondo: Thank you for your question. Merarys, Jessica?

Merarys Rios-Vargas: Yes so this one I'm going to try to say a little bit better, and then I will let Rachel as well add a little bit more context in regards to the new revised

standards.

So if a respondent were to provide a response of for example, Mayan under the AIAN write-in line, this person does get - and you will see this in the code list that we have provided as our proposed one, where right now they will be coded under the American Indian and Alaska Native.

And Jessica, do you want to add a little bit more in regards to the rest of the edit? And then Rachel, I will let you add a little bit more in regards to the standards themselves.

Jessica Peña: Well you should be able to see a lot of those Indian combination terms on that multi-code terms list. If you look through, you'll see how we classify responses of Chilean Indian, Colombian Indian, et cetera, and how they are crossing across code ranges. So, we recognize that and we include responses of American Indian and Alaska Natives and Hispanic or Latino when they're - when we go to the final major categories column there.

So it's again, we really recommend that you look through, and if you see anything that's miscoded or you would like to provide feedback on how we code things, please send us a public comment. Please provide research if you have any available. That's the kind of feedback that we're looking for.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you so much for your question. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Our next caller is Leslie Richards from American Sociology Associates. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi. Leslie.

Leslie Richards: Yes. Hello everyone. I'm wondering as this is self-report data, will the Census Bureau cross-check any of this with community data or any of the data as this may be tied to funding?

Julie Iriondo: Who would like to take this one?

Roberto Ramirez: Sure I will take that. So thank you for your question. So, no, we do not cross-check or validate anybody's response, it's all based on self-response. So, we do not compare it to other data sources and change someone's response, for example. So, we just code and tabulate what people indicate and what they write in and what they check, but we do not go and validate it in any way with any other data sources.

Julie Iriondo:: Thank you for your question. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Next caller is Margaret Lowry from Arab American Institute. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Julie Iriondo: Hi Margaret. Margaret?

Coordinator: Margaret, your line might be muted.

Margaret Lowry: Oh, hi guys. Can you hear me?

Julie Iriondo: Yes we can hear you.

Margaret Lowry: Okay, great. Thanks so much for this. This was really extremely helpful to hear your responses and kind of walk through it together.

I had a very similar question to (Roz) and I think it's just kind of

clarifying again how folks that identify as more than one category may be coded and so it's two scenarios. One, what I'm hearing is that, say, if someone who is Sudanese checks MENA and writes in Sudanese, correct me if I'm wrong, they would then be coded as both under the Black or African American and then also under MENA because they've checked that.

I'm - and then I wanted to see, I think the same would be if someone who is Egyptian but identifies as Black, checks Black and then writes in Egyptian, again, they would get coded as Black or African American. But I wanted to check, as some members of our community, it looks like on the code list are not fully included, but you guys heard it a million times so I think you know where to look at.

So if someone who is say, Somali checks the MENA checkbox and then writes in Somali, is that answer then counted as both Black and MENA or would it just revert to Black? And then if that same person were to check Black and then just write in Somali, that would just be Black? Is that correct? Does that make any sense to you guys?

Julie Iriondo: Yes that makes sense.

Roberto Ramirez: I think we want to - yes, so great question, good to hear from you. So yes we're not - these are a lot of great reporting scenarios now really seeking feedback on our code list. As Jessica and others have mentioned that we haven't finalized all our editing procedures and tabulation procedures yet. We'll certainly we'll circle back when we do.

But you know, when you think about the code list that you have in front of you now, please keep in mind that it's based all on SPD 15, the definitions of MENA, the definition of Hispanic, et cetera. What's great and what testing

have shown on the combined question that we're planning to implement in the ACS and in the 2030 Census allows for, you know, more than one. You can select MENA, write in Black, check Black.

In the case of someone who's Egyptian, for example, as you mentioned, is part of the MENA definition, right? So if they write in check MENA, write in Egyptian and check Black, they will be both black and MENA and it will be tabulated as such. And so, you know, these are good questions.

Right now, our main focus right now is the - is like the backbone of our data product which is the code list. You have a great opportunity now...

Roberto Ramirez: ...to look at the code list that really serves as the background of all our data products, if you will, and the classification for SPD-15, not only, you know, for all the individual codes. So we're really looking forward to your feedback. So thank you so much for your question.

Margaret Lowry: Yes and thank you. I understand that. I think I'm looking for ways to help our communities find themselves in the code list and know how to check. So, it's very helpful to hear that....

Roberto Ramirez: Yes that's one that, you know, we are very, and yes and testing have shown, especially members of the MENA communities they're finding themselves in the combined question. We have a separate response category there. And, of course all the individual boxes is there for all the major MENA groups. But if they don't, they can also write it in as well. So we're very excited about that. So thank you for your comments.

Julie Iriondo: Thank you so much for your question and comments. And that will be our final question. If you have additional questions after today's event, please

reach out to the Public Information Office at 301-763-3030, or email us at pio@census.gov. And as a reminder, you can find resources from today's Webinar in the Race, Ethnicity, Coding Improvement Project Press Kit.

I'd like to thank today's subject matter experts for taking part, Merarys Ríos-Vargas, Jessica Peña, Roberto Ramirez, Rachel Marks, and Ali Coritz. And thank you for joining us. I'm Julie Iriondo. Have a great rest of your day.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.