Comments on AAPI Data to Subcommittee on Populations, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

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Acknowledge Progress
Particularly Census

- Better counts -- outreach

- More sensitivity to differences -- multi, HH

- Better reporting -- web based

- Better access/dissemination of public data

- Enhanced community capacity -- CIC

- More research tools -- regional centers, GIS

Framing the Discussion
The Numerator and Denominator Problem

- Important to have good prevalence data
- Need data on occurrences and base population
- Identify group disparities
- Determine causal factors
- Design policies, strategies and programs
- Challenge of assembling ethnic-specific data

Common Criteria

- Applicable to Numerator and Denominator
- Consistency in grouping
- Stability in definition of categories
- Timeliness
- Accuracy and coverage
- (plus standard concern about validity, etc.)

Census Based Denominator

- Problems with all four criteria

- Inconsistent grouping (race, ethnicity, ancestry, mixed race) and limited tabulations

- Instability of definition of categories (change in census categories, change in self identification)

- Differential undercount (important point is not overall undercount, but systematic variation)

- Infrequent collection and delayed releases (once every decade and 3+ years to release), rely on population estimates

Numerator v. Denominator Issues

- Drift in the data for the two on all four criteria

- Different grouping (handling of multiple identity)

- Difference in timing (intra-census estimates)

- Difference in coverage (participants v. pop.)

- Differences in legal/administrative eligibility versus self reported.

Geographic Biases

- Domination by what exists -- CHIS, Ha. HIS

- Limited representation

How Severe?

- Consistency in grouping -- Multi-racial and Native Hawaiians; Hispanic and Filipinos

- Stability in definition of categories -- Single v. multi-racial bridging; self-report, Native Hawaiians and Chinese

- Timeliness -- Population estimates more problematic for immigrant and high multi-racial populations.

- Accuracy and coverage -- Small but may be large differentials

- Program v. self reported -- problematic for indigenous populations, such as Native Hawaiians

Some Recommendations

- Encourage more research on racial/ethnic identification, particular BoC post-survey

- Encourage implementation of American Community Survey with over sample of AAPI

- Assess and improve administrative system (e.g., bridging to other data)

- Develop better sampling tools for health interview surveys (better surname list and administrative supplement)