

ReadMe File: Documentation for Population Reports on Task Force Website

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 Public Law (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)

The racial and ethnic categories in the population reports reflect the PL 94-171 adjustment implemented by the Task Force, as mandated by Part XX of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2010. Part XX of the law directed the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to provide the Task Force with information on incarcerated persons under its jurisdiction. The racial and ethnic categories accommodate missing responses that DOCCS collected from prisoners and supplied to the Task Force. (Complete documentation on the adjustment process can be found elsewhere on the Task Force's website.)

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

Unknown = Reflects instances where DOCCS did not provide racial and ethnic identification