



Why MENA?



What is "MENA"?



MENA is an acronym for people of Middle Eastern and North African descent. MENA individuals are counted as "white" in federal data collection, but their daily experiences are distinct, disparate, and deserving of increased attention. It is estimated that there are about 4 million people of MENA descent living in the United States today, however, they're severely undercounted.

Why is Specific MENA Data Needed?

- Current federal data collection standards place people of MENA descent in the "white" category, creating an **invisible population** hidden amongst "white" data.
- **Accurate data** is needed for health research, immigrant and language services, and civil rights protections.
- Districts with high concentrations of MENA populations miss out on millions of dollars in federal **funding** that could go toward health and educational services, arts and culture programs, small businesses development, and much more!



How Can You Advocate for MENA Inclusion?



The **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** is considering adding a MENA category to their data collection standards! This will bring us a step closer to establishing a MENA category in all federal data collection, including the Census. **We need you!** Submit a comment telling the OMB why you want a MENA category and how a lack of one impacts you. Follow this **QR code** or use this link bit.ly/supportMENA to submit a comment.

Personalize your comment by adding your own stories!