From: purplesweather@gmail.com on behalf of Stacey Chen
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Fwd: ACS to Drop Marriage Question - Comments Needed by May 16!
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 9:55:13 PM

Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

We heard that the Census Bureau is planning to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. 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.

Since the ACS is the only reliable source currently available for national divorce statistics, 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.

Hope the Census Bureau would like to reconsider.

Stacey Chen
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Best,
Stacey Chen
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