From: Kelly Muellman
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: ACS Marraige Question
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 5:22:24 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,

I am writing in support of retaining the marriage question that asks the "number of times married" within the American Community Survey. I utlilize ACS data weekly if not daily in my professional work in the areas of planning and public health. While it may not be obvious, data on number of time married is an important aspect of public health work, as it relates to family health, wellfare and stability that can affect personal physical and mental health.

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.

Please retain the marriage question that asks the "number of times married" within the ACS.

Sincerely,

Kelly Muellman
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