From: Katie Reck
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Number of Marriages Question
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 4:16:33 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,

Recently I was made aware of the change in the Census Bureau American Community Survey to drop the "number of times married" question. As a professional in the field of relationship education and remarriage and stepfamilies studies I urge you to reconsider this change. Historically the American Community Survey has been one of the most reliable resources for remarriage data in the U.S. This is in-part due to the presence of this question. We know from a vast amount of literature that first marriage families and remarriage families are qualitatively different from one another and without this type of information scholars and educators such as myself will have a more difficult time teasing out the unique effects on both of these populations.

I therefore URGE you to reconsider this change in the American Community Survey.

Sincerely

Katie Reck
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