

POSTER ABSTRACTS

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Performance of Office of Management and Budget's Revised Race and Ethnicity Categories in Asian Populations

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Background: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity information recently divided the "Asian or Pacific Islander" category into "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander". We examined whether populations who formerly made up the broad category divide themselves as revised guidelines intend.

Methods: A subset of adults participating in the Hemochromatosis and Iron Overload Screening Study completed the OMB-minimum and the race and ethnicity measure used in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). We compared responses on the NHIS measure contained within the OMB definition of "Asian" (Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Asian Indian, Chinese, and/or Other Asian) to "Asian" responses on the OMB measure.

Results: Many NHIS-self-identified mixed heritage individuals and eleven percent of single-heritage Filipinos did not mark "Asian" on the OMB measure (table 1).

Table 1

NHIS measure responses ¹		Asian ¹ on OMB measure		OMB responses ¹ (#) among those not marking Asian					
				Hispanic	AI/AN	Black	NHOPI	White	No answer
All Asian ²	N	#	%						
single heritage	694	669	96.4	2	0	0	9	3	13
mixed heritage	335	182	54.3	22	3	2	43	63	1
Filipino ²									
single heritage	125	111	88.8	2	0	0	6	1	7
mixed heritage	98	47	48.0	11	3	1	40	16	0
Japanese ²									
single heritage	389	380	97.7	0	0	0	3	0	6
mixed heritage	109	79	72.5	1	0	1	17	12	0
Chinese ²									
single heritage	129	129	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mixed heritage	191	97	50.8	12	0	0	75	38	1

¹The OMB and NHIS categories are non-mutually exclusive.

²X², p=<.001, mixed vs. single heritage responders to OMB "Asian" category

Conclusions: Many individuals making up the former "Asian or Pacific Islander" group do not categorize themselves as the revised guidelines intend. These results questions the use of the term "Asian" and point to possible consequences of collapsing groups into a single category, i.e., missed information and erroneous generalization.