From:	Kristen Carney
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Pls do not drop the question on "number of times married" from the ACS
Date:	Wednesday, May 08, 2013 4:54:36 PM

Hi Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

Please do not 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. 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.

Thank you!
Kristen

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