Policies and Programs
1. Why do some American Indians NOT report a tribe? (77% 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?
• Ethnicity is important for day-to-day actions.

DATA, SAMPLES, METHODOLOGY
Data
• Census 2000
• Restricted-use data, through the Research Data Center network

Sample Selection
• American Indian or Alaska Native race (single-race or multiracial)
• Householders only
• Four hypotheses tested, then all variables combined into a full model

Methodology
• Logistic regression analyses predicting tribal non-response
• Separate analyses for single-race American Indians and multiracial American Indians
• Policies and Programs
• Tribal information is collected for planning.
• How do you create cultural sensitivity without knowing which culture?

Non-imputed cases only
Ages 25 and older only
Householders only
American Indian or Alaska Native race (single-race or multiracial)
Restricted-use data, through the Research Data Center
Census 2000
Ethnicity is important for day-to-day actions.
Is pan-tribal identity really this common?
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 tribal) through education or genealogical research
H4: Mestizo Identity
• White and American Indian and Latino = Mestizo, which does not emphasize tribal heritage

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

ACCUMOLOGICAL STATISTICS

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

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).


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