From: Joanna Pepin
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Comments on changes to American Community Survey
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 11:58:01 AM

Good afternoon. I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to the ACS. Of particular concern is the plan to drop the question on the "number of time married". I am a sociologist who primarily studies romantic relationships and this question provides critical information regarding marriage and divorce. The ACS is one of the only sources of national data on marriages and divorces and the question of number of times married provides insight into the stability of marital relationships. Researchers have show that there are significant differences in the quality and longevity of marital relationships in regards to mental and physical health and child well-being. On a more basic level, it would no longer be possible to estimate divorce rate.

Thank you for your time in considering this feedback.

Best,
Joanna

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