RACE

Race

Universe

All persons

Description

RACE represents the self-reported racial identity of respondents.

Comparability

In the 2008 CNSS, respondents could self-identify their race from a list of four racial categories, the category “Something else” with the option of specifying their race, and “Do not know/Refused.” Hence, respondents could self-identify with only one racial group in 2008.

The 2009 and 2010 CNSS contained a series of five race questions, one for each of four racial groups (white, African-American, Native American, Asian) and Other race *(*variables RACE@a to RACE@e).This allowed respondents to self-identify with more than one racial group. For these years, CISER created a RACE variable (comparable to its use in the 2008 survey) based on RACE@a – RACE@e values. Respondents who self-reported one racial group were assigned to that group for RACE.

For those who self-identified with more than one race, respondents’ Census tracts of residence were searched to determine the majority race for each tract. In 2009, that was established using the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. For 2010, this was established using the American Community Survey 2005-2009 estimates. In all cases, the racial majority of the tracts coincided with the “Largest Group” method of racial assignment detailed in *United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories* (Vital and Health Statistics Series 2, Number 135, September 2003). In each year, several persons reported being of some other race (RACE@e) and provided information on their racial identify. Based on their responses and the racial composition of their tracts of residence, those persons were designated as white for the purpose of the 2009 and 2010 RACE variable constructed by CISER.

Question to respondent

2008: What best describes your race?

Instructions to interviewer