

ACS marital history questions

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To:FN-OMB-OIRA-Submission <OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov>;

Dear OMB,

I was very pleased to learn that the marital history and field of degree questions will be retained in the ACS. I think the decision to end the 3-yr ACS was a good one. However, I strongly endorse the notion of retaining the marital status change and field of degree questions in the regular ACS, and not be asked intermittently.

The field of degree question in particular is one of the best sources of information on skills present in the current workforce, and one of the only indicators for human capital in the future workforce. The marriage questions in the ACS are useful because they link marriage rates to place of residence rather than place where the marriage occurred, and because there are very few complete sources of national county-level marriage data from vital statistics. I would urge that the ACS questions be retained until such time as efforts to construct national databases from state and county marriage license statistics are more complete.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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