

2010 Census Makes a Change Regarding Ethnic and Racial Identification

For the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau has changed the way it collects information about race and ethnicity. Individuals will now be able indicate both their race and their ethnicity. The change recognizes that race and ethnicity are two different things. Race reflects DNA, while ethnicity reflects cultural identification. This is big news for Hispanics with Native American heritage, because they previously had to choose either Hispanic or American Indian. The recognition that Hispanic is an ethnicity, and American Indian is a race allows individuals to select both terms if they apply. Some say the change indicates that the U.S. government is finally willing to give Hispanics with American Indian heritage their due weight.