From:	Nicholas Wolf
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	American Community Survey & Marriage Question
Date:	Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:28:04 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I am contacting you briefly with concern in response to the intention, recently noted in the Federal Register of April 16, 2013, of the U.S. Census Bureau to drop the "Number of Times Married question" from the American Community Survey questionnaire form. Such a move would be a significant blow to users of the ACS to document one of the most visible social policy issues in recent years, the practice and attitudes of Americans with regard to marriage.

No doubt federal agencies such as the Department of Commerce face incredible challenges in current political climates, and the ACS has been under unusually strong pressure over many years from outside forces emnical to its continuance. However, well-informed citizens realize that the ACS is a unique and vital means to know our society, and is useful to everyone from businesses to academic researchers. Dropping the marriage question serves to considerably weaken the effectiveness of the ACS as this data provides what researchers have noted is the only accurate means of measuring divorce rates and marriage trends across the population.

As such, I strongly urge that this question be retained as part of the ACS.

Many thanks for your time,

Dr. Nicholas Wolf

--
Nicholas Wolf
Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow
Glucksman Ireland House
New York University
nicholas.wolf@nyu.edu
nmwolf.net