

## PAA 2013 EXTENDED ABSTRACT

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### **Working Title: Modified Demographic Characteristics: Using Census 2010 as a Base for the Population Estimates Program in the Coming Decade**

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#### BACKGROUND: CENSUS 2010 RACE CATEGORIES AND RACE MODIFICATIONS

Many state and local agencies comply with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 1997 revised standards for the collection, tabulation, and presentation of federal data on race and ethnicity. These revised OMB standards identify a minimum of five racial categories: White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Much like Census 2000, in Census 2010, respondents were given the option to mark one or more races on the questionnaire to indicate their racial identity. When these Census 2010 counts are displayed, they show data for people who reported a race either alone or in combination with other races.

To allow for Census 2010 respondents who do not identify with any of the above five OMB race categories, OMB approved Census Bureau's inclusion of a sixth race category: Some Other Race. Space was provided on the questionnaire to allow respondents to also write in their race if their selected response category was Some Other Race.

Because of needs to have census data comparable with the reporting categories used by state and local agencies and for compiling other administrative data used in producing population estimates and projections, the Census Bureau developed a procedure to assign an OMB race to those who reported Some Other Race. (For more information about race classifications in Census 2010, see the Census Bureau's publication "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010" at: [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf).)

The Modified Race Summary File provides data from Census 2010 that have been modified to assign each of the persons who selected the Some Other Race category to an OMB race category. The modified race data include 31 race groups (five Office of Management and Budget single race categories and every combination of those five).

The following describes the modifications used to reconcile the Census 2010 race categories with those race categories that appear in the data from administrative records, which are used to produce population estimates and projections.

#### CURRENT RACE MODIFICATION METHODOLOGY

##### Definitions

- A specified race response is a response of one or more of the five Office of Management and Budget (OMB) race categories: White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.
- A non-specified race response is a response of Some Other Race.

#### Categorization of Census 2010 Race Responses

- Single or multiple race responses that include only specified OMB races.
- Single race responses of a non-specified race (Some Other Race alone).
- Two or more race responses that include both the specified OMB race(s) and the non-specified response, Some Other Race.

#### Modification Procedures

- No modification was made for race responses where only a specified OMB race was provided alone or in combination with one or more OMB races (e.g., White alone, White and Black or African American; White and Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native).
- Non-specified race responses of Some Other Race alone were modified by blanking the non-specified race response and allocating a specified OMB race alone or in combination. Race was allocated from a donor within the household that matched on Hispanic origin. If a donor could not be found within the household, a race was allocated from a hot deck matrix where the donor and donee matched on the specific Hispanic origin (Not Hispanic or Latino; Mexican; Puerto Rican; Cuban; Central American and Dominican; South American; other Spanish).
- Race responses of both specified and non-specified races were modified by blanking the non-specified race and using the specified OMB race(s). For example, White and Some Other Race became White alone; White and Black or African American and Some Other Race became White and Black or African American.

#### Race Allocation Guidelines

- Within household race allocation:
  - Donors and donees must match on the specific Hispanic origin (Not Hispanic or Latino; Mexican; Puerto Rican; Cuban; Central American and Dominican; South American; other Spanish).
  - Donors were permitted to have a race and Hispanic origin that was allocated or edited as part of the Census 2010 edit procedures.
  - Donors were permitted to have a race that was modified.
  - The within-household allocation was consistent with the household relationship guidelines used in Census 2010 procedures.
- Race allocation from the hot deck matrix:
  - Donors and donees must match on specific Hispanic origin (Not Hispanic or Latino; Mexican; Puerto Rican; Cuban; Central American and Dominican; South American; other Spanish).
  - Donors could not have a race or Hispanic origin that had been allocated or edited as part of the Census 2010 procedures.
  - Donors could not have a race that had been modified.
  - Donors were permitted to have an edited age but had to be in the same broad age range (0-14, 15-34, 35-54, 55+).
  - Hot deck guidelines were consistent with the Census 2000 procedures.

RESULTS OF MODIFICATIONS TO RACE CATEGORIES

Table 1. Race Modification Results at the National Level

Race	Census 2010		Modified Race	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
One Race	299,736,465	97.1	301,761,343	97.7
White	223,553,265	72.4	241,937,061	78.4
Black	38,929,319	12.6	40,250,635	13
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,932,248	0.9	3,739,506	1.2
Asian	14,674,252	4.8	15,159,516	4.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	540,013	0.2	674,625	0.2
Some Other Race	19,107,368	6.2	(X)	(X)
Two or More Races	9,009,073	2.9	6,984,195	2.3

Note: (X) – Not Applicable

Table 1 shows an overall summary of the results of the race modification process at the national level. The left hand column displays race categories while the middle and right columns show the number and percent of the population in each race group in Census 2010 race and the modified race groupings. Overall, we see an increase in the proportion of the One Race population, going from about 97.1 percent in Census 2010 race to about 97.7 percent after the modification. There is a corresponding reduction of 0.6 percent in the Two or More Races category.

We also see that over 19 million people answered Some Other Race alone. Note that about 97 percent of these people also identified themselves as Hispanic. However, in order to match the administrative records used for the Census Bureau’s population estimates processing, anyone who answered Some Other Race alone was assigned one or more of the OMB races. While the process did not alter a person’s Hispanic origin identification, it did redistribute 6.2 percent of the population into different race categories or combinations of those categories (as displayed by X’s in the right hand columns).

FUTURE RESEARCH

This project represents the first step in a much more comprehensive research plan. We have several possible projects on the horizon, and seek feedback from our state partners and other experts in the field of demography on topics and methodologies. One goal is to examine the effects of altering the base distribution on age, sex, or Hispanic origin. Our work up to this point has focused almost entirely on race, with the express purpose of creating a comparable universe from which the Population Estimates Program can create estimates in the coming decade.

We may also examine potential changes to the age distribution in the Census 2010 population. Research has shown that the Decennial Census tends to show a smaller number of children under age ten than would be expected from vital statistics. Building on our work evaluating the population estimates by characteristic, potentially raising the number or proportion of children under ten in Census 2010 could allow us to have less difference from the Census 2020 population age 10 to 19. Enhancements like this could allow for more accurate estimates over the decade and a better distribution of funds to local governments.

Finally, we may also explore the impacts of alternative methods of race modification. Race modification could have been processed several other ways. Different coding schemes could alter estimates of the size of the population of Two or More Races. Currently, if a response included both Some Other Race and one of the five OMB categories, we simply dropped the Some Other Race classification. This results in a reduction of the two-race population. Alternatively, we could use a model to reassign Some Other Race responses when they appear in combination with an OMB race.