From: Moses Gates
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Upcoming ACS Changes
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 11:35:51 AM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin

I am a non-profit analysts, as well as a visiting assistant professor of Demography at the Pratt institute in Brooklyn. I am writing to urge you to RETAIN the current ACS question "number of times married." For those of us who study family demography, this change would be a major loss. The times married question is not only vital for understanding blended families, it is also necessary for basic studies of nuptiality and marital instability. A recent working paper by Sheela Kennedy and myself demonstrated that the ACS is the only reliable source currently available for national divorce statistics. Without the number of times married, however, 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.

Thank you

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