

PSRC Household Travel Survey Program

August 20, 2020

Technical Note on Categorization of Households by Race/Ethnicity

The 2017 and 2019 Household Travel Surveys asked adult respondents to self-identify their race/ethnicity; this person-level information was not asked of children. Respondents could select one or more choices from the following list, which corresponds to the options used by the U.S. Census:

- *African American or Black*
- *American Indian or Alaska Native*
- *Asian*
- *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*
- *Hispanic*
- *White*
- *Other*
- *Prefer Not to Answer*

Some characteristics/behaviors such as income and residential (re-)location are most appropriately analyzed at the household level. It is, therefore, useful to categorize households by race/ethnicity using the person-level information for adult members in each household. PSRC created household-level racial categories using the following methodology.

Person-level categorization by race/ethnicity

Using the self-identification information, each person was assigned to a single racial group:

- Respondents who selected one choice for race/ethnicity were assigned to that group.
- Those who selected multiple choices were assigned to a multiracial group. Sample sizes in most of these groups, however, were too small for analysis and needed to be combined.
 - Those who selected *African American* and *White* were combined with the *African American* group. Those who selected *Asian* and *White* OR *Hispanic* and *White* were similarly combined with the *Asian* OR *Hispanic* groups, respectively.
 - All other groups were combined into a single *Other Multiracial* group.
- Those who did not select a choice or selected *Prefer Not to Answer* were assigned *Missing*.
- Children under the age of 18 were assigned *Child*.

Household-level categorization by race/ethnicity

Based on the composition of adults and the person-level categorization, each household was assigned to one of the following household racial categories:

- African American – all adults are in the *African American* group; OR a mix of adults in the *African American* and *White* groups.ⁱ
- Asian – all adults are in the *Asian* group; OR a mix of adults in the *Asian* and *White* groups.
- Hispanic – all adults are in the *Hispanic* group; OR a mix of adults in the *Hispanic* and *White* groups.
- Missing – any or all adults are in the *Missing* group.
- Non-Hispanic White – all adults are in the *White* group.
- Other – all adults are in the *American Indian or Alaska Native*, *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*, or *Other Multiracial* groups; OR the household composition was not reflected in any of the other categories.ⁱⁱ

For more information, contact Brian Lee at blee@psrc.org.

ⁱ Households with both African American and white residents were categorized with households comprised solely of African Americans because disaggregating these households led to small sample sizes, lacking validity. They were also combined because some survey results (e.g., reporting of displacement) suggest these households have similarities. The same was true for the Asian and Hispanic household categories. This aggregation approach for households parallels the one used at the person-level for categorizing multiracial individuals.

ⁱⁱ This household racial category is a composite of many smaller categories, all of which had small sample sizes in the survey.