

Appendix 8.13-1

Description of Minority Status

The analysis of potentially affected minorities is based on data from the 2000 census as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC, 2001). In order to interpret the analysis correctly, the information provided in Table 9.13-16 requires clarification. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts (DOC, 2001). Hispanics may be of any race; the term refers primarily to culture, and secondarily to race. Specifically, the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines an Hispanic or Latino as “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race (DOC, 2001).” In data collection and presentation, federal agencies are required to use a minimum of two ethnicities: “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino.”

During the Census of 2000, respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. Starting with Census 2000, the OMB requires federal agencies to use a minimum of five race categories, as follows (DOC, 2001):

1. **White:** people having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “white” or wrote in entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.
2. **Black or African American:** people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Black, African American, or Negro,” or wrote in entries such as African American, Afro American, Nigerian or Haitian.
3. **American Indian and Alaska Native:** people having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain a tribal affiliation or community attachment. It includes people who indicated their race or races by marking this category or writing in their principal or enrolled tribe, such as Rosebud Sioux, Chippewa, or Navajo.
4. **Asian:** people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Asian Indian,” “Chinese,” “Filipino,” “Korean,” “Japanese,” “Vietnamese,” or “Other Asian,” or wrote in entries such as Burmese, Hmong, Pakistani, or Thai.

5. **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:** people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicated their race or races as Navive Hawaiian, Guamanian, or Chamoor, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander, or wrote in entries such as Thaitian, Mariana Islander, or Chuukese.

Respondents who were unable to identify with these five OMB race categories completed the form with the “Some other race” response. For example, respondents who provided write-in entries such as Moroccan, South African, Belizean, or a Hispanic origin (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban) are included in the Other race category.

In Census 2000, nearly 98 percent of all respondents reported only one race. The largest group reported White alone, accounting for 75 percent of all people living in the United States. The Black or African American alone population represented 12 percent of the total. Slightly less than 1 percent of all respondents indicated only American Indian and Alaska Native. Approximately 4 percent of all respondents indicated only Asian. The smallest race group was the native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population, representing 0.1 percent of the total population. The remainder of the “one race” respondents - 5.5 percent of all respondents – indicated “Some other race.” The Some other race alone category consists predominantly (97.0 percent) of people of Hispanic origin, and is not a standard OMB race category. Across the US, the overwhelming majority (97 percent) of the 15.4 million people who reported “Some other race” alone were Hispanic or Latino, while the remaining were not Hispanic or Latino (DOC 2001).

References:

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). 2001. Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin. Census 2000 Brief. Issued March 2001.