

To reduce the categories of racial data to a manageable number, the Office of Management and Budget on March 9, 2000, issued [OMB Bulletin No. 00-02](#), “Guidance on Aggregation and Allocation of Data on Race for Use in Civil Rights Monitoring and Enforcement.” The bulletin suggests that agencies track:

1. The five single-race categories;
2. The four most commonly reported combinations of two races: American Indian or Alaska Native and White; Asian and White; Black or African American and White; and American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American;
3. Any other combinations of two or more races that represent more than 1 percent of the population in a jurisdiction; and
4. The balance reporting more than one race.

The bulletin also suggests rules for allocating multiple race responses when one racial minority brings a claim. The rules generally require that the complaining minority be allocated all those who have indicated they are any part of that racial minority.

To provide further guidance to states and local governments that must submit their redistricting plans for preclearance before they can take effect, the U.S. Department of Justice on Jan. 18, 2001, issued a notice called “Guidance Concerning Redistricting and Retrogression Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973c.” [66 Fed. Reg. 5412](#). The guidance says that, in most of the usual cases, the department will analyze only eight categories of race data:

1. Non-Hispanic White
2. Non-Hispanic Black plus Non-Hispanic Black and White
3. Non-Hispanic Asian plus Non-Hispanic Asian and White
4. Non-Hispanic American Indian plus Non-Hispanic American Indian and White
5. Non-Hispanic Pacific Islander plus Non-Hispanic Pacific Islander and White
6. Non-Hispanic Some Other Race plus Non-Hispanic Some Other Race and White
7. Non-Hispanic Other multiple-race (where more than one minority race is listed)
8. Hispanic

The total of these racial groups will add to 100 percent.

In the 2000 census, out of 281 million people, 6.8 million reported they were of two or more races; 93 percent of those reported only two races.