From: Lisa Pittman, PhD
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: 4/16/13 Federal Register Notice re 2014 ACS questionnaire
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 7:02:15 PM

Dear Brian Harris-Kojetin –

I have just been made aware of the proposal to eliminate from the 2014 American Community Survey questionnaire the "Number of Times Married" question, and I write to express my concern and request for it to be retained.

Removing this question would negatively impact researchers' ability to investigate national divorce rates, marital instability and blended families. A recent working paper by Sheela Kennedy and Steven Ruggles demonstrate the ACS data is likely to be more reliable than other currently available divorce statistics. But, without the number of times married question the divorce data derived from the ACS will be badly compromised as it will not be possible to estimate the percentage of people who have ever divorced.

I ask the question on number of times married be retained in the American Community Survey.

Respectfully,
Lisa Pittman

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The Children's Trust values Integrity, Trust, Teamwork, Quality and Leadership.

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