
US 2000 Census に関する新聞報道

1月20日に先行してアラスカから2000年人口セン
サスが開始される。

Posted at 12:06 a.m. PST Thursday, January 20, 2000

A cold, hard count

With accuracy the goal, census starts near icy
Bering Sea

By [MAUREEN FAN](#)

Mercury News Staff Writer

UNALAKLEET, Alaska -- When the arctic sun rises
today over this remote Alaskan village on the Bering
Sea, Stanton Katchatag, an 82-year old Inupiat Eskimo
village elder, is expected to become the first person
in the nation to be counted in the 2000 Census.

NY_Times

January 21, 2000

**In Remote Alaska, the U.S. Starts
Counting Heads**

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

UNALAKLEET, Alaska, Jan. 20 -- Stanton Katchatag, an
82-year-old Inuit, answered a knock on his door here
today at 10:50 a.m. and found himself facing Kenneth
Prewitt, the director of the Census Bureau. Mr.
Katchatag invited him in and offered him a chair.

不法移民の取り扱いをめぐる不安

**Counting illegal immigrants a
controversial issue for 2000 census
(2/04/2000)**

© 2000 Mercury Center.

CHICAGO (AP) -- A census worker at the front door
often means one thing to illegal immigrants The
Census Bureau asks whether those in the household
are U.S. citizens. But it has never distinguished
between non-citizens who are in this country legally
and those who are here illegally, because the U.S.
Constitution simply calls for a head count. The
counting of illegal immigrants was not even an issue
until their numbers began swelling in the mid-1970s.

センサスにおける人種カテゴリー問題：マルチ・レイ
シャルとアフーマティブアクションに関わる公民権
運動の分裂 [参考：「Project Race Group」のセン
サスへの提言] ；

ABOUT PROJECT RACE

Biracial and multiracial people do not have a box to
check on forms. Being forced to choose only one race
forces us to deny one of our parents. It also requires
us to do something illegal, since we are defining
ourselves as something we are not.

Multiracial people should have the option of
recognizing all of their heritage. "Multiracial" is
important so that children have an identity, a correct
terminology for who they are. "Other" means different,
a label that no person should bear. Also, without
proper racial and ethnic classifications, multiracial
people are "invisible" in the health care system.

MISSION STATEMENT

Project RACE advocates for multiracial children and
adults through education, community awareness and
legislation. Our main goal is for a multiracial
classification on all school, employment, state,
federal, local, census and medical forms requiring
racial data.

Project RACE

PMB 129

2910 Kerry Forest Parkway, D4

Feb. 4, 2000, 10:38PM

**Racial revisions to census forms
comfort some, concern others**

By KIM COBB

Copyright 2000 Houston Chronicle

.....Every U.S. Census has measured race, with each
count reflecting the laws, politics and immigration
policy in place at the time. The first census in 1790
reflected the nation's acceptance of slavery --
dividing people into Free White Males over 16, Free
White Males Under 16, Free White Females and Other
Free Persons and Slaves.

After slavery was abolished, race was still used by
the government to the detriment of ethnic and racial
groups, says Carnegie-Mellon University statistics
professor Stephen E. Fienberg.

"Then, something surprising happened," said Fienberg.
"With the Civil Rights Act, and the civil rights
movement of the '60s, suddenly there was a need to
measure race in order to implement government policy
in support of minority groups, instead of to control
them."

The racial and ethnic categories appearing on the
census forms are determined by the Office of
Management and Budget, which sets a single standard
for all federal statistics and administrative reporting.

This year's census offers slight variation in the racial categories that were available in the last census: white, black, American Indian and Alaska native, Asian, native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and "some other race." But those surveyed in 2000 can check off as many race boxes as they like, and Hispanic origin is a separate ethnic category.

For example, a person could mark boxes declaring himself Asian, black and white.

NY_Times
February 12, 2000

Despite Options on Census, Many to Check 'Black' Only

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

This year's new, racially inclusive census might have seemed tailor made for Michael Gelobter.

On one side of the debate stand those who see the revision as a tactic to divide blacks at a time when affirmative action and other remedies to discrimination are under attack. Opposing them are multiracial Americans who resent having to identify with just one part of their heritage.

.....

The racial data the census provides is so crucial to developing civil rights policy and directing government aid that some groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are urging people of both black and white parentage to identify themselves as only black.

[参考] 以下の評論 (New York Univ., Dept. Journalism)

-----in Diversity or Division? Race, Class and America at the Millennium

The 'Multiracist' Census

News Commentary by Sara Cagno

The 'Multiracist' Census: How Traditional Civil Rights Organizations Fought Against A Multiracial Classification and Won

The Office of Management and Budget's Census Bureau has announced that multiple-race censuses will be moved into one of the main four racial categories for accurate record keeping (Black, White, Alaskan Native/Aleut/Eskimo/American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Asian).

The Census Fear

By Carmen Llona

The Census 2000 has divided the Hispanic population in two. While part of it fears an undercount, the other

is afraid of confessing their illegal status.

調査票の郵送による発送が開始されるが、いきなり不手際

NY_Times
February 26, 2000

Census Bureau Begins Count With 120 Million Wrong Addresses

By STEVE MYERS

The Census Bureau this week began mailing 120 million letters -- one to every household in the country -- notifying residents of the impending census questionnaire.

The only problem is that each and every address is wrong.

今回から、インターネットを通じた電子調査票の配付と回収が行われた。

March 9, 2000

2000 Census (Shhh!) on the Net

By JOYCE COHEN

NY_Times

With forms for the 2000 census scheduled to arrive by mail next week in most parts of the nation, people may be unaware that for the first time they will be able to fill out their census questionnaires on the Internet.

.....

Census Goes Online But Gets Few Hits

By D'Vera Cohn (Washington Post Staff Writer)
Saturday , March 4, 2000 ; A10

The 2000 Census arrived in cyberspace yesterday, but only a few took advantage of the first-time opportunity to fill out their questionnaires over the Internet.

People can file electronically on the Census Web site (www.census.gov) by entering a 22-digit number printed on the form they receive, which also serves as their password. Five in six households receive the short form, which lets them respond via the Internet, but Census officials expect only a fraction to do so.

人種カテゴリー問題と公民権運動との関係

A Racial Tug of War Over Census

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, March 3, 2000; Page B1

Even before people can check off more than one racial group on this year's census, a caustic campaign is being waged to influence the choices they make.

And groups representing African Americans, Asian Americans and American Indians are pushing the White House to assign many multiracial people to one category for civil rights enforcement purposes.

Leaders of advocacy groups for people of more than one race, though, say checking only one box would erase their identity. They say that more accurate census statistics will help track discrimination against people of mixed-race and assess their status in society.

Civil rights groups are pushing the White House to resolve the issue quickly, and say it's vital to them because minorities already are undercounted by millions in the census. Groups representing employers, who need the data to defend themselves from discrimination accusations, also want a resolution.

Detroit Free Press

Multiracial find a spot in census New forms to offer more choices

March 11, 2000

BY COREY DADE

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

.....The change won't do away with the confusion and controversy that has long accompanied the issue of racial classification. But it will give the nation a peek at its future in 60 years or so as one with no racial majority, demographers say.

Federal officials on Friday set guidelines for how U.S., state and local governments and private employers will categorize and interpret the dozens of possible racial combinations that will result from people checking multiple boxes. Multiracial people will be counted as members of their minority groups; people part white will be considered a minority.

.....Racial statistics are used to buttress voting and civil-rights laws. They have also been a factor in drawing political boundary lines for state legislative and U.S. congressional districts.

Traditional minority groups convinced the government to reject the multiracial category for the 2000 census

forms, fearing such a move might dilute the identity of each racial minority that is protected under civil-rights laws and antidiscrimination policies. The effect, they argued would be to thin minority populations and endanger public funding that addresses their needs.

"The larger, historical point is that ...classifications are quite fluid at the moment, both because of identity changes and demographic changes," says historian Mary Anderson, author of two books on the census. "This is obviously a hot issue."

From the first census in 1790, the U.S. government set racial categories first in response to political pressure and later to increasing immigration, she says.

In "The American Census," Anderson wrote that race was established to determine who would receive civil rights. Slaves did not. The original census categories were "white," "slave" and "free colored," and remained the same for a quarter-century.

Other early censuses listed Mexican as a race but it was pulled when Mexico officials objected. Hindu was the Census Bureau's umbrella term for those of Asian descent, Anderson wrote.

Chicago Tribune Internet Ed.

HOW RACE COUNTS IN THE 2000 CENSUS

March 15, 2000

WASHINGTON That new census questionnaire you should be receiving in the mail contains a new wrinkle. For the first time, Americans are able to check more than one race. That answers a question that kept government bureaucrats scratching their noggins for years over whether to recognize people of mixed race. It also raises another question: How are people who claim more than one race to be counted?

郵送による回収が始まる：移民局は不法移民のセンサス参加を妨害しない

SJ_Mercury
March 15, 2000

Census Reports 2.4M Forms Returned

Filed at 1:32 a.m. EST

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- With the census well under way, federal immigration officials have unveiled revised guidelines designed to get more questionnaires back from illegal immigrants wary of revealing information

to the government.

Immigration and Naturalization Service executive associate commissioner Michael Pearson, in a memo this week to regional directors, said that while the agency would continue to enforce immigration laws during the census period, "steps will be taken to avoid adverse effects on census participation."

"The willingness of illegal aliens to participate in Census 2000 depends much on their confidence that INS will not be able to access the information collected," Pearson said.

.....
Prewitt stressed that any information provided on the forms is confidential and cannot be obtained by any other government agency, including INS, or a private individual.

SJ_Mercury
March 21, 2000

Census 2000 begins; more than 7.3 million respond

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - More than 7.3 million Census 2000 responses have been processed, officials said Tuesday, urging others to help make this year's count an accurate snapshot of everybody living in the United States.

Prewitt admitted that while the Census Bureau is hoping for a 70 percent response rate to this year's census, compared to a 65 percent response in 1990, that the organization is only expecting a 61 percent response rate this time around.

Prewitt said that officials have received complaints about the intrusiveness of the information sought in the census forms. But, he said, the census questions are determined by law, not by the Census Bureau.

While most households will receive a simple census form, seeking a modest amount of data such as name, sex and ethnicity, one in six households will receive a longer census form seeking much more personal information.

In addition to the information sought on the short form, the long form asks questions about education, income levels, the amount of mortgage on your home and even how much money the household spends on utility bills.

In Newark, a High-Stakes Push to Improve the Census

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, March 25, 2000 ; A01

The problem the census faces is part of a broader

decline in civic participation that has seen voting rolls drop and fewer people willing to perform jury duty.

The cost of the 2000 Census--estimated at \$6.8 billion, the costliest in history--will grow if Americans do not mail back their forms. That is because the Census Bureau will be forced to spend millions more hiring workers to chase down the unwilling. And the bureau would lean more heavily on statistical sampling to fill in missing people, a process that has generated lawsuits and opposition from Republicans who say it would add people who do not exist.

Census may fall short at colleges Many students ignoring count

By David Abel, Globe Correspondent, 3/26/2000

Like many college students, Elizabeth Veroneau, 20, knows the importance of filling out her census form. But she has been busy, and the envelope has been resting unopened on her coffee table. The Simmons College sophomore has even received a postcard reminding her of her citizenship duties.

Long Form 調査票問題が発生 : LongForm の質問事項の多くはプライバシーに立ち入りすぎるとの選挙民の声に共和党議員達が賛同を表明し、政治問題化する ; 回答したくない項目には回答するな (共和党議員) ; 回答しなくとも罰則は課されないという件で上院で議題に取り上げられる

Lott Attacks Census Questions

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, March 30, 2000 ; A01

Some conservative Republicans in Congress, including Senate GOP leader Trent Lott (Majority Leader), are telling people not to answer any questions on their census forms that they believe invade their privacy.

Conservative members of Congress say they have received hundreds of angry calls from voters who received the 52-question long forms this month. One in six households receives the long form, but the proportion is higher in rural areas, where most complaints are coming from.

The criticism is being sharpened by radio talk show hosts, and commentator Andy Rooney expressed his own disgruntlement Sunday on the CBS television program "60 Minutes." Some concern stems from fears of government databases soaking up vast amounts of personal information, despite assurances that it will remain confidential.

A spokeswoman, Deb Fiddelke, said Hagel is not advocating that people break the law, but "he doesn't believe that American citizens should be forced to answer questions that are very personal in nature by penalty of law."

Coburn issued a statement that he is "appalled and outraged by the intrusiveness of the questionnaire" and that "the government has no right to ask many of these questions."

He urged people to answer only the first six questions on the long form name, phone number, sex, age, race, and whether they are Hispanic. A spokesman for Coburn, John Hart, said the response rate may rise if people realize they can send the form without answering all the questions.

Census defenders note that the long form has been getting shorter with each successive count since 1970.

Every bit of information it collects, they say, is needed to administer federal programs. Commuting questions help direct federal road funds. Plumbing questions help steer money for community improvements. Income data help pinpoint areas with poor children who need services.

3/30/2000

Census defends long questionnaire amid privacy concerns

Copyright © 2000 Nando Media
Copyright © 2000 Associated Press

By GENARO C. ARMAS, Associated Press

Boston.com

Trent Lott criticizes census forms for asking personal questions

By Genaro C. Armas, Associated Press, 03/30/00

大統領候補ブッシュも参戦

Census Officials Plead for Compliance

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, March 31, 2000 ; A01

GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush said

yesterday he was not sure he would fill out the census long form if he were asked to, just as census officials were pleading with the public to answer all the questions on their forms.

Bush, who made his comments in Milwaukee, stopped short of advising people not to fill out their census forms. He said, "If they're worried about the government intruding into their personal lives, they ought to think about it." He also said: "We want as accurate a count as possible, but I can understand why people don't want to give over that information to the government. If I have the long form, I'm not so sure I would do it either."

boston.com/

Census defends long questionnaire as essential

By Genaro C. Armas, Associated Press, 3/30/2000 13:09

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) Countering criticism from congressional Republicans, Census Bureau Kenneth Prewitt said today the agency's long-form questionnaire is "an essential tool" in helping communities across the country.

ゲッパートが応戦

Gephardt rebukes GOP for census criticisms

By Genaro C. Armas, Associated Press, 3/31/2000
This story ran on page A28 of the Boston Globe on 3/31/2000.

WASHINGTON - House minority leader Richard Gephardt yesterday chided several congressional Republicans for telling constituents to ignore what they consider intrusive census questions, accusing them of opposing an accurate count for "their political purpose."

Washingtonpost.com

Census Bashing

Friday, March 31, 2000 ; A28

THE CENSUS always produces complaints that an intrusive government is asking for more information than it has a right to know. Usually the complaints are scattered and come from the fringe. But this year some radio talk show hosts have taken up the issue, and now some national politicians who otherwise yield to none in insisting on law and order are telling constituents not to answer questions they feel invade their privacy.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, is one such. He

believes that people ought to provide "the basic census information" but that if they "feel their privacy is being invaded by [some] questions, they can choose not to answer," his spokesman says. Likewise Sen. Chuck Hagel, whose "advice to everybody is just fill out what you need to fill out, and [not] anything you don't feel comfortable with." Yesterday, George W. Bush said that, if sent the so-called long form, he isn't sure he would fill it out, either.

Census Flap Intensifies

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday , March 31, 2000 ; A01

GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush said yesterday he was not sure he would fill out the census long form if he were asked to, just as census officials were pleading with the public to answer all the questions on their forms.

Census officials said it is too early to tell whether complaints about the long form could discourage people from sending it in. That possibility alarms government statistical agencies because long-form figures are the basis for building a national sample of households. Information gathered from that sample becomes the basis for several key economic statistics.

4月1日 センサス・デイ クリントン大統領がセンサス宣言：以下に全文掲載

Presidential Proclamation on Census Day 2000

U.S.Newswire, 4/1/2000 11:49

WASHINGTON, April 1 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The following was released today by the White House:
CENSUS DAY, 2000

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Every 10 years, as mandated by our Constitution, all persons living in the United States are called upon to participate in the census. As the foremost method of gathering information about our Nation, the census plays a crucial role in helping us to maintain our democratic form of government.

An accurate census helps to ensure that the rights and needs of every person are recorded and recognized as we shape public policies, programs, and services. Too often in the past, children, minorities, and low-income individuals have not been counted and, as a

result, have not been fully and fairly served. Census data are also used to determine the number of seats each State is allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives, and State and local governments depend upon these data to draw legislative districts that accurately represent their residents.

The census also serves as the basis for many public funding and private investment decisions. Census results play a part in determining the portion each State receives of more than \$185 billion in funds distributed by the Federal Government each year. State and local public officials use census data to decide where to build public facilities such as schools, roads, hospitals, and libraries. Census data also are a valuable resource for businesses that are trying to identify where to build stores, office buildings, or shopping centers.

The census is unique. It reaches every population group, from America's long-time residents to its most recent immigrants, and every age group from newborns to centenarians. The census touches every social class and every racial and ethnic group. The census is truly a democratic process in which we all can participate.

Census 2000 offers each of us an important opportunity to shape the future of our Nation. By taking part, we help ensure the well-being of our families and our communities, and we fulfill one of our fundamental civic duties. The U.S. Census Bureau has taken unprecedented steps to ensure full participation in this first census of the new millennium. At the same time, the Bureau will continue its long tradition of protecting the personal information of America's citizens, and no other Government agency will be able to see any individual or family census form. I strongly urge every man and woman living in the United States to fill out and return his or her census form or to cooperate with census takers who will help them do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2000, as Census Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness of the importance of participating in Census 2000.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NY_Times

April 1, 2000

For Some People, Census Questions Invade Their Privacy, and Many Politicians Agree

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON, March 31 --

There are two census forms. Most households get the short form, which asks seven basic questions about the number of people living at each address and their age, sex and race. Hardly anyone objects to answering these questions.

But 1 household in 6 gets the more elaborate long form, which has 53 questions, and this is where the objections arise.

The complaints have been frequent enough that some politicians, almost all of them Republicans, have weighed in. Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the majority leader, has made public-service commercials urging people in his state to return their census forms.

Senator Lott's spokesman, John Czwartacki, said that many constituents had complained that their rights were being infringed and that the senator had encouraged them to skip the questions they objected to and to send in the rest of the form.

Another Republican senator, Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, has prepared legislation that would remove the criminal penalty for failing to answer questions. Mr. Hagel's spokeswoman, Deb Fiddelke, said his office had received about 200 complaints about items being intrusive.

But Stephen Fienberg, a professor of statistics and social science at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, said, "Every question is there because there is a law that cannot be implemented without the data, and the only way we can get the data is through the census."

Questions about race, Mr. Fienberg said, are essential to enforcing voting-rights laws. Questions about language are necessary for various education programs. Questions about plumbing and kitchen equipment are needed for housing programs.

Complaints about privacy arise every 10 years, said Margo Anderson, a professor at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, who has written a history of the census. But Professor Anderson said she could not recall a time when so many politicians complained at the very time the count was being made. Across the country this week, census takers went to homeless shelters and soup kitchens in the hope of enumerating people. Over the next month, nursing homes, college

dormitories and prisons will be visited. Beginning on April 18, census workers will knock on the doors of households that have not returned their forms.

Half a million temporary workers will be hired for these duties.

Long Form プライバシー問題をめぐる連邦議会の動向とセンサス局の対応

Census director says Senate amendment could undermine census

By Associated Press, 4/7/2000 21:05

WASHINGTON (AP) Democrats accused Republicans in the Senate of sneaking in an amendment to a budget resolution passed Friday that urged Americans not be prosecuted for leaving certain questions on their census form blank.

Census director Kenneth Prewitt said the amendment introduced by Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., would undermine the quality of information being collected on census forms.

The nonbinding "sense-of-the-Senate" amendment, which was accepted without objections, said it assumed that no American will be prosecuted, fined or in "anyway harassed" by the federal government for not answering questions that referred to a "person's race, national origin, living conditions, personal habits or mental and/or physical condition."

Last week, several congressional Republicans criticized the 53-question long form as being too intrusive, pointing out one question which asked what kind of plumbing a house had. A question asking for a person's race is found on both the long and the eight-question short form.

Prewitt said people who do not fill out their form could be fined at least \$100, but that fine has been issued only once in the last 40 years. "Census 2000 is not designed by law as a pick-and-choose exercise," he said.

"The American people should not fear the census; we should fear an incomplete or inaccurate count due to lack of participation," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who later added wording to the amendment that urged everyone to fill out and send back their census forms.

Some congressional Republicans recently said they are suggesting to constituents worried about intrusive census questions to leave them unanswered.

Long Form は廃止の方向か Plan could make Census' long questionnaire short-lived

By Haya El Nasser
April 7,2000
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON -- Privacy concerns over the Census long form are likely to kill the questionnaire before the 2010 Census is conducted. That's something the Census Bureau has wanted to do for years.

As some congressional Republicans continued on Thursday to encourage Americans to fill out only the questions they want to answer on the long form, Census Director Kenneth Prewitt renewed pleas to Congress to replace it with a monthly survey as early as 2002.

[参考] LongFom は廃止され、American Community Survey に置き換えられるだろう。

New Monthly Survey Promoted To Replace Census Long Form

By D'Vera Cohn (Washington Post Staff Writer)
Washingtonpost, Monday , July 24, 2000 ; A21

The 2000 census is not over yet, but Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt already is urging Congress to replace the controversial long form before the next national count with a monthly survey that would provide timelier and more accurate data at the same cost.

Before that happens, though, lawmakers and other witnesses told a House hearing last week, census officials must allay the privacy concerns that prompted some members of Congress to tell people they did not have to answer long-form questions on income, plumbing and other topics.

The bureau is testing the proposed American Community Survey in several dozen communities, including Arlington County, and hopes to implement it in every county by 2003.

It would go to 250,000 households a month, and begin providing annual reports by 2004, a big advantage over the once-a-decade census.

The survey, Prewitt said, is "the single most important innovation in federal household statistics since the middle of the last century, when sampling methods were first introduced." He said it would let the decennial census focus on the "core constitutional task" of counting everyone for reapportionment purposes, possibly over the Internet or by a postcard form.

Washington Post

For Some, the Census Pays -- in Cash

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, April 19, 2000 ; A01

Valdosta, a city in southern Georgia, had a problem. With the deadline nearing to return census forms, fewer than half the households had done so. So the city council announced a reward: Bring in a completed form and get a \$5 bill.

The cash incentive and the buzz it generated pumped the return rate up 10 percentage points in just five days, City Manager Larry H. Hanson said. When census numbers are in, Valdosta officials hope the city will attract new federal money and private investment.

郵送ないしインターネットによる回収作業の終了：予想以上の65%回収率だが、Long Form の回収率は54.1%

April 25, 2000
www.census2000.org.

Final Mail Response of 65% Equals 1990 Rate

Sixty-five percent of households filled out their census forms during the first phase of Census 2000, the Census Bureau reported at a news conference on April 19. The mail response rate, which includes households that returned a form by mail, or provided their answers over the Internet or by telephone, equals the 1990 rate and exceeds the bureau's projected response of 61 percent. Beginning on April 27, about 500,000 census enumerators will visit the more than 43 million households that did not yet answer the census. The 'non-response follow-up' phase is scheduled to run through early July.

.....

Dr. Prewitt also said the difference in the mail response rate for households that received a short form and households that received a long form was 12 percent. He declined to speculate on whether public criticism of the long form questions contributed to the lower return rate for those forms. 66.6 percent of short form households have answered the census, compared to 54.1 percent of long form households. The differential is about twice the gap at the same point in the 1990 census.

未返送世帯へのフォローアップ調査開始

Census mobilization is largest in peacetime

By Haya El Nasser
USA TODAY 4/24/00

The government is dispatching 500,000 troops this week to every hamlet, town and city. Their mission: Combat apathy, mistrust of government and privacy concerns, and persuade people to answer Census questions.

Census Workers Ready to Contact Households that Did Not Respond to Census 2000

U.S.Newswire, 4/25/2000 08:41

WASHINGTON, April 25 /U.S. Newswire/ -- More than a half million temporary workers prepared today to begin the difficult and costly part of census-taking -- trying to count all people in the nation's housing units who did not mail back their Census 2000 questionnaires.

Census 2000 is the largest peacetime mobilization in the nation's history, and its largest field operation, the door-knocking and telephone-calling phase called "non-response follow-up," is scheduled to extend from Thursday, April 27 through July 7, about 10 weeks.

Census takers go knocking around 500,000 going door-to-door

By Haya El Nasser
USA TODAY
4/28/00

ヒスパニックなどのマイノリティーからの回収率の高さが全体の回収率の高さを支える

May 4, 2000
NY_Times

Strong Response by Minorities Helps to Increase Census Reply Rate

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON, May 3 -- Helped by a surprisingly strong response from Hispanics and other minorities, the Census Bureau has halted a long slide in response rates and received answers from nearly two-thirds of the households that got a census form in the mail this year.

.....

As has always been the case, neighborhoods and states whose residents tended to be overwhelmingly white still had a higher response rate than those areas with more members of minorities.

But census data show that areas where the majority of households are African-American held their own and that census tracts where Hispanic residents are the majority or where no ethnic or racial group is more than 50 percent sharply improved their performance over 1990.

Indeed, census bureau figures indicate that the biggest declines in participation occurred in areas whose residents were largely white or Asian-American.

Lawmaker, Census Chief Clash at Hearing

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, May 6, 2000; Page A09

The Republican chairman of the House census subcommittee sparred with the census director yesterday about whether GOP complaints about the intrusiveness of some questions hurt participation in the census.

At an oversight hearing, Rep. Dan Miller (R-Fla.) accused Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt of "attempting to politicize the census at this crucial period" by criticizing some Republicans for saying people should not answer census questions they find intrusive.

Census Bureau Announces 30 Percent of Housing Units

P.R.Newswire, 5/12/2000 15:13
www.Boston.com

To Be Enumerated Have Already Cooperated

WASHINGTON, May 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Census Bureau Deputy Director William G. Barron, Jr., today announced that 30 percent of the roughly 42

million households which did not return a census form before mid-April have already cooperated and been counted by one of an army of 460,000 census takers during the second phase of Census 2000.

Speaking before the Committee on National Statistics meeting in Washington, D.C. today, Barron said the Bureau is "very pleased with the progress to date of the enumeration phase of the Census." The Bureau has scheduled an average of 10 weeks across the nation to complete the non-response workload. Today's report reflected enumeration results through Thursday, May 11, or the first week and one half of the 10-week process.

フォローアップ調査は順調に進み、調査は次の検証段階へ

Census Follow-Up Efforts On Track

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Census-takers have finished their follow-up work on nearly four out of 10 households that did not send back their questionnaires, which Census Director Kenneth Prewitt today called a "good number," while cautioning that the hardest cases are yet to come.

As of yesterday, 39 percent of the households that did not send back forms had been included in the count, or the addresses were deemed vacant or non-existent. Two-thirds of U.S. households filed forms this year, but that left 42 million more on the to-do list.

USA Today
May 19, 2000

Census begins controversial use of statistical procedure

The Census Bureau has begun the controversial statistical sampling that will estimate the number and characteristics of people who might have been missed in the traditional head count, Director Kenneth Prewitt says in planned testimony to a House panel today. The agency has interviewed by phone 56,000 of the 314,000 households in the sample.

Like most congressional Republicans, Rep. Dan Miller of Florida opposes sampling. Miller, chairman of the House subcommittee on the Census, says the Constitution requires an "actual enumeration" and extrapolating population counts and characteristics from a sample creates "virtual" people.

The Census Bureau says that sampling is a scientifically sound way to correct the

disproportionate undercount of minorities -- groups that tend to vote Democratic. Because two sets of population counts will be available, states will have to decide which one to use when they begin redrawing political districts next year. -- Haya El Nasser

センサス局：個別訪問調査段階 (Non-Response Follow-up phase) の完了を宣言

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2000

Decennial Media Relations CB00-CN.47

e-mail: 2000usa@census.gov

Census 2000 Completes Initial Work on All Known Housing Units; Field Operations Shift to 'Quality Counts' Phase

Commerce Secretary William M. Daley today joined Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt at Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Md., to announce the official completion of the non-response follow-up phase of Census 2000. All 120 million housing units on the Census Bureau's national address list now have been accounted for.

"The great success the Census Bureau has enjoyed in the follow-up operation is due to the dedication, enthusiasm and resourcefulness of census workers," Daley said before addressing Census Bureau employees. "They have taken their jobs seriously and worked tirelessly to help their communities have the best count possible, often in difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances."

実査段階の完了

HoustonChronicle
Sept. 4, 2000, 8:36PM

Census prepares to tally results

WASHINGTON (AP) -- With a survey of 314,000 households near completion, the Census Bureau's focus now shifts from urging people to return questionnaires and tracking down recalcitrant households, to weaving together the statistical portrait of America it produces once a decade.

Statisticians will sift through data to check its accuracy, while demographers analyze the numbers to search for trends. Are people still fleeing cities for the suburbs? Will the minority population continue to grow?

[参考_1] : Long Form プライバシー問題をめ

ぐる連邦議会の動向とセンサス局の対応

Census director says Senate amendment could undermine census

By Associated Press, 4/7/2000 21:05

WASHINGTON (AP) Democrats accused Republicans in the Senate of sneaking in an amendment to a budget resolution passed Friday that urged Americans not be prosecuted for leaving certain questions on their census form blank.

Census director Kenneth Prewitt said the amendment introduced by Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., would undermine the quality of information being collected on census forms.

The nonbinding "sense-of-the-Senate" amendment, which was accepted without objections, said it assumed that no American will be prosecuted, fined or in "anyway harassed" by the federal government for not answering questions that referred to a "person's race, national origin, living conditions, personal habits or mental and/or physical condition."

Last week, several congressional Republicans criticized the 53-question long form as being too intrusive, pointing out one question which asked what kind of plumbing a house had. A question asking for a person's race is found on both the long and the eight-question short form.

Prewitt said people who do not fill out their form could be fined at least \$100, but that fine has been issued only once in the last 40 years. "Census 2000 is not designed by law as a pick-and-choose exercise," he said.

"The American people should not fear the census; we should fear an incomplete or inaccurate count due to lack of participation," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who later added wording to the amendment that urged everyone to fill out and send back their census forms.

Some congressional Republicans recently said they are suggesting to constituents worried about intrusive census questions to leave them unanswered.

[参考_2] マルチ・レイシャル (Multi-Racial) カテゴリー問題に関する基本文書、及び関連新聞記事

* 基本文献

1) "RACE AND ETHNIC STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL

STATISTICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTING (as adopted on May 12, 1977), by the Office of Management and Budget.

---この間に1994年OME文書を入れる-----

2) "Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity: Interim Notice of Review and Possible Revision of OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting: Summary and Analysis of Public Comments and Brief Discussion of Research Agenda," August 1995, by the Office of Management and Budget.

3) "Recommendations from the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," in *Federal Register* 7/97, Part II. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

4) "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," October 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget.
(This Standards have been developed to provide a common language for uniformity and comparability in the collection and use of data on race and ethnicity by Federal agencies._Yamata)

5) Draft: Provisional Guidance On The Implementation Of The 1997 Standards For Federal Data On Race And Ethnicity, Feb. 17,1999, Prepared by Tabulation Working Group, Interagency Committee for the Review of Standards for Data on Race and Ethnicity.

6) "Guidance on Aggregation and Allocation of Data on Race for Use in Civil Rights Monitoring and Enforcement," in *OMB BULLETIN* NO. 00-02 March 9, 2000 by the Office of Management and Budget

[注記]

* 1977年5月に採択された Race & Ethnicity の分類基準〔文献1〕：分類のロジックは、70年代以降の公民権法の強化・拡大、アフーマティブ・アクション・プログラムとの関連で決められている。

a. Race:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black
- White

b. Ethnicity:

- Hispanic origin
- Not of Hispanic origin

* 以来、人種構成と人種混交の多様化が進み、基準の見直しが求められてきた、そこで1990年代前半に次の問題提起のもとで公開の論議が行われた；

ISSUE 1. Should the Federal government collect data on race and ethnicity? Should there be standards at all?

ISSUE 2. Should Directive No. 15 be revised? Should there be different collection standards for different purposes?

ISSUE 3. Should "race/ethnicity" be asked as a single identification

or should "race" identification be separate from Hispanic origin or other ethnicities?

ISSUE 4. Should self-identification or the perception of an observer guide the methods for collection of racial and ethnic data?

ISSUE 5. Should population size and geographic distribution of groups be criteria in the final decision of Directive No. 15 categories?

ISSUE 6. What should the specific data collection and presentation categories be?

この論議の結果を総括した文書が文献2であり、1997年の改定はそれを反映している；

- (1) Racial & ethnic カテゴリーは社会的・文化的特質をもつ。
- (2) 個人がどのカテゴリーに属するかは、基本的に回答者のself-identification にもとづいて決められるべきである。
- (3) 新しいカテゴリーは時代が要求したものであるから、歴史統計をアップデートする必要はない。
- (4) Multi-Racial のカテゴリーを設ける必要はないが、一つ以上のカテゴリーを選ぶ権利が回答者に与えられる（複数回答方式）。
- (5) Ethnic の質問項目は、Racial の質問項目に先行すべきである。
- (6) データの製表化（表章）に関しては、慎重な検討を要する。

1997年改定の分類基準（ミニマム）：

Race:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

Ethnicity:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

* 2000年のセンサスにおけるRacial & Ethnic の質問項目の設計は、この改定版をもとに行われ（文献5）、データの集計・製表化計画が立案された（文献6）。

[関連新聞記事抜粋]

HOW RACE COUNTS IN THE 2000 CENSUS

Chicago tribune Internet Edition

March 15, 2000

WASHINGTON That new census questionnaire you should be receiving in the mail contains a new wrinkle. For the first time, Americans are able to check more than one race. That answers a question that kept government bureaucrats scratching their noggins for years over whether to recognize people of mixed race. It also raises another question: How are people who claim more than one race to be counted?

The answer has been unveiled in a government memo with the mouthful title, "Guidance on Aggregation and Allocation of Data on Race for Use in Civil Rights Monitoring and Enforcement," issued on March 9 by the Office of Management and Budget. Of all the bulletins spewed out by the federal bureaucracy every year, few have been as eagerly anticipated. Data on race and ethnicity shape the way we Americans look at ourselves. They help determine how civil-rights laws are enforced. They are the yardstick by which we measure progress or the lack of it in employment, voting rights, housing, health-care services and mortgage lending.

New organizations that have sprung up to represent the concerns of mixed-race families and their offspring have called for a new "multiracial" category on census forms. Why, they quite properly ask, should mixed-race people be required to deny part of their heritage by being forced to choose just one race to describe themselves?

But the NAACP and other major black political and civil-rights organizations fear a new "mixed-race" category would further water down those racial groups that already tend to be undercounted in the census. Instead, they cling to the traditional American "one-drop" rule, which says one drop of "black" blood in your family background makes you black. As Malcolm X once said, that must be some mighty powerful blood.

So, in 1997, the Clinton administration came up with a compromise. The Office of Management and Budget, which determines how census data are to be counted, directed that federal forms, including the 2000 census questionnaire would allow respondents to check more than one racial category.

Fair enough. People should have the right to call themselves what they want to call themselves or they don't have much of any rights at all.

The question is growing in importance as mixed-race people grow in numbers and old attitudes about race gradually evolve into new ones. The children of interracial families have grown from fewer than one-half million in 1970 to about 2 million in 1990--and that does not include intermarriages by Latinos, who still are viewed by the government as an ethnic group, not a race.

But, how is the government to view them? For use in civil-rights enforcement and monitoring, the new OMB bulletin says, "Responses that combine one minority race and white are [to be] allocated to the minority race."

Aha! The one-drop rule lives! Anyone who claims to be anything other than "pure white" will be assigned to the minority race. That means the one-drop rule not only is maintained for blacks but also extended to apply to whites who also claim to be any other non-white categories: "Asian," "American Indian," "Alaska Native," "Native Hawaiian" or "Other Pacific Islander."

If the individual belongs to two or more minority races, the bulletin declares their relevant race in civil rights will depend on the nature of the complaint. If the civil-rights action is in response to an individual complaint, officials should allocate that person "to the race that the complainant alleges the discrimination was based on."

IT'S OFFICIAL! : Government issues

guidelines on how to count multiracial people

By Project Race
March 11, 2000

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its guidelines on racial tabulation on March 10, 2000. People who check more than one racial category will be reallocated back into one race. Not a big surprise. Anyone who checks "white" plus another category will be reassigned into the minority category for civil rights monitoring and other purposes. They establish four "major" multiracial categories but do not say when, how, or if they should be used:

- American Indian or Alaska Native and White
- Asian and White
- Black or African-American and White
- American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American.

Census Forms: Checking a Box Frustrates Latinos

By MELANIE FELICIANO
" 2000 LatinoLink
March 15, 2000

As more Americans receive their U.S. Census forms this week, many Latinos will be checking more than one box in the Ethnic and Racial categories. Some will answer the questions with ease, others will hesitate because their heritage isn't as definable as the government would like.

for Latinos, the difference between race and ethnicity poses a unique problem. Many can easily identify themselves as Cuban, Puerto Rican or Mexican, but they cannot categorize their racial makeup as White, Black, American Indian or "some other race."

* Project Race による "guidelines on racial tabulation on March 10, 2000" へのコメント

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Government issues guidelines on how to count multiracial people

By Project Race
March 11, 2000

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its guidelines on racial tabulation on March 10, 2000. People who check more than one racial category will be reallocated back into one race. Not a big surprise. Anyone who checks "white" plus another category will be reassigned into the minority category for civil rights monitoring and other purposes. They establish

four "major" multiracial categories but do not say when, how, or if they should be used:

- American Indian or Alaska Native and White
- Asian and White
- Black or African-American and White
- American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American.

The balance of multiracial persons will be put into a category called, "balance of individuals reporting more than one race." OMB has preserved its ties with the Native Hawaiian political machine by allowing for the counting of any population that exceeds one percent of the population in an area. We wonder what has happened to the Asian/Black population, which is a "major" multiracial combination in this country.

Below are the problems with the guidelines, as they have been presented to us:

1. It is impossible to prove discrimination against a multiracial person. One minority race and one White responses are allocated to the minority race. The person becomes the minority race. Multiracial persons do not exist. You cannot in any way claim discrimination against a multiracial person. If the individual selects two or more minority races, the agency should use the race that the complainant alleges the discrimination was based on. Only one. In other words, the Executive Office of the President is allowing open discrimination against multiracial individuals. We have no protection.
2. OMB sought advice on these guidelines from "the civil rights community, and active participation from more than 30 agencies (including policy analysts, statisticians and representatives from law enforcement." Project RACE was not allowed to participate. The NAACP and other "civil rights" organizations were encouraged to participate.
3. The guidelines state in some places that this is for "civil rights monitoring and enforcement," but it is very vague about the other uses. It has been our experience that when OMB issues their vague guidelines, it applies to all government agencies. They state that "Census 2000 will be the first nationwide implementation of the revised standards." We have long stated and testified to the fact that our community desperately needs medical information on multiracial persons. Under OMB guidelines, agencies such as Health and Human Services will report their multiracial data as allocated to the minority categories.
4. With the issuing of this document, the federal government officially refuses to use the term "multiracial." This was our concern when other organizations in the multiracial community OK'd this action. There is no multiracial umbrella classification. There will not be. We are "people who pick more than one race." It would have been easy to allow us a

multiracial umbrella category with subcategories. The Asian umbrella category includes the subcategories of Japanese, Chinese, etc. The Hispanic ethnicity umbrella category includes the subcategories of Mexican, Cuban, Latino, etc. But OMB and the Census Bureau refuse to treat the multiracial community as equally as the rest. The Association of Multiethnic Americans (AMEA) sanctioned this move by the government. Project RACE did not.

What should I do with my census form?

The Census Bureau is beginning to mail out census forms. People are wondering what to do now. We simply can't tell you what to do. It is not our role to tell people how to identify racially and ethnically. Our government should be about counting America's citizens, and not be in the business of determining race. But they do determine race by taking what we mark and re-assigning them to another racial category. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that people who check more than one box will in some way be re-assigned to one of five single race categories, but they have not determined how the reassignments will be made.

The United States Department of Justice has told the Census Bureau that they will utilize all 63 racial categories for persons over the age of 18. That leaves over 70 federal agencies in the United States Federal Government that produce statistics to re-assign the people who check more than one race into one racial category in whatever way they wish-but they will reassign them. With the administration's willy-nilly approach, we will never have accurate numbers for our community, which is just what they wanted by not allowing us an umbrella multiracial classification. Meanwhile, the Census Bureau is talking about "sampling" a portion of the people who check more than one box and re-assigning races based on the question: If we had only allowed one check mark, which one would you have chosen? (See letter to Census Bureau).

So what do we do?

Below are some of the possibilities being talked about for handling your census forms. Project RACE would like to hear your feedback. Please e-mail us at ProjRACE@aol.com and indicate if we may publish your statements on our web site.

1. Check as many races as you wish.

Pro: At least we aren't forced to check only one box anymore. Checking more than one race gives you the satisfaction of checking all of your heritage. We have made progress and are filling out our census form.

Con: Why fill out more than one racial category when we are just going to be reassigned? When we have a multiracial category with an accurate breakdown of categories (as do the Asian and Hispanic categories), we will fill in our races. The federal government just want to divide multiracial people.

2. Don't fill out race at all.

Pro: The U. S. Constitution says the purpose of the United States Census is to take an accurate count of Americans. The only question on the census that does that is question #1, "How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment or mobile home on April 1, 2000?" Filling out only this question fulfills my obligation to the federal government.

Con: If race is not filled out, the Census Bureau may send an enumerator to your home to fill in the race question. If you still do not "cooperate," the enumerator is instructed to choose your race and only fill in one race per person. You can be fined \$100 for not filling out your census form. The Director of the Census Bureau, Kenneth Prewitt, has stated that it is our "civic duty" to complete the 2000 Census form.

3. Check "American Indian." (The census does not use the term "Native American")

Pro: Proponents of this option see it as a form of civil disobedience.

Con: We question if this would really send the message to the government at all. It could actually harm the American Indian population, since it would skew the sovereignty issues. The most likely multiracial people to chose American Indian alone will be located in urban populations. As an increase is shown in urban areas, smaller population percentages will be shown as living on or near reservations. Services and benefits to American Indians will be affected as a result of changing (artificial) demographics. Sovereignty laws are based on reservation life and demographics. Also, the census form tells you to print the name of your enrolled or principal tribe. If you don't fill this in or falsify the information, they may still send an enumerator to your home.

Sally Katzen of the Office of Management and Budget was visited by a very large group of American Indians, who "begged" her not to allow a multiracial classification. She said they all cried and it made an impression on her. Should we "give" our numbers to a group that opposed us? Of if this will skew their numbers, is this some kind of revenge?

4. Just check anything, the truth doesn't really matter.

BY COREY DADE

Detroit Free Press
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Pro: It's quick and you don't have to think about it.

Con: If you falsify racial data on the census, it would be a felony. It's OK for an enumerator to look at you and guess your race, but if you lie, you could be fined or branded a felon!

5. Write in "multiracial" in the "Some other race" space.

Pro: This would send the message that what is truly needed is an umbrella multiracial classification. Even better would be to write in: "Multiracial. It is illegal for me to falsify my races and you do not allow for my category."

Con: There is no telling what the Census Bureau will do with this response. If they see two different races for parents with the multiracial in the "some other race" space, they might even reallocate that person to the two races of the parents.

Census Related Articles

Employers ponder multiracial census question

by Diane Stafford (Kansas City Star)
<http://www.kcstar.com/item/pages/business.pat,business/3774334f.201,.html>
(February 1, 2000)

Project RACE
PMB 129
2910 Kerry Forest Parkway, D4
Tallahassee, FL 32308
FAX: (850) 894-8540
Email: projrace@aol.com Last Update: 3/12/00
Site maintenance by AniPike Productions.
Logo design by Vickey Bolling.
©1996-2000, Project RACE, Inc. & AniPike Productions.

Multiracial find a spot in census
New forms to offer more choices
March 11, 2000

Katy Cockrel, 14, is vice president of her ninth-grade class, proof of her popularity and acceptance among her peers.

But Katy stands out as someone different, ill-defined, when she encounters a standardized test at school, or a medical form, that asks the color of her skin.

RELATED CONTENT

* [What's in a name? Lots, for Arab Americans](#)

Katy, whose late father was black and whose mother is white, typically skips the color question. To select the alternative "other" category, she says, "just makes you feel like you don't have a place."

Next week, when it mails census forms to every household, the U.S. government takes a stab at providing a better way for multiracial Americans like Katy Cockrel to identify themselves. For the first time since the census began in 1790, respondents are instructed to check off "one or more races," rather than declaring just one.

The change won't do away with the confusion and controversy that has long accompanied the issue of racial classification. But it will give the nation a peek at its future in 60 years or so as one with no racial majority, demographers say.

Federal officials on Friday set guidelines for how U.S., state and local governments and private employers will categorize and interpret the dozens of possible racial combinations that will result from people checking multiple boxes. Multiracial people will be counted as members of their minority groups; people part white will be considered a minority.

In the last U.S. census, in 1990, 10 million people did not list their race, suggesting to federal officials that many were dissatisfied with the options.

"When you go to a form and you don't see yourself, that is an assault on your identity," says sociology professor Reginald Daniel of the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is a member of an advisory board of the American Multi-Ethnic Association, which pushed for the new format.

Many activists who have pushed for change in this area, ironically, are not multiracial at all. They are white.

Most of them are interracially married, a testament to unions that blossomed in number from 310,000 in 1970 -- three years after the Supreme Court struck down a Virginia law barring interracial marriages -- to 1.3 million by the mid-1990s.

Many are parents fighting to forge identities for their children that liberate them from having to choose a single race.

Susan Graham, who is white and married to a black man, is a Detroit native now living in Tallahassee, Fla., leading Project RACE (Reclassify All Children Equally), which split ideologically from the AMEA. Graham wanted a separate multiracial category, arguing that multiracial deserves to be its own race.

Her group successfully lobbied eight states to adopt laws that replaced the "other" racial category on state employment, medical and education forms with "multiracial." Gov. John Engler signed two such state bills into Michigan law in 1995.

Graham began her crusade after receiving confusing messages on how to identify her son, Ryan. In 1990, Census Bureau officials advised Graham to list Ryan as white because she is white, she said. Then, while living in Georgia, Ryan, now 15, once left the race question blank on a school form only to have an administrator fill in "black" based on her opinion of Ryan's complexion, Graham said.

"My son was white on the census, black at school and multiracial at home. Something is wrong with this picture," says Graham. "My kids have a black history, a white history and a multiracial history. And we don't want to forget that multiracial history."

Racial statistics are used to buttress voting and civil-rights laws. They have also been a factor in drawing political boundary lines for state legislative and U.S. congressional districts.

Traditional minority groups convinced the government to reject the multiracial category for the 2000 census forms, fearing such a move might dilute the identity of each racial minority that is protected under civil-rights laws and antidiscrimination policies. The effect, they argued would be to thin minority populations and endanger public funding that addresses their needs.

"The big concern is how we, under the historic rubric of race, enforce our civil-rights laws," says Hilary Shelton, chief Washington lobbyist for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "If somebody is African-American and white, they are going to be perceived as African-American when issues of discrimination are concerned. They are certainly not discriminated against because they are part white."

The census forms to be mailed next week no longer direct respondents -- as they did in 1990 -- to mark just one of five categories: black, white, Asian/Pacific Islander/Hawaiian native, American Indian/Alaskan native and other. The Asian and Pacific Islander/Hawaiian native descriptions are split into separate groups for the 2000 census, providing

respondents an extra choice.

And the new instruction to mark "one or more" races encourages people of mixed race to declare multiple ancestries.

One group that expects to benefit from the change is metro Detroit's American Indian community. Without a nearby reservation, many have assimilated into the mainstream, with interracial relationships and biracial children.

"It'll help us in the long run. If someone is part white or something else, now they could indicate one more check for Native Americans," says Richard Schott, 38, of Grosse Pointe Park, who is part Mohawk and part white and president of the North American Indian Association of Detroit.

Yet there is little indication among race experts and demographers of how many will use the new classifications.

In 1996, surveys covering each race revealed no significant numbers of blacks and whites willing to check a "multiracial" box or more than one race category on census forms. There was slightly higher interest among Asians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and Alaskan natives.

Overall, federal officials don't expect the number of mixed-race respondents in the census to crack 5 percent.

No matter what boxes are checked, scholars say, the fact that the issue is being discussed helps break traditional boundaries of black and white as Americans increasingly question the concept of color itself.

"The larger, historical point is that ...classifications are quite fluid at the moment, both because of identity changes and demographic changes," says historian Mary Anderson, author of two books on the census. "This is obviously a hot issue."

From the first census in 1790, the U.S. government set racial categories first in response to political pressure and later to increasing immigration, she says.

In "The American Census," Anderson wrote that race was established to determine who would receive civil rights. Slaves did not. The original census categories were "white," "slave" and "free colored," and remained the same for a quarter-century.

Other early censuses listed Mexican as a race but it was pulled when Mexico officials objected. Hindu was the Census Bureau's umbrella term for those of Asian descent, Anderson wrote.

Despite not finding her place on official documents,

Katy Cockrel doesn't feel compelled to choose between her white and black roots. She has grown accustomed to handling occasional "What are you?" questions from classmates.

"I'm just me," Katy says. "I was always told I was a biracial kid. I never really had to ask."

Her mother, Detroit Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel, 52, who is white and traces her family to Ireland, brings her daughter Irish calendars, takes her to Catholic mass on Sundays and recounts tales of growing up in the Detroit neighborhood of Corktown, named for a county in Ireland.

Her stories also pass on the legacy of Katy's black father, activist and former Councilman Ken Cockrel Sr.

Sheila Cockrel stops short of endorsing a multiracial census category. She prefers an option that allows more than one choice, as in the new form. In 1990, in fact, she exercised a choice in describing Katy, even though the form asked for only one answer.

She checked two boxes, indicating both black and white. "I felt it was important to make the statement that this child is biracial," says Cockrel.

All content " copyright 2000 Detroit Free Press and may not be republished without permission.