

#WeAreMENA



What is #WeAreMENA about?

#WeAreMENA is a campaign that advocates for the inclusion of MENA in demographic forms used in research.

Who are MENA people?

- MENA stands for Middle Eastern and/or North African. For the purpose of this campaign, MENA represents a group of people that typically shared experiences of discrimination and historical oppression.
- They typically include (but not limited to) nationalities such as Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen as well as Iran and Turkey.
- MENA people are made up of diverse ethnic and religious groups including Arabs, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Copts, Druze, Jewish, Kurds, Muslims.

Why is it important to include MENA?

- The US census currently categorizes MENA people as White but many MENA people are not White.
- For years, MENA people have remained invisible in health, social, and education research.
- After conducting a National Content Test in 2015, the U.S. Census recommended to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that a separate MENA category be added to the decennial census. However, recommendations were never acted upon, which means that the MENA ethnic minority group will continue to remain invisible and marginalized.
- We believe our voices and experiences should count and be represented in research and health data.

How do I include MENA in my demographic form? Adapted from the ACCESS Arab American/MENA Research Initiative

- It is simple! Thanks to the individual scholars and researchers, as well as the ACCESS non-profit organization, they have put together an extensive tool-kit that outlines best practices for collecting data on MENA Americans.
- **You can add a MENA category as shown below:**
 - Middle Eastern or North African– Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc.
- **Add it as a separate ethnicity option as shown below:**

Is the person of Middle Eastern or North African origin?
Mark one box AND print origins.

 - No, not of Middle Eastern or North African Origin
 - Yes – Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc.

#WeAreMENA is a campaign led by student members of AMENA-Psy who identify as scholars, researchers, practitioners within psychology. If you would like more information, please feel free to reach out to us at amenapsystudents@gmail.com with the subject line “ATTN: WeAreMENA”