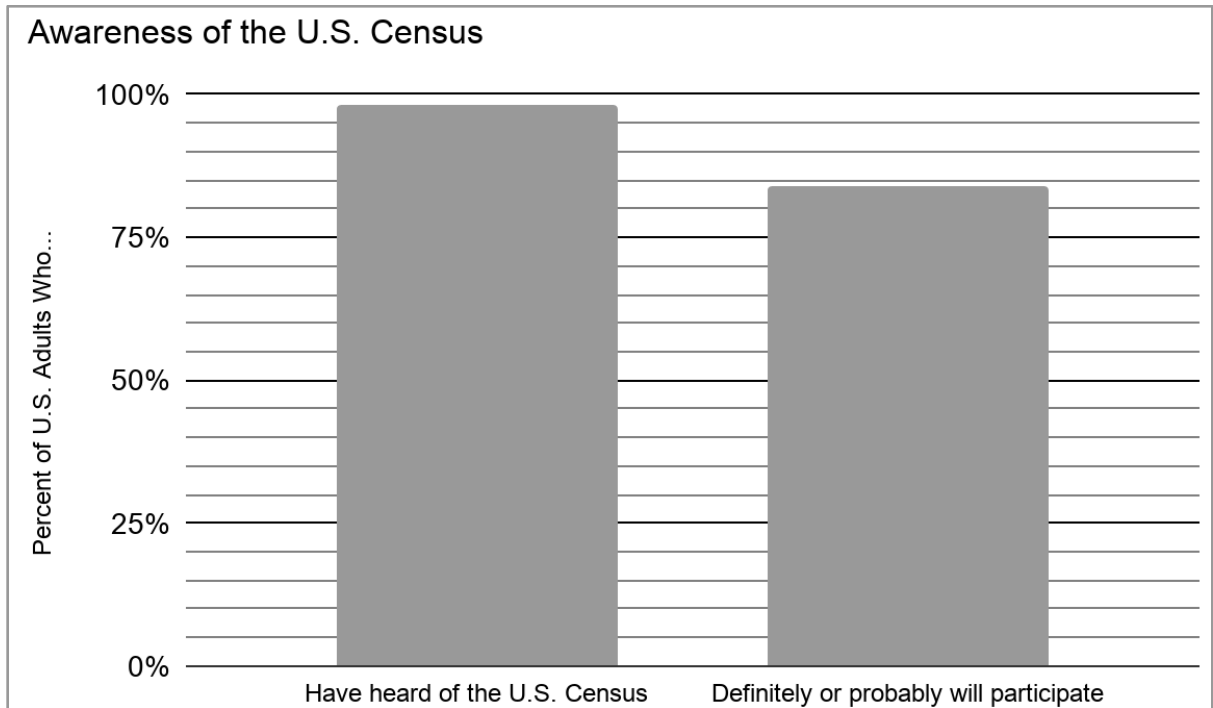


Participating in the Census

1) Which of these groups of people do you think will be counted in the 2020 census?

- American citizens
- Youth under 21
- People who are registered to vote
- Residents with a “green card”
- Undocumented people living in the United States

The following graph is based on a survey¹ of about 7,000 U.S. adults in September 2019.



2) About what percent of the people surveyed had heard of the U.S. Census?

3) About what percent of the people surveyed had not heard of the U.S. Census?

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/18/most-u-s-adults-intend-to-participate-in-2020-census/>

- 4) 84% of the people surveyed said they probably would participate in the census. What percent of the people surveyed probably won't participate in the census?

Researchers use surveys to understand different populations. Surveys are used to learn our political opinions, our shopping habits, what we watch on television, and other kinds of information about groups of people. It wouldn't be practical for researchers to talk to everyone in a population every time they wanted to understand public opinion. For this reason, researchers usually select a random *sample* of people to interview.

The telephone numbers of the 7,000 people in this survey were chosen randomly by a computer. The researchers expect that the results of this survey are true of all U.S. adults, since these 7,000 people statistically represent the whole population.

- 5) Do you agree that the survey represents what U.S. adults think?

The U.S. Census is supposed to be a count of everyone living in the United States. It includes citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented immigrants, adults and children, people who are registered to vote and people who aren't registered to vote. Every household in the U.S. should receive a letter from the Census asking them to be part of the count. You don't have to be a citizen or registered to vote in order to be counted in the Census. People in the military are counted. People who are incarcerated are included in the count. People in long-term medical care are counted. Everyone is counted.

The census is not a survey. In a survey, a sample of the population is used to understand the whole population. In a census, everyone should be counted.

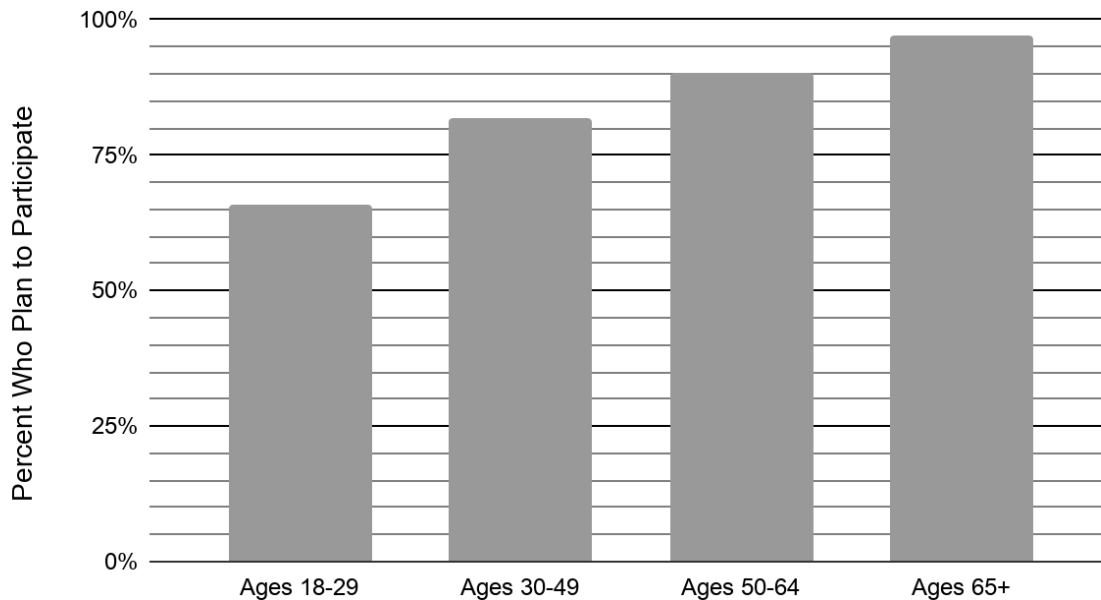
Since the Census is trying to count everyone, they will try hard to contact every household and every person in the United States. They will send a letter first. If you don't respond to the letter, they will send someone to knock on your door. If you don't answer the door, they will try again later. At some point, though, they will give up and you won't be counted.

Everyone living in the United States is counted except for people who don't respond to the Census.

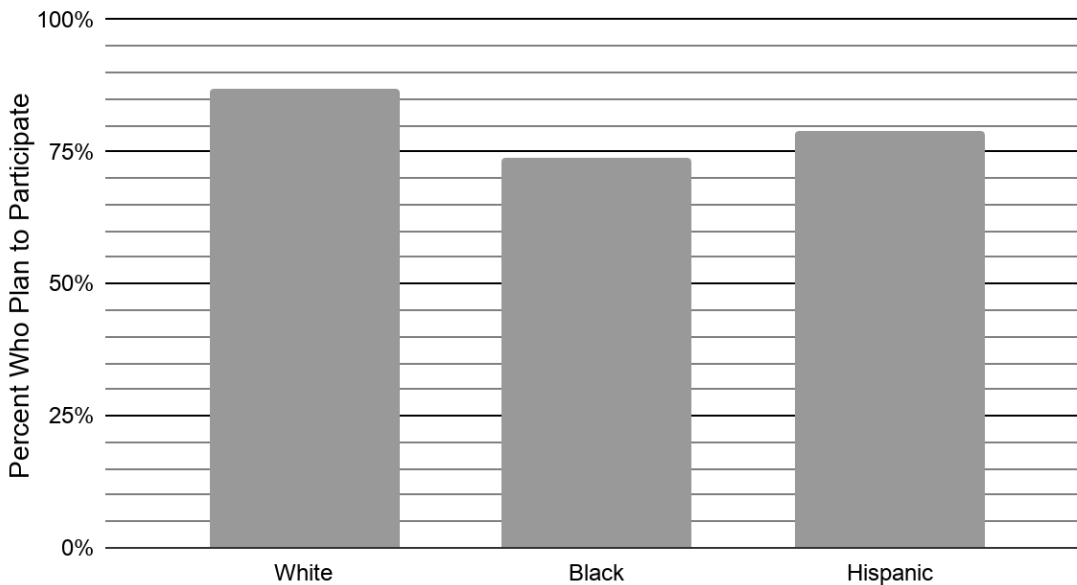
- 6) Why do you think someone would not want to respond to the Census?

Examine the following three graphs from the same survey of U.S. adults in September 2019.

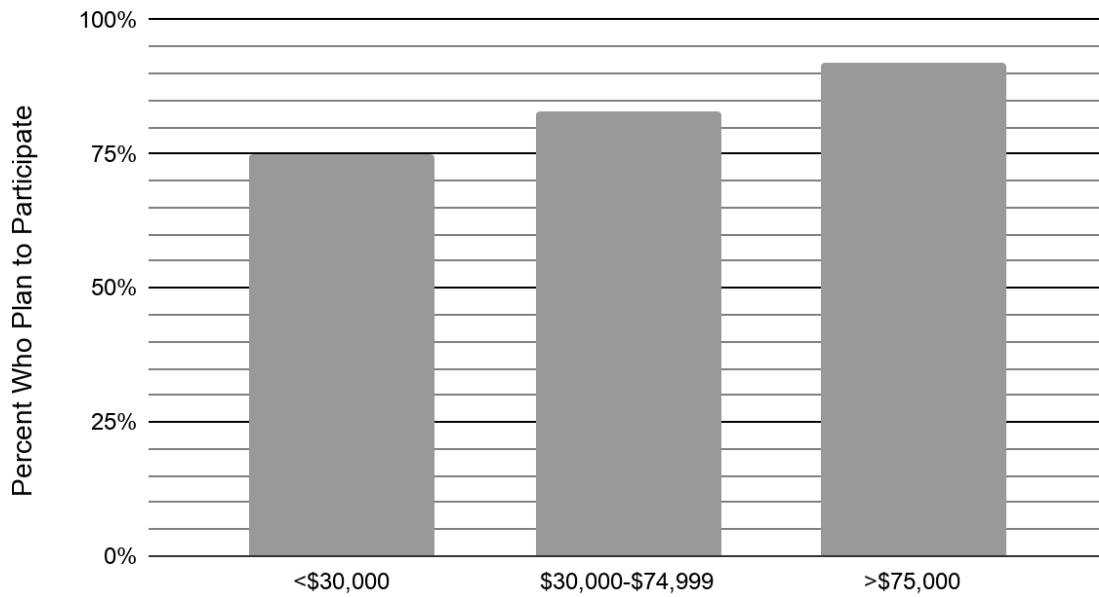
Expected Participation in Census 2020 by Age



Expected Participation in Census 2020 by Race



Expected Participation in Census 2020 by Income



- 7) Which groups are expected to have higher participation in the U.S. Census? Which groups are expected to have a lower rate of participation? Why is that important?

Write a paragraph about the data from the three graphs above.