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Subject:	Regarding the Number of Times Married Question on the ACS
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Please don't drop the question from the ACS. I recall some years ago when I was Chair of the PAA's Committee on Population Statistics and the powers that be were proposing to eliminate support for the marital registry (which they did), we were assured that the registry really wasn't necessary because we could get the data from the census. Now that source is threatened at a time when the marital-family system of the United States is bifurcating into two tiers---a stable two-parent system at the top of the socioeconomic distribution and an unstable single parent system at the bottom. As a member of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee, a former member of the Committee of National Statistics, President of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and current member of the Council of the National Academy of Sciences, I am very disheartened with what is happening to the ACS, not only from the attacks in Congress, but within the administration (which still hasn't named a permanent Census Bureau Director), and inside the bureaucracy itself. In addition to the issue of the times married question, I am still royally aggravated that we don't have a birthplace of parents question on the ACS so we can monitory the progress of second generation immigrations, which is clearly among the most important issues for the future demography of the United States. Where is the leadership in Washington to protect the federal statistical system?