### RESEARCH REPORT SERIES

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# **Effect of Request for Social Security Numbers on Response Rates and Item Nonresponse**

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#### **Abstract**

This memorandum summarizes findings from the Simplified Questionnaire Test (SQT) that bear on privacy and confidentiality issues, particularly as these are related to the use of administrative records. The relevant findings are those concerning the effect of asking for Social Security Numbers (SSN's) on (l) overall response rate, (2) item nonresponse rates, and (3) respondent reactions to filling out the census form. The memorandum supplements findings reported by John H. Thompson (June 24, 1992) and Nancy Bates (June 18, 1992) with analyses of the responses to the debriefing questionnaires.

**Keywords:** social security number, SSN, non-response

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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Bureau of the Census

Washington, DC 20233-0001

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Memorandum for:

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Chief, Year 2000 Research and Development Staff

Through:

Elizabeth A. Martin Yuw

Chief, Center for Survey Methods Research

From:

Eleanor Singer, Nancy Bates, and Esther Miller

Center for Survey Methods Research

Subject:

Effect of Request for Social Security Numbers

on Response Rates and Item Nonresponse

This memorandum summarizes findings from the Simplified Questionnaire Test (SQT) that bear on privacy and confidentiality issues, particularly as these are related to the use of administrative records. The relevant findings are those concerning the effect of asking for Social Security Numbers (SSN's) on (1) overall response rate, (2) item nonresponse rates, and (3) respondent reactions to filling out the census form. The memorandum supplements findings reported by John H. Thompson (June 24, 1992) and Nancy Bates (June 18, 1992) with analyses of the responses to the debriefing questionnaires.

#### 1. Overall Response

As noted in the memorandum from John H. Thompson, the cost in overall response rate of asking for SSN's was 3.4 percentage points: 6.2 in the Low Response Areas (LRA's) and 3.0 in all others. The difference is statistically significant for the LRA's and for the total sample, but not for those in "other" areas.

#### 2. Item Nonresponse

As noted in the memorandum from Nancy Bates, the cost in item nonresponse (i.e., item left blank, item refused, or item less than 9 digits) of asking for SSN was 13.9 percentage points--a larger percentage than any other item, though nonresponse to the question about Hispanic origin was a close second with some 11 percentage points.

Item nonresponse rates are based on 1,924 SSN forms that were mailed back by the time of closeout to the SQT on May 15, 1992. In contrast to the overall response rates reported above, they do not vary at all by response stratum. Item nonresponse to the question about SSN was 14.0% in the LRA's and 13.9% among all others; it was 17.7% when calculated on a per-household rather than on a per-person basis, because the probability that SSN was missing for at least one member of the household was greater than the average probability for individuals.

There is no indication that item nonresponse to the question about SSN varied by race, gender, or Hispanic background. With one exception, none of the differences between categories of these variables were statistically significant. The single exception was Asian-Pacific Islanders, who had a higher probability of responding to the request for SSN than Whites (93.8% vs 86.1%). However, item nonresponse did increase by person number and was highest for the two youngest age groups--i.e., those 1-4 and 5-17 years of age, who had item nonresponse rates of 35.4% and 25.4%, respectively. These findings, together with others reported below, suggest at least a part of the nonresponse to the request for SSN's may be due to retrieval problems, or to the fact that not everyone in the household had a SSN. However, even Person 1, for whom these problems are presumably less, had a nonresponse rate to this item of 8.9%.

#### 3. Respondent Reactions to the Request for SSN's

Respondent reactions to the request for SSN's, as measured by the debriefing interviews, are used to supplement and interpret the findings reported above.

Debriefing interviews were predesignated for 2,120 households (212 per panel, per stratum). Of these, 1,961 were sent to the Jeffersonville telephone unit for follow-up (159 were postmaster returns or undeliverable cases). As would be expected on the basis of the overall response rate, a little more than 60% of these households (1,223) had returned test questionnaires; 738 had not. The debriefing interview response rate for those who had returned the questionnaire (designated as "respondent interviews") was 75.9%; for those who had failed to return the questionnaire (designated as "nonrespondent interviews"), it was 12.9%. Thus, because of the very small number of nonrespondent debriefing interviews, the findings reported below derive exclusively from interviews with respondents. Only those questions are discussed that have some relevance to the SSN, either as a source of inconvenience or as a source of concern about privacy/confidentiality issues.

Q. 6 of the respondent debriefing questionnaire asked whether the person filling out the form had done it all at once or stopped part way through. Only 2.1% overall said they had stopped part way through; those receiving the form requesting SSN's were no more likely to say they had stopped than those receiving any other form. However, when asked an

The distribution of nonresponse among those who had returned the questionnaire was as follows: 16.3% refused the debriefing interview; 20% were never reached at home; for 52% no phone number could be found; and 11.6% could not be interviewed for other reasons. Among those not returning the questionnaire, nonresponse was distributed as follows: 2.2% refused; 3.4% were never reached at home; and 4.8% could not be interviewed for "other" reasons. For the vast majority of nonrespondents--75%--no phone number could be found, and for an additional 14.6% the phone number found turned out to be a wrong or a nonworking number.

open-ended question about their reasons for stopping part way through, 4 out of 7 people said they did so to obtain a family member's SSN (N=3) or to think about whether to supply the SSN (N=1).

- Q. 8 of the respondent debriefing questionnaire asked whether the respondent had had any problems with the form. About 3% overall said they had had some problems; there were no differences by form in the number reporting any problems. In response to a follow-up open-ended question, only one person mentioned release of the SSN as a reason for the problem.
- Q. 10 asked whether there were any questions the respondent did not want to answer. Those receiving the form requesting the SSN who replied to this question (N=174) were much more likely to say there were such questions (10.3%) than those receiving the corresponding form without the request for SSN's (3.9%; N=208). Fourteen of the 20 responses from those receiving the SSN form who said there were some questions they did not want to answer mentioned SSN as the offending question in response to an open-ended probe--far more than those mentioning any other question on any of the forms.
- Q. 14 asked whether the form contained any questions for which the respondent had a problem getting the information. Overall, 2.5% said they had a problem; respondents getting the SSN form were no more likely to report problems than those getting any other form, but four out of five of those who did mention a problem with Panel 4 mentioned the SSN as the question for which they had trouble getting information.
- Q. 21 asked whether the respondent's reaction to the form was favorable or unfavorable; 71.4% overall reported their reaction as favorable (3.4%, unfavorable; 22.4%, neither; 2.8%, DK), and there were no differences in these responses by form. Only one person mentioned the question about SSN as the reason for an unfavorable reaction, pointing out that the form did not explain well enough who was going to get access to the SSN provided.
- Q. 23 asked whether the form would be a good idea or a bad idea for the next census; 79.9% said it was a good idea (5.2%, bad; 12.5%, neither; 2.3%, DK). There were no significant differences by form, and no one said the form was a bad idea because of the question about the SSN.

#### <u>Implications of the Findings</u>

The findings from the SQT suggest the following conclusions:

- 1. The overall drop in response rate due to asking for the SSN is statistically significant but not very large--3.4 percentage points in the sample as a whole, though twice as large in the LRA stratum as among all others.
- 2. Among those returning the census form, 13.9% failed to answer the question about SSN, and 17.7% of households were missing this information for at least one member. Thus, additional follow-up would be required for 21.1% of households as a result of attrition in mail

response (3.4% overall) and increased item nonresponse (17.7%) due to the request for the SSN.

- 3. There is no difference in item nonresponse between the LRA and the other stratum; if individuals in Low Response Areas return the form at all, they are as likely as those in other areas to provide a Social Security number, and the same is true of households.
- 4. Responses to the debriefing interviews, as well as the pattern of nonresponse by age and person number, suggest that a substantial part of the failure to provide a SSN was due to the difficulty of locating the information rather than resistance to the request. But one can get some indication of the level of resistance by looking at the nonresponse to the request for SSN by Person 1. On the assumption that they are filling out the form themselves and therefore know their own SSN, we can speculate that roughly 1 in 11 people, at a maximum, are choosing not to provide the number.
- 5. Respondents receiving the form requesting SSN's were more likely than those receiving the corresponding form without the request for SSN's to say there were some questions they did not want to answer; the large majority of these respondents identified the SSN as the question they did not want to answer. And although the form requesting SSN's was no more likely than other forms to be perceived as causing difficulties or to be regarded unfavorably, when difficulties were identified for this form, they tended to focus on the SSN.
- The conclusions from the debriefing questionnaires are based entirely on interviews with those returning the test census form. Whether reactions to the SSN would loom larger in the responses of those who did not return the form is impossible to say.
- 7. The findings reported above are based on responses to one test census form only. Thus, at least two questions can be raised concerning the generalizability of the findings: (a) Would reactions be different if the request for SSN's were made on the "normal" Census short form, as opposed to the micro form? (b) How would reactions change if interest groups generated considerable negative publicity about the request for SSN's prior to the next Census?

#### cc:

- D. Dillman (DIR)
- D. Bolton (2KS)
- C. Miller
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Q.3 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was probably (something important)?

FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Said Census/From Census	42.9	43.0	42.8	42.2	48.1
	54	58	71	49	51
Pre-notice letter	12.7	17.0	10.8	13.8	13.2
	16	23	18	16	14
Return Address	28.6	28.9	34.3	27.6	28.3
	36	39	57	32	30
Other/Answer unclear	11.1	8.1	8.4	15.5	7.5
	14	11	14	18	8
Don't know	4.8	3.0	3.6	0.9	2.8
	6	4	6	1	3
TOTAL	126	135	166	116	106

# Q.3 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was probably (junk mail)?

FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Size of envelope	25.0 4	21.4	15.4 2	15.0 3	11.1
Plainness/Whiteness of envelope	18.8 3	14.3 2	7.7 1	20.0 4	0.0
Addressed to "resident"	6.2 1	14.3 2	15.4 2	10.0 2	22.2 2
Wrong timing for a Census	6.2 1	0.0	7.7 1	15.0 3	0.0
Resembles other junk mail	18.8 3	28.6 4	46.2 6	5.0 1	55.6 5
Didn't look official/important	6.2 1	0.0 0	7.7 1	5.0 1	11.1 1
Other/Answer unclear	18.8 3	21.4 3	0.0 0	15.0 3	0.0 0
Don't know/Don't remember	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0	15.0 3	0.0 0
TOTAL	16	14	13 -	20	9

# Q.5 For what reasons did you lay it aside?

FORM TYPE \*

CODE	CONTROL	B00KLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
No time/Busy/Not convenient	32.3	42.2	35.3	36.0	35.5
	42	57	53	45	38
Just returning/leaving home	11.5	5.2	10.7	5.6	6.5
	15	7	16	7	7
Family obligations/Interrupted dinner	8.5	8.1	6.7	6.4	6.5
	11	11	10	8	7
Reads mail and pays the bills at the same time	4.6	3.7	4.0	4.8	7.5
	6	5	6	6	8
Put off until the next day	5.4	5.2	7.3	2.4	5.6
	7	7	11	3	6
Habit of mail handling	4.6 6	7.4 10	4.7	14.4 18	3.7 4
Waited for deadline	2.3 3	0.0	6.7 10	4.0 5	2.8 3
Didn't feel like it/Didn't think it was important	6.2	7.4	8.0	4.8	5.6
	8	10	- 12	6	6
Wanted to think about it	4.6 6	2.2	2.7 4	3.2 4	2.8 3
Needed information from a household member/Wanted family member to see it	6.2 8	4.4 6 ,	2.0	5.6 7	4.7 5
Gave it to homeowner	0.0	1.5 2	0.0	0.0 0	0.0

(TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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Duplicate Census/Timing of Census	1.5 2	∗ 0.7 1	0.7	0.8	0.9 1
Anger towards Government	0.0	0.0 0	0.0	1.6 2	0.9 1
Other (Inconsistent w/question)/ Answer Unclear	4.6 6	11.1 15	8.7 13	8.8 11	15.0 16
Received form late/Didn't think I had time	3.1 4	0.0	0.0	0.0 0	0.0
Needed assistance/Physical (not informational)/Comprehension	4.6 6	0.7	2.7 4	1.6 2	1.9 2
TOTAL	130	135	150	125	107

# Q.7 Why did you stop part way through?

FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Interrupted	50.0 2	50.0 3	20.0 1	0.0	0.0
Multiple people in the household	0.0	0.0 0	0.0	14.3 1	0.0 0
To obtain property value	25.0 1	16.7 1	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0
To obtain family member's date of birth	0.0	0.0	20.0 1	0.0	0.0 0
To obtain family member's SSN	0.0	0.0 0	0.0	42.9 3	0.0 0
Had to think about giving SSN	0.0	0.0 0	0.0	14.3 1	0.0
Didn't like question on race	0.0	0.0 0	40.0 2	14.3 1	0.0 0
Didn't like a question	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0	14.3 1	0.0 0
Wanted to take my time	25.0 1	0.0 0	- 0.0 0	0.0	0.0 0
Other/Answer unclear	0.0	33.3 2	20.0 1	0.0 0	0.0 0
TOTAL	4	6	5	7	0

# Q.9 What kinds of problems did you have?

### FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Including/Not including people in the household	20.0	20.0 1	0.0	33.3 1	40.0 2
Question on race/Hispanic origin	10.0	20.0 1	66.7 4	33.3 1	0.0
Didn't understand a question(s)/instructions	40.0	20.0 1	0.0 0	0.0 0	0.0 0
Didn't feel like giving SSN	0.0	0.0	0.0 0	33.3 1	0.0
Small print/Faint print/Fosdic	20.0	20.0 1	16.7 1	0.0	40.0 2
Other/Answer unclear	10.0	20.0 1	0.0 0	0.0	20.0 1
Don't know	0.0	0.0	16.7 1	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	10	5	6	3	5

# Q.19 What was the reason or reasons that (this/these) person(s) helped out with part of the form?

### FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Needed help with specific question (not SSN)	7.7 1	14.3	0.0	6.2 1	0.0
Needed help with SSN	0.0 0	4.8	0.0 0	12.5 2	0.0 0
Needed physical assistance	15.4 2	9.5 2	14.3 1	12.5 2	25.0 2
General comprehension issues	30.8 4	9.5 2	14.3 1	6.2 1	0.0
Language Problems	15.4 2	4.8 1	28.6 2	18.8 3	0.0
Each person filled out his/her own section	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0	6.2 1	25.0 2
Usually do things together	15.4 2	38.1 8	0.0 0	25.0 4	12.5 1
No real reason	7.7 1	19.0 4	28.6 2	12.5 2	37.5 3
Other/Answer unclear	7.7 1	0.0 0	14.3 ° 1	0.0	0.0 0
TOTAL	13	21	7	16	8

Q.22 For what reasons did you feel (that your opinion of the census form was unfavorable)?

FORM TYPE \*

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Not enough questions on the form	20.0 2	25.0 2	40.0 2	20.0 1	66.7 2
Problems understanding questions	20.0 2	37.5 3	0.0	20.0 1	0.0 0
Form design issues	30.0 3	25.0 2	20.0 1	0.0	0.0
Don't like government forms	0.0 0	12.5 1	0.0	20.0 1	0.0 0
0ther	30.0 3	0.0	40.0 2	20.0 1	33.3 1
No reason/Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0 1	0.0
TOTAL	10	8	5	5	3

### Q.22 For what reasons did you feel (that your opinion of the census form was favorable)?

FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Fewer questions/Shorter/Less time	25.6	16.8	23.5	32.4	31.1
	31	23	36	45	38
No/Less personal questions	5.0	4.4	3.3	3.6	5.7
	6	6	5	5	7
Structure/Format was easy	0.8 1	2.9	0.7	1.4 2	2.5 3
Easy directions	0.0 0	0.7 1	0.7 1	1.4 2	0.0
Easy (general)	34.7	35.8	32.0	25.2	30.3
	42	49	49	35	37
Physical features of the form	1.7	1.5	3.9	3.6	3.3
	2	2	6	5	4
General comparison to 1990	3.3	0.7	3.9	5.8	5.7
	4	1	6	8	7
Good letter	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0
	0	1	1	1	0
Importance of the Census	12.4	15.3	9.8	8.6	7.4
	15	21	15	12	9

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Civic duty/Something that had to be done	1.7	5.1 <sub>*</sub> 7	2.6	3.6 5	1.6
Other	9.9	11.7	10.5	10.1	6.6
	12	16	16	14	8
Don't know	5.0	4.4	8.5	3.6	5.7
	6	6	13	5	7
TOTAL	121	137	153	139	122

### Q.24 For what reasons did you feel this way? (Positive reasons)

FORM TYPE

CODE	CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Fewer questions/Shorter/Less time	15.7	13.7	20.7	29.2	21.3
	22	22	37	40	26
No/Less personal questions	2.1	3.7	4.5	2.9	4.9
	3	6	8	4	6
Easier to read/Better for elderly	2.1	3.7	2.8	1.5	0.8
	3	6	5	2	1
Easier for foreign language	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
speakers	1		1	0	0
Easier for everyone	3.6	8.1	5.0	2.9	6.6
	5	13	9	4	8
Easier directions	2.1 3	1.2 2	0.0	0.7 1	0.0 0
Structure/Format was easier	3.6	1.2	1.7	0.7	0.0
	5	2	3	1	0
Comparison to the 1990 form	2.9	3.1	5.0	8.0	4.1
	4	5	9	11	5
Easier/Simplified (general)	31.4	38.5	35.8	29.2	29.5
	44	62	64	40	36

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Increase response (more mailback)	4.3	3.7 *	3.9	7.3	11.5
	6	6	7	10	14
Reduce enumerators/Mention of enumeration	1.4	1.2	2.2 4	3.6 5	0.0
Head count	5.0	2.5	3.9	5.8	5.7
	7	4	7	8	7
Demographic/Statistical purposes	3.6 5	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.8 1
Social services/Goverment funding/	2.9	3.7	1.1	0.7	0.0
Census purposes (general)	4	6	2	1	0
Too short/Not enough questions	5.7	4.3	5.0	4.4	3.3
	8	7	9	6	4
Confidentiality	0.0 0	0.0	0.0 0	0.7 1	0.8 1
Neutral/Negative (general)	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.0	1.6
	2	3	1	0	2
Other/Answer unclear	3.6 5	6.2 10	4.5 8	0.0	5.7 7
Don't know/Don't remember	7.9	1.9	2.8	1.5	3.3
	11	3	5	2	4
TOTAL	140	161	179	137	122

# Q.24 For what reasons did you feel this way? (Negative reasons)

### FORM TYPE

CODE		CONTROL	BOOKLET	MICRO	MICRO/SSN	POSTCARD
Not enough questions/Information		16.7 2	30.0 3	50.0 3	33.3 4	90.0 9
Thought question referred to using information from test form for year 2000		8.3 1	0.0	16.7 1	0.0	0.0
Didn't like race question		8.3 1	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0	0.0
Short form wil	l decrease response	0.0	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0	0.0
Want personal enumeration		0.0 0	10.0 1	16.7 1	16.7 2	0.0
Will get throw	n away/Junk mail	0.0 0	10.0 1	0.0	8.3 1	0.0 0
Too hard/Compl	icated/Intimidating	58.3 7	10.0 1	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0
Dislike of government forms/paperwork		8.3 1	0.0	0.0	8.3 1	10.0 1
Other/Answer unclear		0.0 0	40.0 °	16.7 1	33.3 4	0.0 0
Don't know/Don't remember		0.0 0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0	0.0 0
TOTAL		12	10	6	12	10

Simplified Questionnaire Test - Variable Names/Codes for respondent Open Ended Questions

Q3IMPTA - Q.3 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was probably (something important)?

0 - Blank

1 - Said Census/From Census

2 - Pre-notice letter

3 - Return Address

4 - Other/Answer unclear

5 - Don't know/Don't remember

Q3JUNKA - Q.3 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was junk mail?

0 - Blank

1' - Size of envelope

2 - Plainness/Whiteness of envelope

3 - Addressed to "resident"

4 - Wrong timing for a Census

5 - Resembles other junk mail (general)6 - Didn't look official/important

7 - Other/Answer unclear

8 - Don't know/Don't remember

Q5DATA - Q.5 For what reasons did you lay it aside?

0 - Blank

1 - No time/Busy/Not convenient

2 - Just returning/leaving home

3 - Family obligations/Interrupted dinner

4 - Reads mail and pays the bills at the same time

5 - Put off until next day

6 - Habit of mail handling

7 - Waited for deadline .

8 - Didn't feel like it/Didn't think it was important

9 - Wanted to think about it

10- Needed information from a household member/Wanted family member to see it

11- Gave it to homeowner

12- Duplicate Census/Timing of Census

13- Anger towards Government

14- Other (Inconsistent with question)/Answer unclear

15- Received form late/Didn't think I had time

16- Needed assistance/Physical (not informational)/Comprehension

#### Q7DATA - Q.7 Why did you stop part way through?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Interrupted
- 2 Multiple people in the household
- 3 To obtain property value
- 4 To obtain family member's date of birth
- 5 To obtain family member's SSN
- 6 Had to think about giving SSN
- 7 Didn't like question on race
- 8 Didn't like a question
- 9 Wanted to take my time
- 10- Other/Answer unclear

#### Q9DATA - Q.9 What kind of problems did you have?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Including/Not including people in the household
- 2 Question on race/Hispanic origin
- 3 Didn't understand a question(s)/instructions
- 4 Didn't feel like giving SSN
- 5 Small print/Faint print/Fosdic
- 6 Other/Answer unclear
- 7 Don't know

# Q19DATA - Q.19 What was the reasons or reasons that (this/these) person(s) helped out with part of the form?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Needed help with specific question (not SSN)
- 2 Needed help with SSN
- 3 Needed physical assistance
- 4 General comprehension issues
- 5 Language problems
- 6 Each person filled out his/her own section
- 7 Usually do things together
- 8 No real reason
- 9 Other/Answer unclear

Simplified Questionnaire Test - Variable Names/Codes for Nonrespondent Open Ended Questions

Q2IMPCOD - Q.2 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was probably something important?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Said Census/From Census
- 2 Prenotice letter
- 3 Return Address
- 4 Envelope size
- 5 Looked official
- 6 No reason/other

Q2JNKCOD - Q.2 What was it about the envelope that gave you the impression that it was probably junk mail?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Envelope size
- 2 Plainess of letter
- 3 Addressed to resident/occupant
- 4 Resembled junk mail
- 5 No reason/other

NOSTRCOD - Q.6. As best you recall, what were the reasons that you did not start to fill out the form?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Too Busy
- 2 Procrastinated/Neglect/Put away for later, never returned
- 3 Not the "real" census/Already answered the 1990 Census
- 4 Form was too prying/nobody's business/too personal
- 5 It was too late/ past deadline
- 6 Other/anwer unclear \*

NOFINCOD - Q. 7. What was the reason or reasons that you did not finish filling out the form?

- 0 Blank
- 1 Got interrupted/too busy
- 2 Lacked information to finish (SSN)
- 3 Didn't like Hispanic Org. question

OTHPROCO - Q.13 Other - specify

- 0 Blank
- 1 Waiting to get SSN and info. from renter

Q16FAVCO - Q.16 For what reason did you feel this way (form was favorable?)

0 - Blank

1 - Easy to complete/understand

Q16UNCOD - Q.16 For what reason did you feel this way (form was unfavorable?)

0 - Blank

1 - Objected to Race/Hisp. origin Q.'s.

NORETCOD - Q.17 What would you say was the main reason that you decided not to return the census form?

0 - Blank

1 - Forgot about it

2 - Questions offensive/too personal

3 - Waiting for information/lack of SSN

4 - Thought it was returned

5 - Other/answer unclear