Demographic Changes in the U.S. White Population:
Implications for OMB Standards

Dr. Jen'nan G. Read
Sally Dalton Robinson Professor
Chair of Sociology
Duke University

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Representing Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC)

Today

1. **Reiterate PAA and APC support for combined race/ethnicity question and inclusion of MENA category.**

2. **Focus on challenges to using revised standards.**

3. **Address Changes in U.S. White Population, 1960-2019**
   - Growth in MENA and Eastern European groups
   - Decline in western European groups

3. **Discuss Implications of changes for OMB revisions**
   - Comparability of combined question with historical data
   - Placement of and terminology for MENA category
   - Guidance and prompts for respondents

4. **Share Recommendations**

Goals of OMB Standards

Developed in 1977 and revised in 1997 to:

1. Provide <u>consistent</u> data on race and ethnicity throughout the Federal Government.

2. Ensure <u>comparability</u> of race and ethnicity across federal data sets.

3. Maximize <u>quality</u> of the data by requiring consistent methods for maintaining, collecting and representing data.

Changes in U.S. Racial/ethnic Groups

1. **Origins of foreign-born 1960 vs. 2019**
   - 1960: 85% western European and North American
   - 2019: only 10%; Asia (31%) and Latin America (50%)

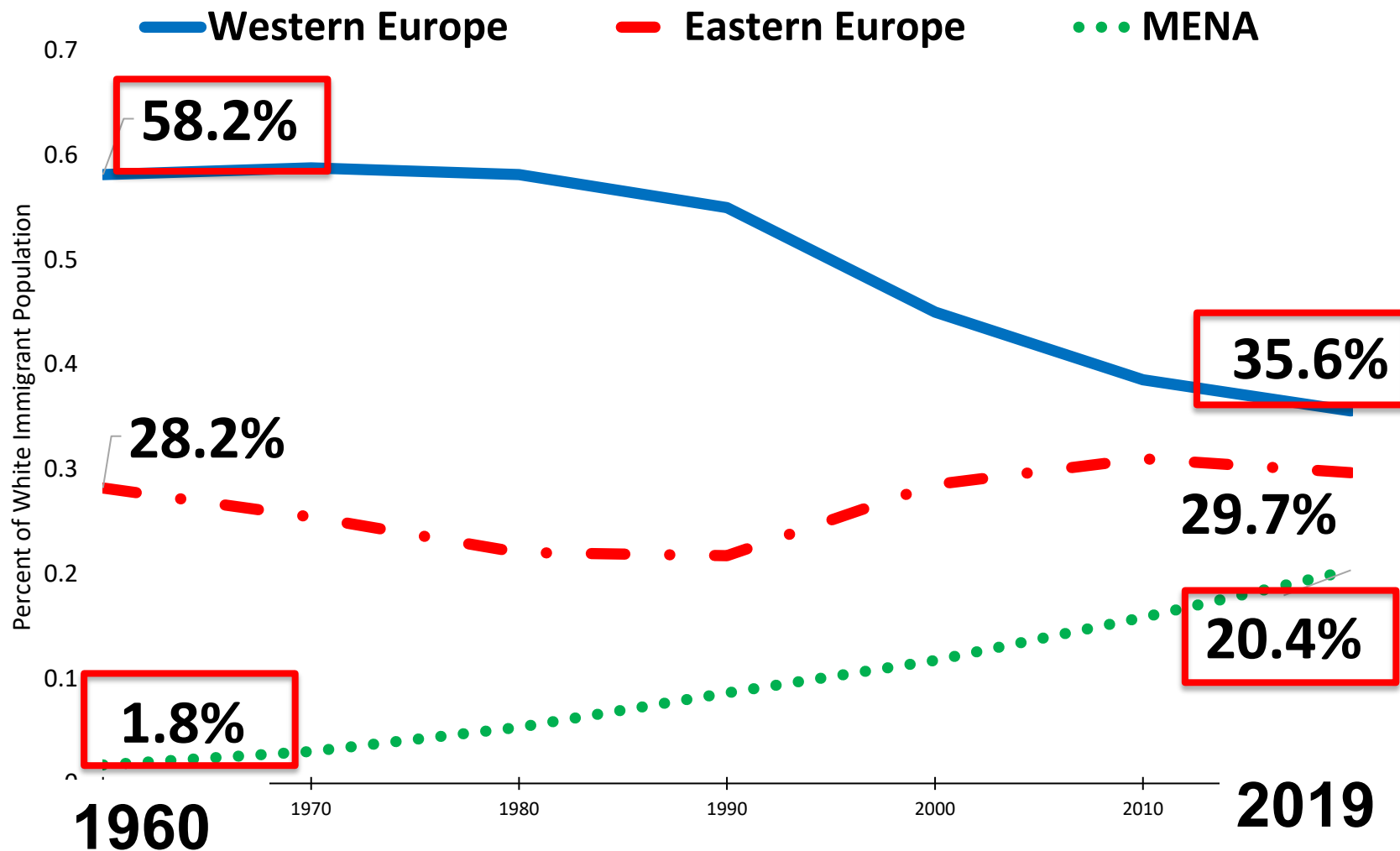2. **Evidence of diversity <u>within</u> OMB categories**
   - Hispanic (e.g., Alcántara et al. 2020; Fenelon et al. 2017);
   - Asian (e.g., Brown et al. 2016; Cook et al. 2017; Gee & Ponce 2010)
   - Black (e.g., Larimore et al. 2020; Hamilton & Green 2017)
   - **Whites?**

Evidence on Whites

1. Typically used in the aggregate to measure U.S. racial/ethnic disparities.

2. Heterogeneity *among* Whites rarely examined.

   Whites defined as:

   "…persons who trace their ancestries to any of the original peoples of <u>Europe</u>, the <u>Middle East</u>, or <u>North Africa</u>."

3. 100+ White ancestries in U.S. Census
   - **1980**: 55% of <u>total U.S. population</u> German, Irish, English
   - **2019**: dropped to 23%
   - **Immigration** driving force of change

Origins of Non-Hispanic White Immigrants, 1960-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Migration Policy Institute

OMB categories provide critical data on Whites

Current standards (ACS):

6 **What is Person 1's race?**
Mark (X) one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

☐ White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.*

13 **What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?**

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

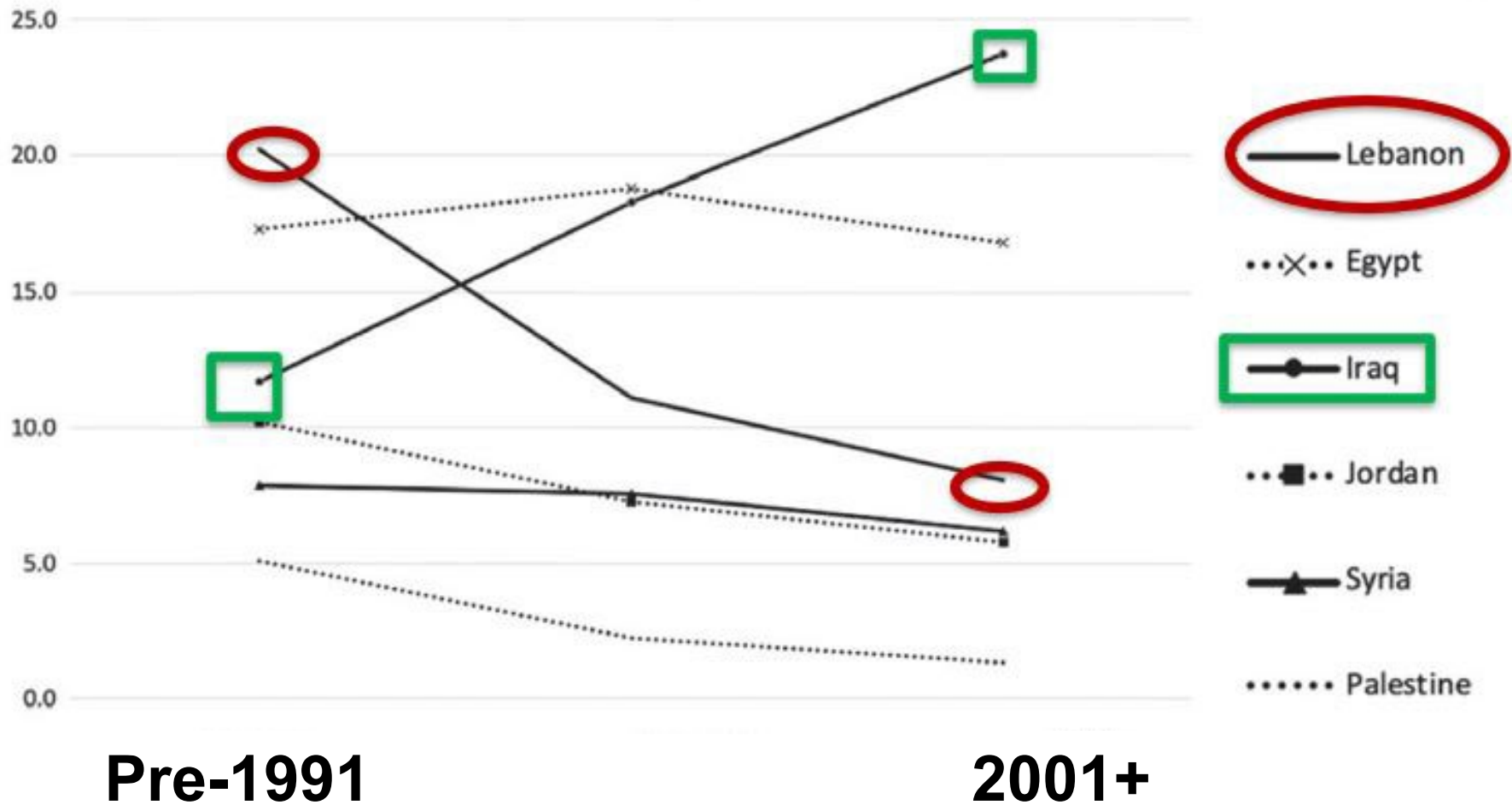# Current standards capture White diversity

MENA

- Aden
- Algeria
- Bahrain
- **Egypt**
- **Iran**
- **Iraq**
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- **Lebanon**
- Libya
- Morocco
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- **Syria**
- **Turkey**
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

Eastern Europe

- Belarus
- **Boznia**
- Chechoslavakia
- **Hungary**
- Latavia
- Lithuania
- **Poland**
- **Romania**
- **Russia**
- **Ukraine**
- Other FSU

Diversity among MENA immigrants by Arrival Cohort

Pre-1991   2001+

Diversity is Consequential

1. **Health disparities**
   - Poorer mental and physical health outcomes for MENA and eastern European Whites.

2. **Poverty rates**
   - Higher among MENA and eastern European Whites compared to Whites of western European origin.

3. OMB standards have provided **consistent** data to examine trends over time.

New Combined Question

What is your race or ethnicity?
Select all that apply AND enter additional details in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.

☐ **WHITE** – *Provide details below.*

☐ German	☐ Irish	☐ English
☐ Italian	☐ Polish	☐ French

Enter, for example, Scottish, Norwegian, Dutch, etc.

☐ **HISPANIC OR LATINO** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Mexican or Mexican American	☐ Puerto Rican	☐ Cuban
☐ Salvadoran	☐ Dominican	☐ Colombian

Enter, for example, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

☐ **BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ African American	☐ Jamaican	☐ Haitian
☐ Nigerian	☐ Ethiopian	☐ Somali

Enter, for example, Ghanaian, South African, Barbadian, etc.

☐ **ASIAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Chinese	☐ Filipino	☐ Asian Indian
☐ Vietnamese	☐ Korean	☐ Japanese

Enter, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

☐ **AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE** – *Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Tribal Government, Tlingit, etc.*

☐ **MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Lebanese	☐ Iranian	☐ Egyptian
☐ Syrian	☐ Moroccan	☐ Israeli

Enter, for example, Algerian, Iraqi, Kurdish, etc.

☐ **NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Native Hawaiian	☐ Samoan	☐ Chamorro
☐ Tongan	☐ Fijian	☐ Marshallese

Enter, for example, Palauan, Tahitian, Chuukese, etc.

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☐ **WHITE** – *Provide details below.*

☐ German	☐ Irish	☐ English
☐ Italian	☐ Polish	☐ French

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☐ **MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Lebanese	☐ Iranian	☐ Egyptian
☐ Syrian	☐ Moroccan	☐ Israeli

Enter, for example, Algerian, Iraqi, Kurdish, etc.

1. **"White" loses MENA prompts**
2. **"MENA" listed near bottom**

Inconsistencies are Problematic

CURRENT

COMBINED

Comparability compromised:
What about persons of Arab ancestry who identify as white?

Recommendations

1. Proceed with development of MENA category.

2. Proceed with development of combined race and ethnicity question.

3. Ensure comparability in group identification.

4. Be consistent in guidance and prompts for respondents.

Reference articles

- 2021. Read, Jen'nan Ghazal, Scott M. Lynch, and Jessica S. West. "Disaggregating Heterogeneity among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence and Implications for U.S. Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities." *Population Research and Policy Review*, 40(1), 9-31. DOI 10.1007/s11113-020-09632-5

- 2021. Kauh, Tina J., Jen'nan Ghazal Read, and A.J. Scheitler. "The Critical Role of Racial/Ethnic Data Disaggregation for Health Equity." *Population Research and Policy Review*, 40(1), 1-7.

- 2020. Read, Jen'nan Ghazal, Jessica S. West, and Christina Kamis. "Immigration and Health among non-Hispanic Whites: The Impact of Arrival Cohort and Region of Birth." *Social Science & Medicine* Volume 246. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112754

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Thank you

Questions?

jennan.read@duke.edu