From: melanie.wright.fox@gmail.com on behalf of Melanie Wright Fox
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Number of Marriages Question in ACS
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 1:25:56 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin:

I have heard that the ACS is planning to drop the question about number of past marriages, and I would respectfully like to ask you to reconsider. As a demographer studying the impact of family change, such a variable is important for looking at relationship stability. Research has suggested that changes in family structure can have negative mental health and health impact on adults and behavioral impact on children, among other possible negative outcomes. Since families with many changes can be among the most difficult to track in longitudinal surveys and groups with certain demographics are frequently underrepresented, national data are critical to our understanding of the prevalence and depth of these trends nationally and among subgroups of all types. I hope you will reconsider dropping this measure for its importance to researchers, like me, trying to learn more about families today and the impact of family structure for generations to come.

Thank you,

Melanie Wright Fox

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