



Mobilization, Change, and Political and Civic Engagement

Election 2008 and Beyond, WAVE 3

FACT SHEET: Race and the United States Census

Key Findings:

- Despite somewhat large differences in belief among racial and ethnic groups about what the census does, all four racial/ethnic groups are roughly equally likely to report that they will complete the 2010 U.S. Census forms.
- Blacks are much more likely to report that the U.S. Census has historically undercounted people of color.

Race and the U.S. Census:

Asian respondents were mostly likely to agree with the idea that filling out the census will help their community gets its fair share of government funding.

- 81% of Asian respondents
- 74% of black respondents
- 70% of Latino respondents
- 78% of white respondents

Asian and black respondents were most likely to agree that organizations in their community need the information from the census to fight for the people in their community.

- 80% of Asian respondents
- 78% of black respondents
- 76% of Latino respondents
- 73% of white respondents

White and Asian respondents were most likely to agree with the idea that information from the census is used to determine how many representatives your state gets in Congress.

- 84% of Asian respondents
- 73% of black respondents
- 64% of Latino respondents
- 88% of white respondents

Black respondents were most likely to agree that people of color have historically been undercounted in the census.

- 58% of Asian respondents
- 76% of black respondents
- 37% of Latino respondents
- 43% of white respondents

White respondents were most likely to think that it takes only 10 minutes to fill out the census.

- 65% of Asian respondents
- 65% of black respondents
- 58% of Latino respondents
- 73% of white respondents

Asian and Latino respondents were most likely to think that the information gathered on the census is totally confidential.

- 60% of Asian respondents
- 54% of black respondents
- 59% of Latino respondents
- 47% of white respondents

White respondents were most likely to think that the government will misuse the information from the census.

- 36% of Asian respondents
- 38% of black respondents
- 22% of Latino respondents
- 41% of white respondents

Black respondents were most likely to think that the government will use the information from the census to deport individuals.

- 23% of Asian respondents
- 30% of black respondents

- 17% of Latino respondents
- 17% of white respondents

Black respondents were most likely to think that the government will use the information to cut back on the social services people receive.

- 36% of Asian respondents
- 38% of black respondents
- 24% of Latino respondents
- 33% of white respondents

White and Asian respondents were most likely to think that businesses will use the information to determine which communities they should locate to.

- 69% of Asian respondents
- 62% of black respondents
- 39% of Latino respondents
- 74% of white respondents

Latinos were least likely to think that census workers are just doing their job and can be trusted.

- 73% of Asian respondents
- 70% of black respondents
- 61% of Latino respondents
- 75% of white respondents

There is very little difference between the racial groups in terms of how likely respondents are to complete the 2010 United States Census form.

- 83% of Asian respondents
- 84% of black respondents
- 83% of Latino respondents
- 91% of white respondents