

# **Effects of the Potential Changes in the OMB Standards on Race and Ethnicity on Vital Statistics**

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## **Proposed changes to the classification and collection of data on race and Hispanic ethnicity in the 2020 census include:**

- **Combining the separate race and Hispanic ethnicity questions into one question.**
- **Adding a new category: Middle Eastern or North African (MENA).**
- **Possibly permitting multiple ethnicities/races (for example, Puerto Rican and Black).**

## **Rationale for change in OMB standards:**

- **Increase the reporting of data on race and Hispanic ethnicity (and reduce the need to impute race for the many Hispanic persons who do not answer the current race question).**
- **Improve the accuracy and reliability of data on ethnicity and race.**
- **Elicit more detailed data on ethnicity and race.**

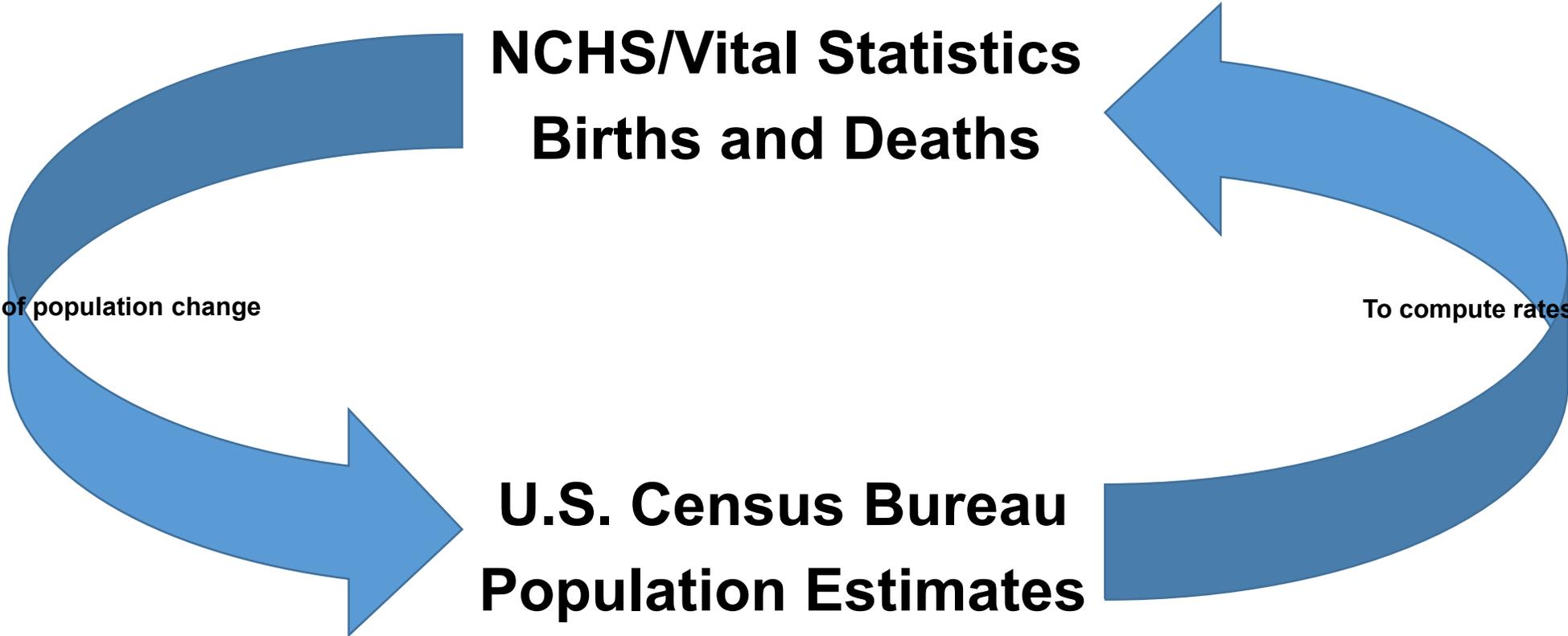
# Interrelation of NCHS/Vital Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau

**NCHS/Vital Statistics  
Births and Deaths**

**U.S. Census Bureau  
Population Estimates**

Components of population change

To compute rates and weights



## **Historical Perspective:**

**“Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of  
Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity”  
and Vital Statistics**

**The two major changes that resulted from the “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” issued by OMB in 1997 were:**

- **The expansion in the minimum set of race categories used by Federal agencies for identification of race:**

## **Under the 1977 OMB Standards:**

**4 categories**

**American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN)**

**Asian or Pacific Islander (API)**

**Black or African American (Black)**

**White**

## **Under the 1997 (Revised) OMB Standards:**

**5 categories**

**American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN)**

**Asian**

**Black or African American (Black)**

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)**

**White**

**And,**

- **The express mandate to allow respondents to select one or more race categories when responding to a query on their racial identity.**

# Hispanic origin and Race Items from the 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth:

21. MOTHER OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? (Check the box that best describes whether the mother is Spanish/Hispanic/Latina. Check the "No" box if mother is not Spanish/Hispanic/Latina)

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latina
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicana
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latina

(Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. MOTHER'S RACE (Check one or more races to indicate what the mother considers herself to be)

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native  
(Name of the enrolled or principal tribe) \_\_\_\_\_
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

# Hispanic origin and Race Items from the 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death:

52. DECEDENT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? Check the box that best describes whether the decedent is Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Check the "No" box if decedent is not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

53. DECEDENT'S RACE (Check one or more races to indicate what the decedent considered himself or herself to be)

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native (Name of the enrolled or principal tribe) \_\_\_\_\_
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

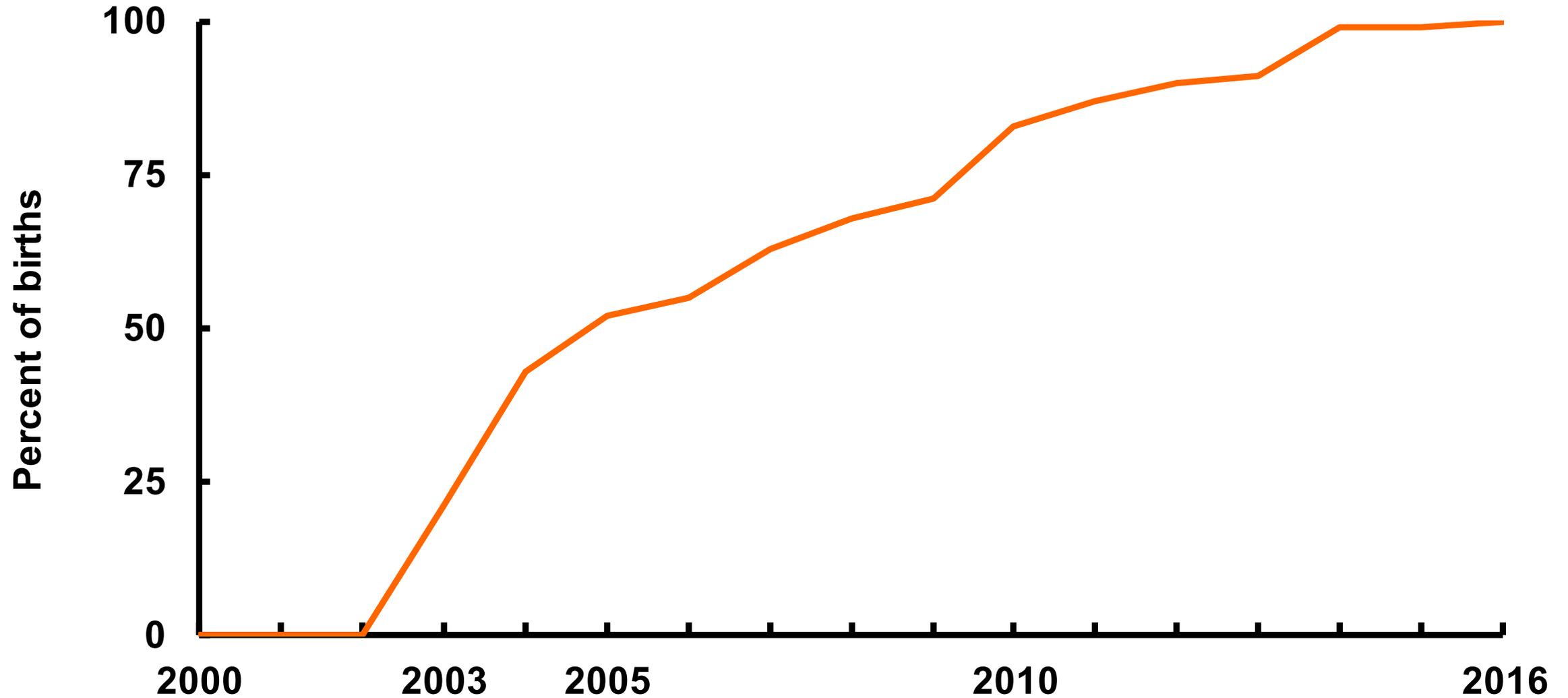
## **Impact of the 1997 (revised) OMB standards on the collection of birth and death vital statistics data:**

- **A delayed/staggered implementation of the standards across the 57 (independent) vital statistics *jurisdictions*, complicated by the implementation of the 2003 Revisions of the U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth and Death.**

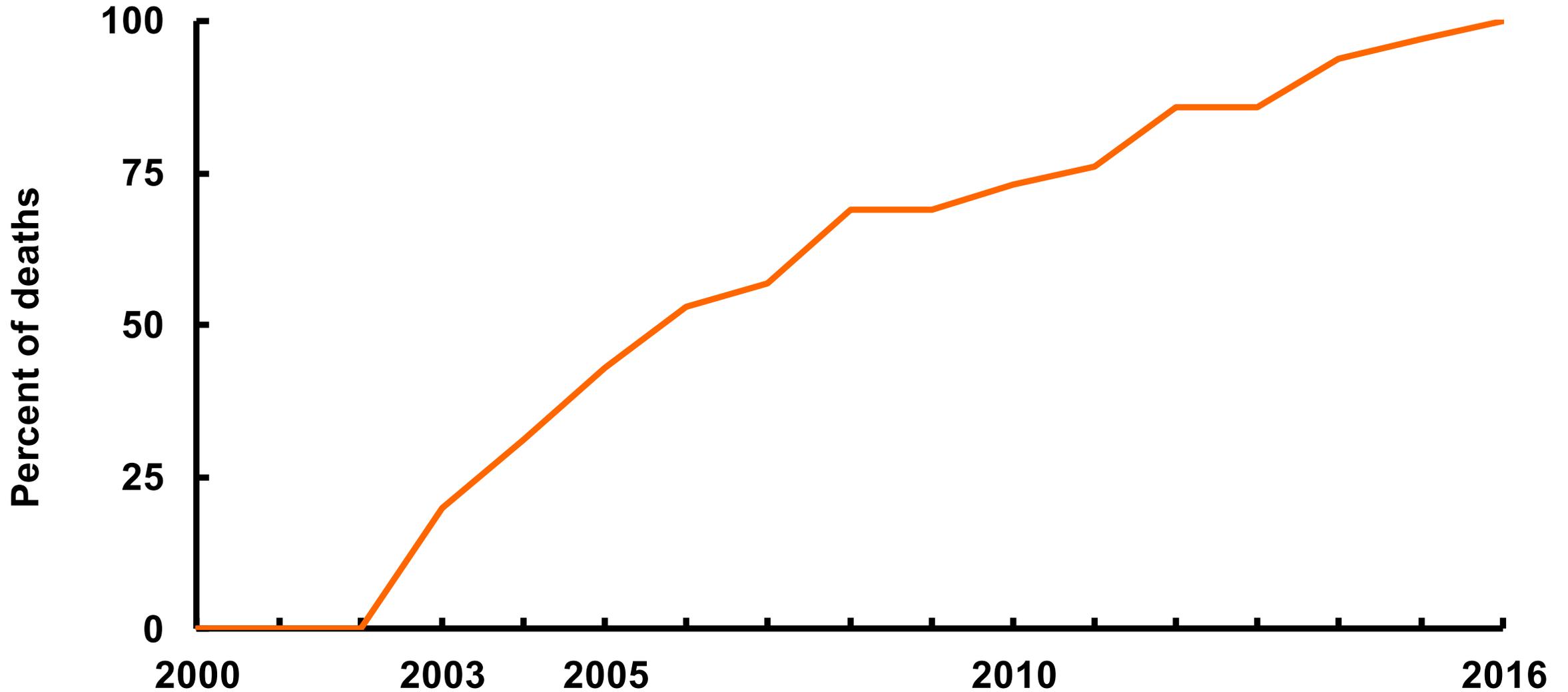
# **Impact of the 1997 (revised) OMB standards on the collection of birth and death vital statistics data : Continued**

- **The need to “bridge” race data (population estimates, births, and deaths) collected using the 1997 (revised) OMB standards in order to be consistent with data collected using the 1977 OMB standards during the transition to full implementation of the new standards, necessary to produce (sufficiently) comparable data for estimation and analysis of race-specific statistics.**

# Percent of Total Births Reported Using the 1997 (Revised) OMB Standards: United States, 2000-2016



# Percent of Total Death Reported Using the 1997 (Revised) OMB Standards: United States, 2000-2016



**Potential effects of the proposed changes to  
OMB standards:**

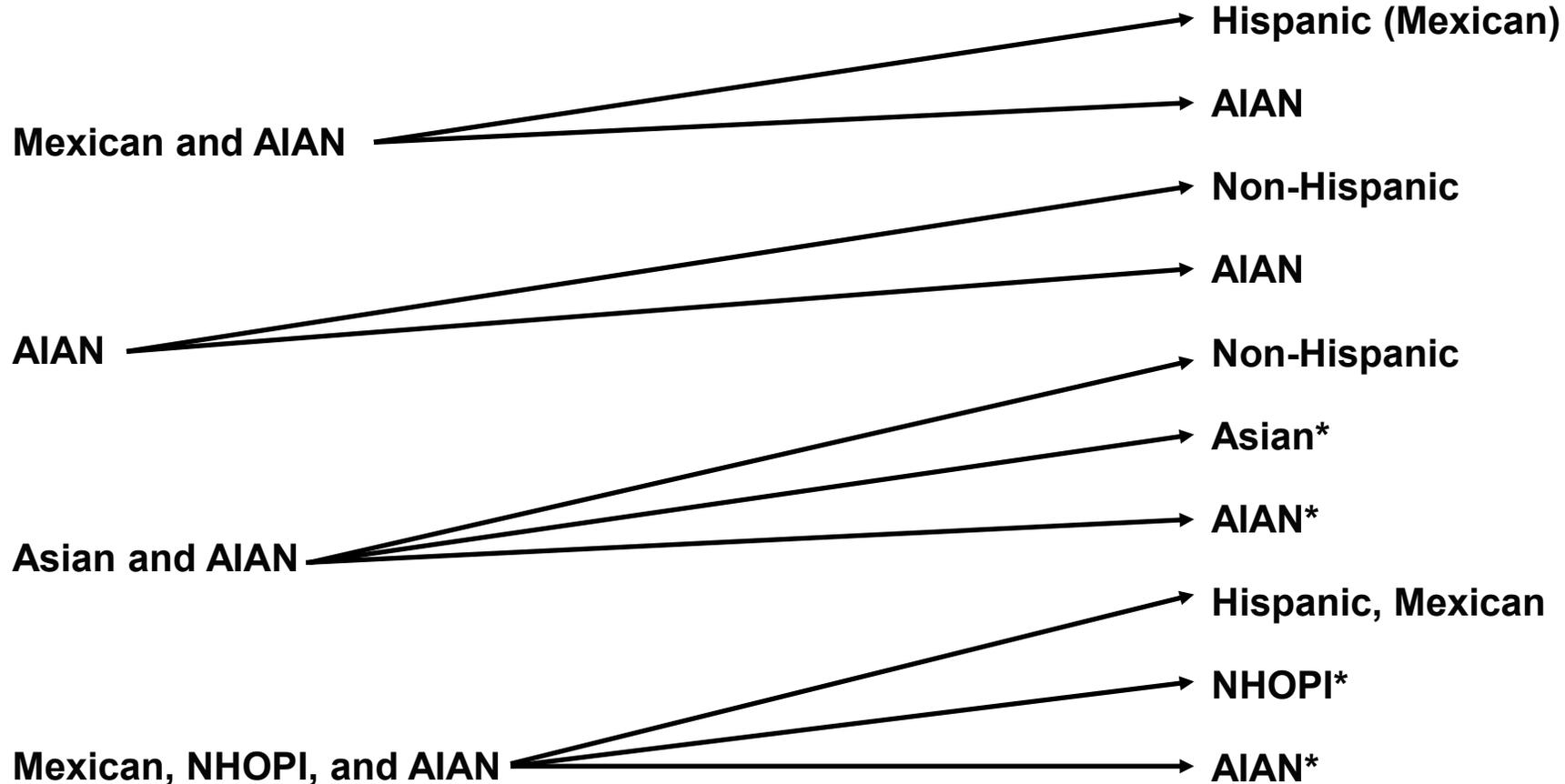
## **Potential effects of combining Hispanic ethnicity and race into one question:**

- **Minor/Short-term: The need to map race and Hispanic origin responses between the two data collection systems.**
- **Major/Long-term: The need to revise the race and Hispanic origin items on the birth and death certificates due to non-comparability with the new combined race-ethnicity question, which would be costly and, potentially, lengthy.**
- **More generally: The potential impact on population counts by race and Hispanic origin for survey weights and rates (discontinuity in trend data by Hispanic origin and race).**

# Example of mapping of Hispanic ethnicity and race responses:

Responses from combined question:

Mapped responses:



## **Potential effects of and issues with adding a new category: Middle Eastern or North African (MENA):**

- **The diversity of MENA population (see next slide).**
- **The relatively small size of the MENA population (reporting of births and deaths).**

# MENA groups and NCHS race codes:

MENA group:	NCHS code:	MENA group:	NCHS code:
Algerian	101	Israeli	122
Amazigh	202	Jordanian	117
Berber	102	Kurds	996/998
Arab	102	Kuwaiti	101
Assyrian	112	Lebanese	116
Bahrain	120	Libya	101
Bedouin	996/998	Moroccan	633
Chaldean	996/998	Oman	102
Copts	996/998	Palestinian	118
Druze	996/998	Qatar	120
Egyptian	113	Saudi Arabia	102
Iranian	114	Syrian	119
Iraqi	115	Syriac	996/998
		Tunisia	101
		United Arab Emirates	635
		Yemen	120

**While most MENA groups are coded as “white” (100-199), a number of groups (including Moroccan, United Arab Emirates, Bedouin, Chaldean, Copts, Druze, Kurds, and Syriac) are coded as “some other” race (600-999) by NCHS (and Census Bureau).**

**These groups are then imputed for mother and decedent to one of the OMB race categories.**

**Coding these MENA groups as “white” will have some impact on the reporting of birth and death data by race.**

## **Potential effects of and issues with adding a new category: Middle Eastern or North African (MENA):**

- The diversity of MENA population (see next slide).
- **The relatively small size of the MENA population (reporting of births and deaths for the group).**

## **Discussion points:**

- **Adequate notification of NCHS/Vital Statistics partners and stakeholders of the proposed changes.**
- **Adequate assessment of impact of these changes on birth and death data.**
- **Adequate assessment of costs and time for NCHS to implement the changes.**