From:	Nicole Ross
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Removing "number of times married" from ACS
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 4:41:37 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As someone who has used ACS data in the past and plans on continuing to use this vital source of data as a phd student at UNC next fall, I strongly urge you to not eliminate the question "number of times married". Beyond just giving researchers important data about divorce rates and blended families, this question can help illuminate other important information about American demographics that aren't apparent at first.

As someone who has taught in a classroom and who wishes to continue researching education issues, I know how important family and household structure are in determining outcomes in the classroom, especially in high poverty communities, which are much more likely to face the challenges of blended and single-family households. Understanding the relationships between household figureheads and children continue to prove vitally important in understanding their academic, emotional, and eventually professional success.

The ACS is one of the few remaining surveys that reveals the demographics of household relationship structures, and it would be a huge shame for the research community and the American public to lose out on meaningful data that it provides.

Thank you,
Nicole Ross