

II. Method of Collection

Prior to receiving the 2004 questionnaire, each housing unit included in the test will be mailed an advance letter informing respondents that they will soon receive a census form. A few days after the questionnaire packages are delivered, each household will receive a reminder postcard that asks respondents to fill out and return their questionnaires, if they have not already done so. The postcard also will thank respondents who have already returned their forms.

Census Day is scheduled for April 1, 2004. About 10 days after that date, each household in the mailout/mailback universe that did not return the initial form will receive a replacement questionnaire. After respondents have had a chance to complete and return their forms, enumerators will visit each housing unit that has not responded (NRFU). NRFU is scheduled to begin approximately three weeks after Census Day. Enumerators will use handheld MCDs rather than paper questionnaires for data collection during NRFU.

Although the 2004 mailback form is similar to the Census 2000 short form in both content and format, there are several significant differences. These include revised wording for residence rules instructions; the addition of two coverage questions; a revised race question that eliminates the "Some other race" option; revisions in wording in the Hispanic origin question; and a format that allows a respondent to record information for up to 12 household members.

Completing the paper questionnaire and responding to the questions again during the telephone section of the Race and Hispanic/Latino Response Evaluation will take approximately 10 minutes. Preliminary research indicates enumerator-filled forms (data collected using MCDs during NRFU) also will take about 10 minutes. All data capture operations will be conducted at the Census Bureau's National Processing Center (NPC) located in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

In order to conduct the 2004 Census Test, we hope to create content and wording that will allow data collection using the MCDs to be comparable to other modes of response. The Census Bureau is designing software for handheld devices that is intended to incorporate both Spanish and English language capabilities and that will result in MCDs that will be easy for enumerators to use.

The goal of the two-part Race and Hispanic/Latino Response Evaluation is to understand how changes to the Race

and Hispanic origin questions affect response behavior. The evaluation will study missing data rates, NRFU response distributions, and behavior coding data gathered in the process of conducting some NRFU interviews.

The Behavior Coding section of the test will involve taping and coding the behavior of about 2,000 enumerators and respondents during the NRFU personal visit interviews in the Queens, NY site. An ETA who accompanies each enumerator will record the selected interviews using a handheld recorder. ETAs will be trained to use basic interviewing techniques, operate the recorder, and take notes on respondent and interviewer behavior during the interview. Behavior coding is intended to provide data about respondents' verbal reaction to the race and Hispanic origin question as well as information about interviewer behavior while asking these questions. These interviews will be conducted and voice-recorded with the respondent's permission.

The second section of the Race and Hispanic/Latino Response Evaluation—Re-interview Follow-up—also is restricted to the Queens, NY site. The 2004 Census Test questionnaire will be administered to selected respondents after the NRFU visit. We will re-administer the 2004 Census Test questionnaire by telephone in order to evaluate the response distribution of the race question. The resulting response distribution is intended to provide information for evaluating the effect of changes in the race and Hispanic origin questions and response categories, as well as dropping the "Some other race" option.

Employees from the NPC will contact a sample of approximately 2,800 households to re-administer the 2004 questionnaire beginning in June 2004. Data gathered as a result of these interviews will be processed at NPC. The goal for this segment of the Race and Hispanic/Latino Response Evaluation is 2,000 completed interviews.

Definition of Terms

Residence Rules—Rules that respondents and the Census Bureau use to determine where people should be counted. They are meant to insure that everyone is counted once and in the right place for the primary purposes of apportionment.

Nonresponse Followup (NRFU)—An operation developed to obtain completed questionnaires from housing units for which the Census Bureau did not receive a completed questionnaire in mail census areas (mailout/mailback, update/leave, and urban update/leave).

Enumerators visit addresses to collect the information.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number(s): DB-1 (2004 Census Test).

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Approximately 200,000 households for the 2004 Census Test. Approximately 2,800 households for Race and Hispanic/Latino Response Evaluation.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 33,800.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents except for their time to respond.

Respondent Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 of the United States Code, sections 141 and 193.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 7, 2003.

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