

## **B. Basic Facts About Us**

Age

Gender

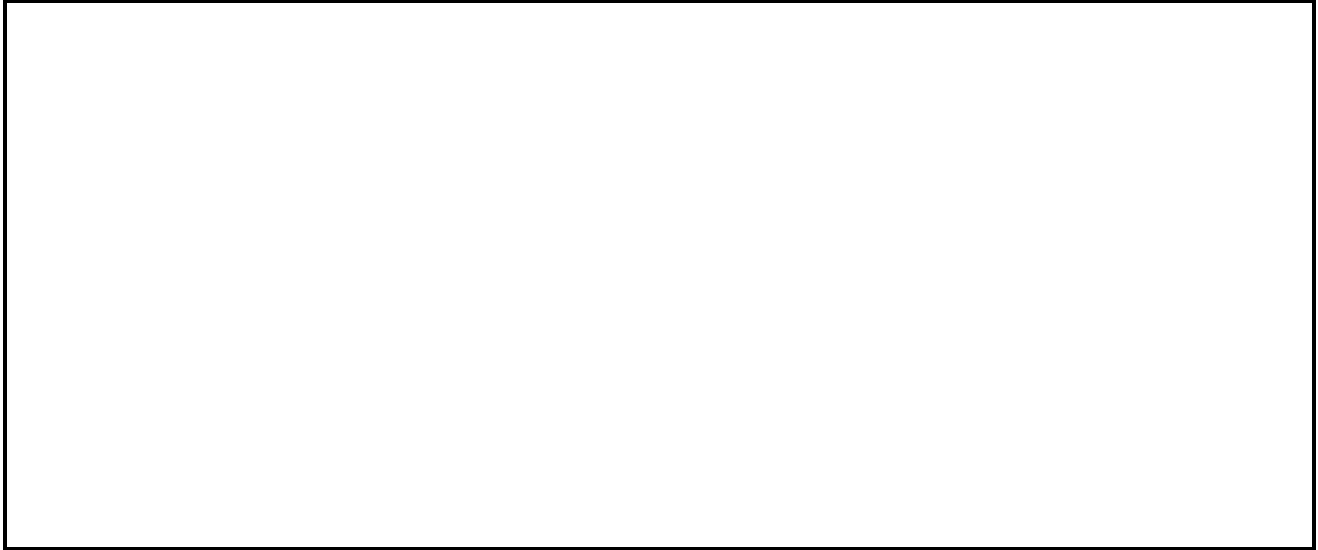
Relationship

Marital Status

Race

Hispanic Origin

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[100-percent item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** (*also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page*):

- Provides data on voting age population required for legislative redistricting
- Used to identify school districts with school-age children in poverty
- Needed by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to develop state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, and other benefits for veterans
- Used in Federal programs to target funds or services to children, working-age adults, or the elderly

**Community Impact:**

- Used to allot funds to counties and school districts to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children
- Used to identify locations needing new schools as well as the required grade levels (elementary, middle, or high school)
- Needed by planners to determine the number of highways, hospitals, health services, and retirement homes
- Used to enforce equal employment opportunities under the Age Discrimination and Employment Act
- Used to forecast the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

Age is asked in a two-part question: the first part asks for the age of the person, and the second part asks for the date of birth. Since one person in each household usually fills out the census questionnaire for every other household member, sometimes ages are reported incorrectly or left blank. This two-part format increases the number of people that we get answers for and improves the accuracy of those answers.

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMERCE ..... Legislative Redistricting--P [13 U.S.C. 141(c)]
- EDUCATION ..... Title I Funds--P,  
Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act /  
Compensatory Education for the Disadvantaged Program--M  
[20 U.S.C. 2711(c)(2)(A)-(C)],  
Low-Interest Insured Student Loans--R [20 U.S.C. 1072(b)],  
Adult Education Act--P [20 U.S.C. 1204(a)],  
Higher Education Act--P [42 U.S.C. 2751, 2752b]
- EEOC ..... Age Discrimination and Employment Act--P [42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.]
- EPA ..... Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.];  
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.]
- HHS ..... Older Americans Act--R [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.],  
Public Health Service Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1],  
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)--P  
[42 U.S.C. 8629(a)(5)]
- HUD ..... Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program--P  
[42 U.S.C. 5302 & 5306],  
Housing and Urban Development Act / Section 202 Grants--P  
[12 U.S.C. 1701q]
- JUSTICE ..... Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements--M  
[42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a],  
Civil Rights Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 2000f],  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 5632]
- LABOR ..... Job Training Partnership Act--P  
[29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.],  
Labor Surplus Areas Program--P  
[Executive Orders 12073 & 10582]
- VA ..... State Projections of Veteran Population--M  
[38 U.S.C. 8131(1)]

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[100-percent item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** *(also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):*

- Required by the Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Health and Human Services to fund, implement, and evaluate various social and welfare programs, such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Needed for laws that promote equal employment opportunity for women
- Used to develop the Dept. of Veterans Affairs' state projections of veterans' facilities and benefits
- Used to assess the social and economic status of boys and girls in each school district in the Dept. of Education's report for Congress
- Needed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to establish and evaluate guidelines dealing with equal employment opportunity

**Community Impact:**

- Needed by state and local planners who analyze social and economic characteristics of males and females to predict future needs for housing, education, child care, health, transportation, and employment
- Used under the Job Training Partnership Act to allocate funds to provide job training services for economically disadvantaged women
- Used to evaluate employment practices under the Civil Rights Act
- Used to allocate funds for programs that promote educational equality for women and girls under the Women's Educational Equity Act
- Used at state and county levels to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children
- Needed to evaluate housing policies and practices under the Civil Rights Act

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

This item provides the ability to differentiate between males and females.

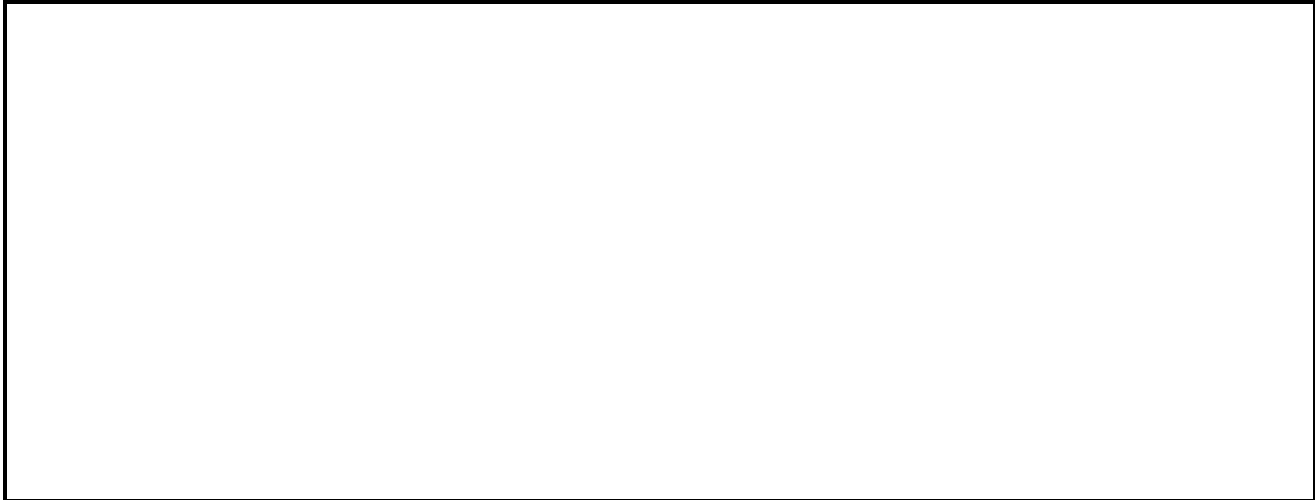
**GENDER** *(continued)* ..... *asked since 1790*

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ..... Civil Rights Act (Discrimination in Housing, Education, and Employment)--P  
[42 U.S.C. 1975c(a)(4)]
  
- EDUCATION ..... Women's Educational Equity Act--P [20 U.S.C. 3341]
  
- EEOC ..... Federal Affirmative Action Plans--M [5 U.S.C. 7201(a)(1)],  
Federal Affirmative Action Programs--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(b)(1)],  
Equal Employment Opportunity Act--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e-2(a)(2)]
  
- EPA ..... Regulatory Review--P [Executive Order 12866, Oct. 1, 1993],  
Environmental Justice--P [Executive Order 12898, Feb. 11, 1994],  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--P [42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.],  
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act--P  
42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.]
  
- HHS ..... Older Americans Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
Public Health Service Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1],  
Voluntary Family Planning Programs--P  
[42 U.S.C. 300a-2],  
Collection of Vital, Social, and Health Statistics--R  
[42 U.S.C. 242k]
  
- JUSTICE ..... Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.]
  
- LABOR ..... Job Training Partnership Act--P  
[29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq., Sections 1511, 1518, 1532,  
1551, 1602, 1603, 1661, 1707, & 1736],  
Labor Surplus Areas Program--P  
[Executive Orders 10582 & 12073],  
Employment Practices of Government Contractors--P  
[Executive Order 11246]
  
- VA ..... State Projections of Veteran Population--M  
[38 U.S.C. 8131]

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[100-percent item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** (*also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page*):

- Provides information about changes in the composition of the American family which is essential for planning and carrying out a number of Federal programs
- Used to define poverty -- which is based on income thresholds that vary by size of family and number of children
- Used to determine, in part, how the money is spent in Federally funded nutrition and education programs such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children
- Used by the Social Security Administration to handle a number of planning issues under the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs

**Community Impact:**

- Used to distribute funds for housing to local governments under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Needed under Title I to allocate funds to states and counties to improve the education of children in low-income families
- Used to identify children in families near or below the poverty line for spending for Head Start
- Needed by local health agencies to plan and administer programs that promote the well-being of families and children

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

Relationship is essential for classifying the population into families and household types. The first group of categories is for persons related to the householder -- these individuals together constitute a family. All others are unrelated individuals. If everyone in a household is unrelated to the householder, it is referred to as a "nonfamily household." Categories showing natural-born, step, and adoptive children are necessary to reflect the increasingly complex family structures created as a result of marital disruption, remarriage, and cohabitation. Data collected about relationships involving in-laws are used to measure multi-generational living arrangements.

**RELATIONSHIP** *(continued)* ..... *asked since 1880*

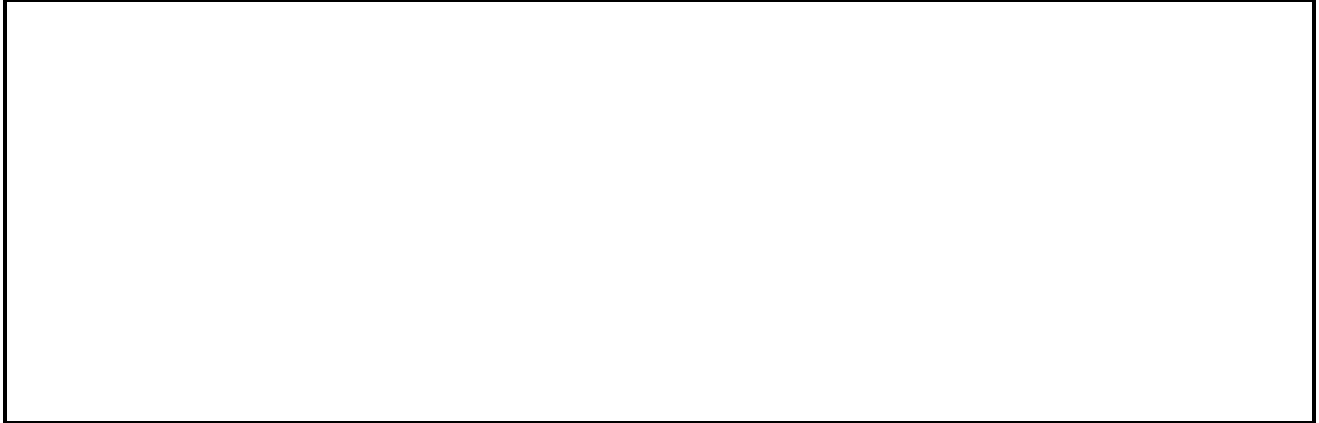
**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- EDUCATION ..... Title I Funds--P,  
 Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act /  
 Compensatory Education of the Disadvantaged Program--M  
 [20 U.S.C. 2711(c)(2)(A)-(C)],  
 Higher Education Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 2751 & 2752b]
- HHS ..... Head Start Act--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(3)],  
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 8622 & 8623],  
 Older Americans Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
 Child Welfare Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 192],  
 School Breakfast Program--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 1773c]
- HUD ..... National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 /  
 HOME Investment Partnerships Program--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 12747]
- LABOR ..... Immigration Act of 1990--P  
 [8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
 Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P  
 [8 U.S.C. 1364]
- SSA ..... Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Program--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 421-426 & 42 U.S.C. 902],  
 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 1381-1383(d) & 42 U.S.C. 902]

**HOW WE ASK IT**

*[Sample item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** (*also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page*):

- Ensures accurate planning and implementation for many government programs using information such as the numbers of married women in the labor force, elderly widowed individuals, or young single people who soon may establish homes of their own
- Helps define for the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development qualifying census tracts for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Mortgage Revenue Bonds Programs

**Community Impact:**

- Used for budget and resource planning to identify the number of children needing special services (e.g., children in single-parent households)
- Used by communities to pinpoint areas with large numbers of single-parent families and to identify needs for child care, medical care, and other social services
- Used by local governments to assess needs for housing and other community development services under the Community Development Block Grant Evaluation
- Used by community organizations to identify needs for job training and housing for displaced homemakers

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

Each category provides important information since the social, economic, and demographic conditions of the population can vary significantly by marital status. The census allows couples who live together (unmarried persons, persons in common-law marriages) to report the marital status that they consider the most appropriate. The category, "Separated," (although legally married) indicates marital discord as opposed to married persons living apart for example, due to employment. Persons who respond either as widowed or never married differ in social security and pension/survivor benefits which can carry significant financial and social implications.

**MARITAL STATUS** *(continued)* ..... *asked since 1880*

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- HHS ..... Older Americans Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
 Public Health Service Act--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), 254f-1],  
 Child Welfare Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 192],  
 Voluntary Family Planning Programs--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 300a-2],  
 Adolescent Family Life Projects--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 300z-2]
  
- HUD ..... Low-Income Housing Tax Credits--M  
 [26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(A)],  
 Mortgage Revenue Bonds Program--M  
 [26 U.S.C. 143(j) & (k)],  
 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Evaluation /  
 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies (CHAS)--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 12701 & 12705(b)],  
 Housing and Urban Development Act / Section 202 Grants--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 1439]
  
- LABOR ..... Immigration Act of 1990--P  
 [8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
 Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P  
 [8 U.S.C. 1364]
  
- NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ..... National Science Foundation Act of 1950--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 1862],  
 National Science Foundation Biennial Report--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 1885d]

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[100-percent item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** *(also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):*

- Needed to assess racial disparities in health and environmental risks
- Used under the Voting Rights Act to identify minority language groups that require voting materials in their own language
- Used under the Civil Rights Act to assess fairness of employment practices

**Community Impact:**

- Necessary to the Community Reinvestment Act to help determine whether financial institutions meet the credit needs of minorities in low- and moderate-income areas
- Needed under the Public Health Service Act as a key factor in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services
- Required by states to meet legislative redistricting requirements by knowing the racial make-up of the voting age population

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

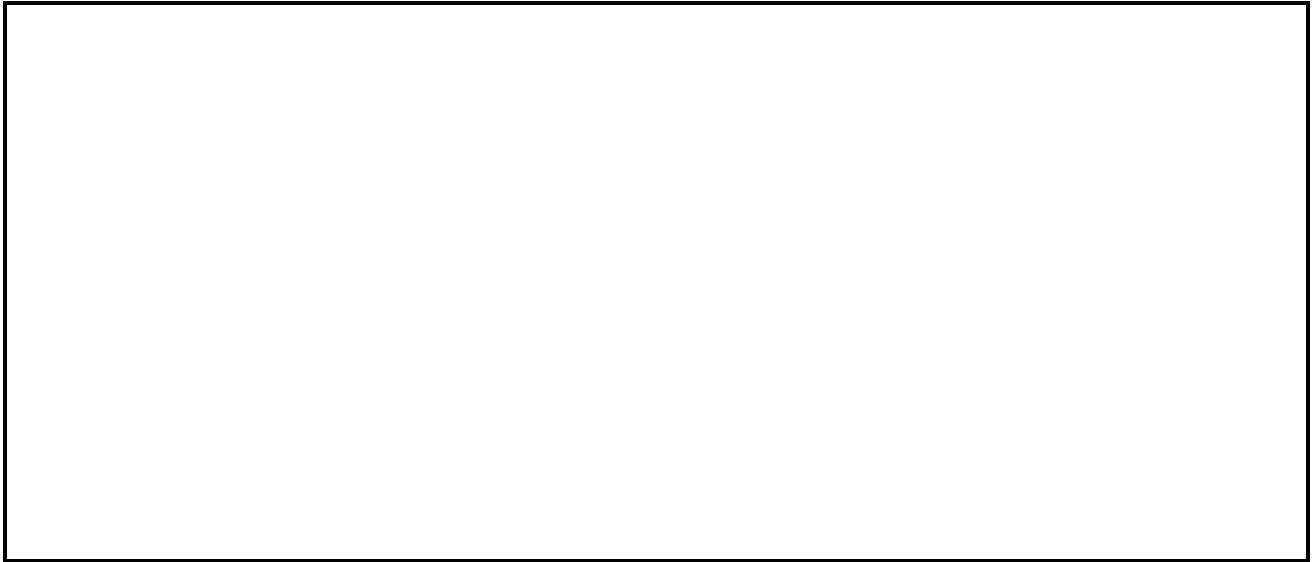
The racial classifications used by the Census Bureau adhere to the October 1997 revised standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity, issued by the Office of Management and Budget. These standards govern the categories used to collect and publish Federal data on race and ethnicity. Each answer provided by a respondent represents self-classification according to the race or races with which the individual most closely identifies. This question includes both racial and national origin or socio-cultural groups and attempts to reflect the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. population. The term “African Am.” is included to reflect the increased prevalence of the term in the past decade. Other changes to the wording and arrangement of the categories were made to improve accuracy.

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMERCE . . . . . Legislative Redistricting--P [13 U.S.C. 141(c)]
- EDUCATION . . . . . Provisions on Strengthening Historically Black Colleges--P  
[20 U.S.C. 1060],  
Grants for Basic Skills of Dropouts--P  
[20 U.S.C. 7261-7268 (replaces 20 U.S.C. 3241)]
- EEOC . . . . . Federal Affirmative Action Plans--M [5 U.S.C. 7201(a)(1)],  
Federal Affirmative Action Programs--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(b)(1)],  
Equal Employment Opportunity Act--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e-2(a)(2)]
- FEDERAL RESERVE . . . . . Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975--R  
[12 U.S.C. 2809(a)],  
Community Reinvestment Act of 1977--P  
[12 U.S.C. 2901]
- HHS . . . . . Older Americans Act--P  
[42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
Public Health Service Act--R  
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1],  
Native American Programs Act--R [42 U.S.C. 2992],  
Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980--R [42 U.S.C. 628]
- HUD . . . . . Mortgage Revenue Bonds Program--P [26 U.S.C. 143],  
Low-Income Housing Tax Credits--P [26 U.S.C. 42],  
Housing Improvement Program (Snyder Act)--P [25 U.S.C. 13]
- JUSTICE . . . . . Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements--M  
[42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a],  
Civil Rights Act--R [42 U.S.C. 1975c(a) & 2000c-2, d, f],  
Legislative Redistricting--P [13 U.S.C. 141(c)]
- LABOR . . . . . Employment Practices of Government Contractors--P  
[Executive Order 11246],  
Immigration Act of 1990--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],  
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P  
[8 U.S.C. 1364]
- USDA . . . . . Food Stamp Act--P [7 U.S.C. 612c]
- VA . . . . . Veterans Benefits Program--R [38 U.S.C. 317]

**HOW WE ASK IT**  
*[100-percent item]*



**WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE**

**Federal Uses** (*also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page*):

- Essential to ensure enforcement of bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act
- Used to meet guidelines mandated in the October 1997 revised standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity (issued by the Office of Management and Budget)
- Used to monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act

**Community Impact:**

- Used in identifying segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act
- Used under the Community Reinvestment Act to evaluate whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of minority groups in low- and moderate-income communities
- Used to allot funds to school districts for bilingual services under the Bilingual Education Act
- Needed under the Voting Rights Act to monitor compliance of local jurisdictions by using counts of the voting-age population by national origin to ensure equality in voting

**WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY**

This question provides information that is needed for a more complete understanding of the composition of our population. It adheres to the October 1997 revised standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity, issued by the Office of Management and Budget, which provide standard classifications for collection and presentation of such data. Each answer provided by the respondent represents self-classification. The categories are arranged and worded to reduce respondent confusion and to lower the nonresponse rate. The category, “**No**, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino” is listed first so that the question more clearly will show that it pertains to all respondents and to convey that respondents, Hispanics as well as non-Hispanics should provide an answer. The terms “Mexican Am.” and “Chicano” are shown with “Mexican” so that more Mexican Americans will identify with this category and, thus, improve the accuracy of the data.

**HISPANIC ORIGIN** *(continued)* ..... *asked since 1970*

**AGENCIES**

**SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMERCE ..... Legislative Redistricting--P  
 [13 U.S.C. 141(c)],  
 Estimates of Hispanic Origin Population--M  
 [13 U.S.C. 141 note (P.L. 94-311, H.J. Res. 92)]
- EDUCATION ..... Bilingual Education Act--P  
 [20 U.S.C. 3291 (part a), 3301 (part b), 3321 (part c)]
- EEOC ..... Federal Affirmative Action Plans--M  
 [5 U.S.C. 7201(a)(1)],  
 Federal Affirmative Action Programs--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(b)(1)],  
 Equal Employment Opportunity Act--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 2000e-2(a)(2)]
- EPA ..... Regulatory Review--P  
 [Executive Order 12866, Oct. 1, 1993];  
 Environmental Justice--P  
 [Executive Order 12898, Feb. 11, 1994];  
 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.];  
 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.]
- FEDERAL RESERVE ..... Community Reinvestment Act of 1977--P  
 [12 U.S.C. 2901]
- HHS ..... Older Americans Act--P  
 [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],  
 Public Health Service Act--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1]
- JUSTICE ..... Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements--M  
 [42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a],  
 Civil Rights Act--R  
 [42 U.S.C. 1975c(a) & 2000c-2, d, f]