

The Case of the Missing Ethnicity: Indians without Tribes in the 21st Century

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Why do some American Indians NOT report a tribe? (17% of single-race and 31% of multiple-race)
2. Are the reasons different for single-race versus multiple-race American Indians?

WHY DO WE CARE?

Sociological Theory

- Is pan-tribal identity really this common?
- Tribe = Ethnicity = Culture
- Ethnicity is important for day-to-day actions.

Policies and Programs

- Tribal information is collected for planning.
- How do you create cultural sensitivity without knowing which culture?

Census Methodology

- We want everyone to answer every question.
- Is available tribal data biased due to selective non-response?

DATA, SAMPLES, METHODOLOGY

Data

- Census 2000
- Restricted-use data, through the Research Data Center network
 - » Public data has no information about tribal responses of multiracial American Indians.

Sample Selection

- American Indian or Alaska Native race (single-race or multiracial)
- Householders only
 - » Most likely to self-report their race rather than have another household member report it
- Ages 25 and older only
 - » For sensible measures of educational attainment
- Non-imputed cases only
 - » If race response was imputed by the Census Bureau, no tribe was imputed

Methodology

- Logistic regression analyses predicting tribal non-response
- Separate analyses for single-race American Indians and multiracial American Indians
- Four hypotheses tested, then all variables combined into a full model

HYPOTHESES

H1: Regular Survey Non-Response

- All write-in questions suffer from item non-response

H2: Non-Salient Tribal or American Indian Identity

- Competing ethnic/racial identities may reduce interest or knowledge in tribal details

H3: Embracing Ancestry without Full Knowledge

- People may discover AI heritage (but not tribe) through education or genealogical research

H4: Mestizo Identity

- White and American Indian and Latino = Mestizo, which does not emphasize tribal heritage

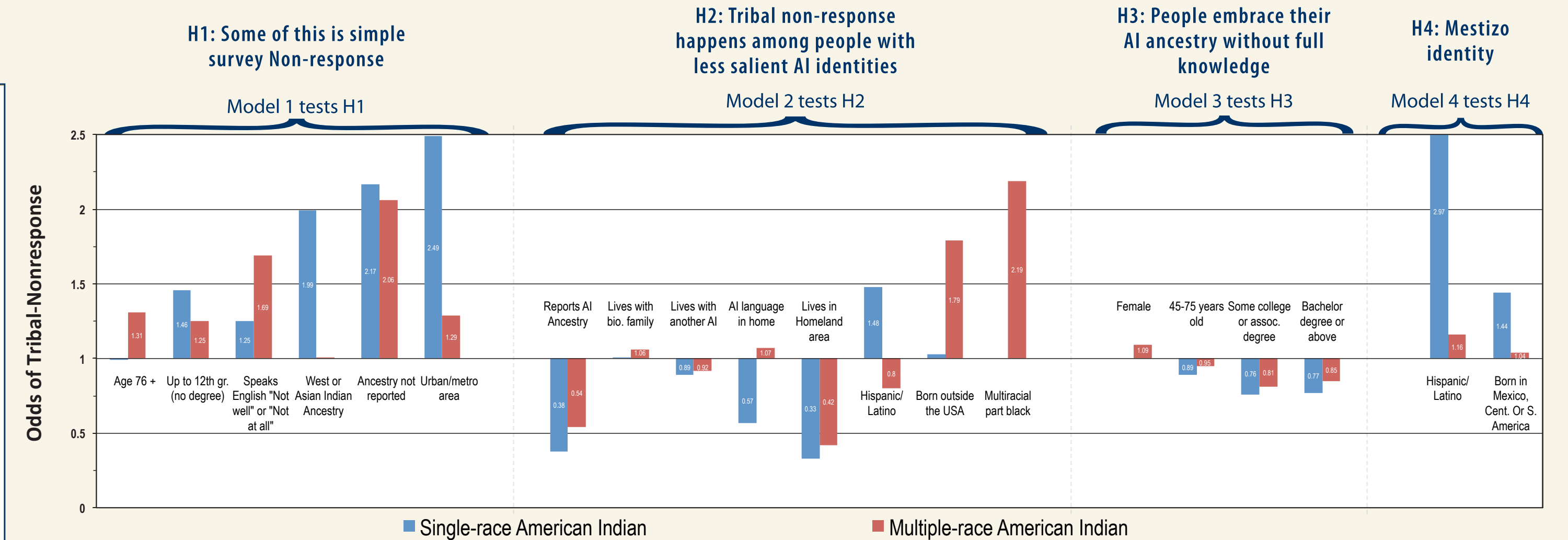
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Characteristics of American Indian householders in Census 2000, by number of races and whether they reported a tribal affiliation

	Single-Race AI		Multiple-Race AI	
	weighted total N	% no tribe	weighted total N	% no tribe
Unweighted number of cases	133,000	14.11%	93,500	29.84%
Weighted number of cases	698,900	16.95%	592,000	30.62%
Age				
25 to 44 years old	356,400	17.52%	279,500	30.16%
45 to 75 years old	314,400	16.14%	282,300	30.04%
76 years old or older	28,100	18.83%	30,300	40.27%
Gender				
Male	415,400	16.93%	357,700	29.93%
Female	283,500	16.98%	234,300	31.68%
Completed Education				
12th grade or less (no degree)	194,300	20.55%	117,700	36.29%
HS graduate or GED	193,600	16.68%	144,600	30.10%
Some college or assoc. degree	221,300	14.82%	213,400	28.51%
Bachelor degree or above	89,800	14.99%	116,300	29.42%
Ability to speak English				
Speaks only English	495,900	17.24%	510,500	29.26%
English: "very well," "well," or only English: "not well" or "not at all"	669,800	16.74%	576,900	30.26%
English: "not well" or "not at all"	29,100	21.82%	15,100	44.47%
Languages in household				
All language spoken in home	180,300	7.49%	46,900	30.06%
All language not spoken in home	518,600	20.24%	545,100	30.67%
Ancestry reports				
Any Am. Ind. Ance. reported	526,800	11.76%	297,700	23.53%
West Ind. or Asian Ind. Ance.	1,300	30.06%	3,300	29.69%
Any other ancestry report, not AI	88,100	37.00%	213,100	35.17%
Ancestry not reported	82,800	28.47%	78,000	45.44%
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic or Latino or Spanish	76,200	36.78%	57,700	33.76%
Non-Hispanic	622,700	14.52%	534,300	30.28%
Black or African-American race also				
Multiracial part black	--	--	112,900	46.03%
Multiracial not part black	--	--	479,100	26.99%
Birthplace				
Born in US	657,900	15.71%	549,500	29.46%
Born in Mexico or Cent./S. America	33,300	39.29%	26,500	33.64%
Born abroad elsewhere	7,800	26.53%	16,000	65.44%
Living with biological family				
Householder lives alone	147,200	19.17%	156,400	31.87%
Lives with any bio. family	442,000	15.99%	322,600	30.78%
Lives with only non-family	109,700	17.82%	113,000	28.45%
Living with other American Indians				
Lives with another Amer. Indian	496,500	14.99%	339,200	29.92%
Does not live with another Am. Ind.	202,400	21.76%	252,900	31.57%
Location				
In an urban/metropolitan area	430,800	21.20%	462,900	31.99%
In a suburban or non-urban area	268,100	10.15%	129,100	27.16%
In a Homeland area	238,300	5.17%	41,600	44.41%
Not in a Homeland area	460,600	22.93%	550,400	31.65%

LOGISTIC REGRESSIONS PREDICTING TRIBAL NON-RESPONSE AMONG SINGLE-RACE AND MULTIRACIAL AMERICAN INDIANS

	Single-race AI		Multiple-race AI	
	odds ratio	Z-score	odds ratio	Z-score
Age (comparison: 45-75 years old)				
25 to 44 years old	1.07	9.68	1.03	5.50
75 years old or older	1.14	7.45	1.32	21.05
Gender (comparison: Male)				
Female	1.12	16.40	0.99	-2.24
Education (comparison: High School Graduate or GED)				
12th grade or less (no degree)	1.22	27.86	1.19	19.05
Some college or assoc. degree	0.79	-27.64	0.86	-19.47
Bachelor degree or above	0.71	-39.64	0.83	-30.39
English ability (comparison: English only or speaks English well or very well)				
English: "not well" or "not at all"	0.76	-14.64	1.05	2.63
Languages in Household				
All language spoken in home	0.57	-54.11	1.06	5.75
Ancestry (comparison: any other ancestry report)				
West Ind. or Asian Ind. Ancestry	0.39	-3.51	0.55	-14.39
Any Am. Indian ancestry reported	0.39	-45.49	0.42	-30.87
Ancestry not reported	0.99	-0.49	1.66	56.52
Other race and ethnicity reports				
Hispanic or Latino or Spanish	1.42	31.39	0.82	-17.75
Multiracial part black	omitted		2.32	116.92
Birthplace (comparison: Born in the USA)				
Born outside the USA	1.02	1.37	1.85	49.04
Coresidence				
Lives with any bio. family	1.00	-0.40	1.00	11.52
Lives with another Amer. Indian	0.87	-15.65	0.91	-14.25
Location of household				
In an urban/metropolitan area	1.19	20.71	0.98	-2.30
In a Homeland area	0.33	-102.81	0.38	-65.57
pseudo R ²	0.1130		0.0594	
df	17		18	
weighted N	698,900		592,000	



H1 is supported in both samples

Tribal response is uncommon among less educated people who don't speak English well, who don't report their ancestry, or who misunderstood the term "Indian."

H2 is supported in both samples

Tribal response is common for people who live in an American Indian homeland area or report American Indian ancestry.

Part-black and foreign-born multiracial American Indians have low odds of reporting a tribe. They may be focused on other identities.

H3 is not supported

Middle-aged people, women, and more educated people do not have very unusual tribal non-response patterns.

H4 is not supported

Multiracial Latino American Indians do report a tribal affiliation.

IMPLICATIONS

Sociological Theory

- A non-ethnic, racial American Indian identity may exist among those with strong ties to other groups (Black, Latino, or born abroad)

Policies and Programs

- The most policy-relevant groups (strongly identified American Indians, single-race or multiple-race) do report a tribe

Census Methodology

- Non-response on write-in questions is causing loss of important information
- Let respondents know why tribal information is collected and how it's used

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CONCLUSIONS

Why do some American Indians NOT report a tribe?

- Some did not understand the question (Single race American Indian with West Indian or Asian Indian ancestry)
- Some are generally poor survey respondents (no answer to ancestry question, low education, low English skills)
- Some have competing racial/ethnic identities (multiracial part-black, foreign born, Latino)
 - » This may reduce salience of American Indian tribe OR family heritage information may be incomplete (part-black)

What kinds of American Indians DO report a tribe?

- They live in a Homeland area
- They live with someone who speaks an AI language
- They report their ancestry as American Indian
- They are relatively highly educated

What things are unrelated to tribal response?

- Being middle-aged, living with other American Indians, and living with relatives

Are the reasons different for single-race vs. multiple-race American Indians?

- In many cases, YES
- These measures account for 11% of single-race non-response and only 6% of multiple-race non-response
- Single-race AI tribal non-response: didn't understand the question, urban area, Latino
- Multiple-race AI tribal non-response: elder, poor English skills, foreign-born, part-black