From:	Jayanti J. Owens
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Dr. Harris-Kojetin: Please do not eliminate the "# times married" question in the ACS!
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 1:17:59 PM
Importance:	High

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin:

Please do not eliminate the "# times married" question in the ACS!

The times married question is not only vital for understanding blended families, it is also necessary for basic studies of nuptiality and marital instability. The ACS is the only reliable source currently available for national divorce statistics. Without the number of times married, the divorce data will be badly compromised; for example, it will be impossible to construct a life table for first marriages, or to estimate the percentage of people who have ever divorced.

Many thanks,
Jayanti Owens
Princeton University