From: Pena,Anita
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: FW: ACS to Drop Marriage Question - Comments Needed by May 16!
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 1:56:51 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,
As an applied microeconomist, I am frustrated to hear that the Census Bureau is considering dropping detailed marriage questions from the American Community Survey. These variables are crucial for empirical work for understanding detailed family structure in the United States in a number of demographic, economic, and sociological applications. I am not in support of these changes. Thank you for recording my response,
Anita Alves Pena

Dr. Anita Alves Pena
1771 Campus Delivery
Department of Economics
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1771
970-491-0821 phone
970-491-2925 fax
http://lamar.colostate.edu/~aalves

From: IPUMS Project [mailto:ipums=umn.edu@mail335.us2.mcsv.net] **On Behalf Of** IPUMS Project
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 9:25 AM
To: Pena,Anita
Subject: ACS to Drop Marriage Question - Comments Needed by May 16!

Minnesota Population Center: Home of the IPUMS Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

IPUMS

Dear IPUMS User,

I am writing to alert you 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. 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.

The news of this plan appears in the Federal Register in a single sentence at the end of an otherwise harmless notice of request for comments. If you believe as I do that this change would significantly harm

the nation's statistical infrastructure, you should make your feelings known to the responsible OMB desk officer, Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin. He can be reached at (202) 395-7245 or by email at bharrisk@omb.eop.gov. The deadline for comments is May 16.

Thank you,

Steven Ruggles
Regents Professor
Director, Minnesota Population Center

Minnesota Population Center | University of Minnesota

Copyright © 2011 University of Minnesota, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Minnesota Population Center
225 19th Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Sent to anita.pena@colostate.edu — *why did I get this?*
unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences
University of Minnesota · 225 19th Avenue South · 50 Willey Hall · Minneapolis, MN 55455