From: Qian, Zhenchao
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: DO NOT DROP "number of times married"
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 12:03:44 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I'm writing this email concerning the Census Bureau's plan to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. I have just prepared a report on divergent paths of American families for the US 2010 Census Project, sponsored by Russell Sage Foundation. I have used "number of times married" to demonstrate that marriages in America have become more transitory, i.e., more are remarried and even more are in higher order marriages compared with the census data in 1980, the last census the information was available. My data also suggest that children vary in socioeconomic access by marital order – an important dimension of social and economic inequality in America, net of all other factors. ACS is the only large-scaled survey that includes the information on "number of times married". We would lose this important information if this question is dropped.

Please do not drop "number of times married." Thank you for your consideration.

Zhenchao

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