

Race & Ethnicity



The U.S. Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts.

What is race?

The Census Bureau defines race as a person's self-identification with one or more social groups. An individual can report as White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or some other race. Survey respondents may report multiple races.

What is ethnicity?

Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For this reason, ethnicity is broken out in two categories, Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics may report as any race.



Can the information be used to enforce immigration laws on me or my family?

No. The Census Bureau adheres to strict confidentiality laws that prohibit sharing of respondent information. We do not share respondent answers with immigration, law enforcement, tax collection agencies or any other organization.

What region of origin does Census consider for each race category?

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Europe	Africa	North America	Far East	Hawaii
Middle East		South America	Southeast Asia	Guam
North Africa		Central America	Indian	Samoa
				Pacific Islands

About the Data

How are race and ethnicity data collected?

We collect these data through survey respondents' answers from the completed Decennial Census and the American Community Survey.

Why do we collect this data?

Race and ethnicity data are critical to policy makers who use the information to make funding decisions that affect educational opportunities, assess equal employment practices, and ensure equal access to health care for everyone.

Data on race can also be found through these various programs:

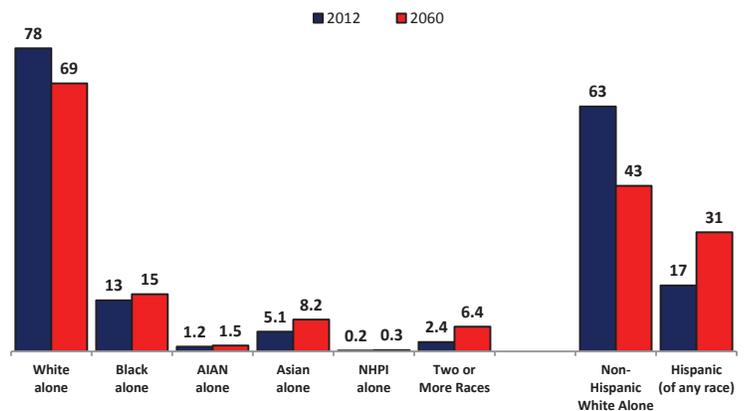
- American Community Survey
- Estimates and Projections
- Decennial Census
- Economic Census
- Current Population Survey

How does the Census Bureau release race and ethnicity data?

These data are available in tables through the various tools, publications, working papers, and through infographics as well as new releases.

	Washington city, District of Columbia	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	633,736	*****
Not Hispanic or Latino:	571,099	*****
White alone	224,184	+/-250
Black or African American alone	308,766	+/-820
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,384	+/-190
Asian alone	22,512	+/-613
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	186	+/-105
Some other race alone	1,311	+/-286
Two or more races:	12,756	+/-1,114
Two races including Some other race	836	+/-264
Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races	11,920	+/-1,050
Hispanic or Latino:	62,637	*****
White alone	30,771	+/-1,988
Black or African American alone	5,372	+/-899
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	688	+/-357
Asian alone		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone		
Some other race alone		
Two or more races:		
Two races including Some other race		
Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races		

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2012 and 2060
(Percent of total population)



AIAN=American Indian and Alaska Native; NHPI=Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

How can I use this information?

Race and ethnicity data can be used for:

- Developing business plans
- Understanding disparities in housing, employment, income and poverty
- Completing grants

Where can I find race and ethnicity data?

Various data tools are available on census.gov. To access the data tools go to:
www.census.gov/data/data-tools.html

For more information about education and training go to:
www.census.gov/mso/www/training/.