

ReadMe File: Documentation for Population Reports on Task Force Website

On March 19, 2012, a three-judge panel (U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York) imposed a 2012 Congressional redistricting plan for New York State. The three Federal judges (Reena Raggi, Gerard E. Lynch, and Dora L. Irizarry) ruled in response to a lawsuit, *Favors et al. v. Cuomo et al.*, in which the plaintiffs sought the appointment of a Special Master to oversee Congressional redistricting.

The Special Master, Federal Judge Roanne L. Mann, used the Census Bureau's 2010 Public Law (PL) 94-171 redistricting dataset for Congressional redistricting. Census adjustment, based on prisoner reallocation as mandated by Part XX of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2010, applies only to State Senate, State Assembly, and local redistricting.

Due to its slower population growth rate relative to other states, New York State lost two Congressional seats, from 29 to 27. The 2010 total population figure for a Congressional district is either 717,707 or 717,708 (maximum deviation of 1).

This research note describes the racial and ethnic categories that are presented in the population reports, which accompany the individual district maps on the Task Force's website.

Two sets of racial and ethnic categories are displayed for each district: standard variables used by the Task Force in its work and supplemental variables specified by the federal Department of Justice (DOJ) to evaluate redistricting-plan compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The DOJ categories expand the definition of minority composition. Both sets of categories are derived from the Census Bureau's PL 94-171 redistricting dataset.

Task Force Standard Racial and Ethnic Categories

Non-Hispanic White Alone
Non-Hispanic Black or African American Alone
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone
Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native Alone
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone
Non-Hispanic Some Other Race Alone
Non-Hispanic Multiple Race
Hispanic or Latino

(Sum of categories equals 100 percent)
(Repeated for voting age population [VAP])
(Alone refers to a single-race category)

Federal Department of Justice (DOJ) Racial and Ethnic Categories

Non-Hispanic White Alone
Non-Hispanic Black Alone + Non-Hispanic Black & White Biracial
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone + Non-Hispanic Asian & White Biracial
Non-Hispanic American Indian Alone + Non-Hispanic American Indian & White Biracial
Non-Hispanic Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Alone + Non-Hispanic Hawaiian/Pacific Islander & White Biracial
Non-Hispanic Some Other Race Alone + Non-Hispanic Some Other Race & White Biracial
Non-Hispanic Multiple Race Remainder
Hispanic

(Sum of categories equals 100 percent)
(Repeated for voting age population [VAP])
(Alone refers to a single-race category)

Ambiguous field names in the population reports are clarified below. The full field names were taken from the PL 94-171 technical documentation.

Population Report Field Names

NH = Non-Hispanic

Hwn = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Multi = Multiracial

Other = Some Other Race