From: Jeremy D. Darrington
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: proposed changes to ACS questions
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 1:20:24 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I recently learned of proposed changes to the ACS questionnaire that would remove the question about the number of times a respondent has been married. I think this change would be detrimental to the ACS and our ability to understand key demographic and social changes in the US population. As a librarian, I regularly work with students and researchers who study the impact of major demographic and social trends and how public policies and other factors shape and are shaped by such trends. Losing the ability to construct time series analysis of a key piece of data about marriage and the family would constitute a major loss to our ability to research and understand this fundamental institution of society. I hope that this proposed change will be reversed and the question about number of times married will continue to be included in the ACS questionnaire.

Cordially,
Jeremy

Jeremy Darrington
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