From: Jacob Lupfer
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Census question
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 12:46:23 PM

Brian,

You never know if these hysterical things you read on Facebook are true or not....

But I just saw a notice about possibly removing a survey question about the respondent's number of times married from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Most of the research I conduct as a political scientist deals with marriage and family life in America and how it is related to both religion and politics.

Losing demographic data like this would be a blow to my research, as well as that of many of my colleagues. The ACS is currently the best (and, significantly, the only) source with reliable data on the number of times Americans have been married.

Much of what we know about blended families and divorce in this country arises, in part, from this valuable survey item.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jacob Lupfer
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