From: Wendy Wang
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Comment about dropping one ACS question
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 4:02:04 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I am writing to express my concern of Census's proposed decision of dropping the "number of times married" question from the ACS. As a family demographer who uses ACS and Census data on a regular basis, this question is very important to me and the work I do at the Pew Research Center. Last year we released a report on intermarriage (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/02/16/the-rise-of-intermarriage). In this report, I used this question to measure whether the newlywed were married for the first time or one of the spouses had married before. This report received enormous amount of media attention, and many journalists were interested in the fact that even though labeled as "newlyweds," 42% of newly married couples in 2008-2010 have been married before.

I hope that the Census Bureau can reconsider their decision of dropping this question.

Thank you very much,

Wendy

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