

Evaluation Report Covering Marital History

FINAL REPORT

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Test Objective

In January through March of 2006, the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted the first test of new and modified content since the ACS reached full implementation levels of data collection. The results of that testing will determine the content for the 2008 ACS.

At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), a series of questions related to the marital history of the population 15 years and over were placed on the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) Content Test. The questions were designed to collect annual estimates of the numbers of people who marry and divorce, the number of times people were married, and the duration of their current marriage. The motivation for these questions was to use the ACS as the primary federal vehicle for the collection of marital data to replace the discontinued marriage and divorce registration area that had previously provided this information to DHHS on an annual basis.

Methodology

There was only one set of questions in the content test. Following the basic item on the marital status of the respondent, a matrix designed set of questions was asked if the respondent had married, widowed, separated or divorced in the last 12 months. Two further questions asked the number of times married and the year the person was last married. A followup test was used to determine the consistency of the results from the original interview and included two qualitative items concerning the legal decree status of divorces and separations obtained in that 12-month period.

Research Questions and Results

The results indicate that the series of four questions used to identify the occurrence of a marital event in the last 12 months (either a marriage, divorce, separation, or death of a spouse) failed to pass as a grouped question all of the selection criteria established in the analysis plan. For one or more questions in this group, either item nonresponse rates were too high, the index of inconsistency for the items were either moderate or high, or the analytical results proved illogical or inconsistent with benchmark data from other surveys or administrative records. Empirical analysis, however, suggests that the divorce in the last 12 months test data did appear to produce reasonable estimates when comparisons were made with current estimates from the existing vital statistics system. The current version of asking a respondent's current marital status will provide acceptable results in its new location within the survey. The two items asking about the number of times people were married and the date of their last marriage proved acceptable. These latter two items in the ACS will fulfill three components of the DHHS request for obtaining estimates of the number of marriages occurring in the last year, times married, and the duration of the current marriage.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Motivation for the 2006 ACS Content Test

1.1.1 Content Test

In January through March of 2006, the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted the first test of new and modified content since the ACS reached full implementation levels of data collection. The results of that testing will determine the content for the 2008 ACS. The year 2008 marks the first year of a three-year aggregated data product that includes data from the same year as the 2010 decennial census (2008 - 2010). Similarly, 2008 is the midpoint year for the first five-year data product that includes data from 2010 (2006-2010). Given the significance of the year 2008, the ACS committed to a research program during 2006 that will result in final content determination in time for the 2008 ACS. This research is the 2006 ACS Content Test.

Through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Interagency Committee on the ACS, the Census Bureau included subject matter experts and key data users from other federal agencies in identifying questions for inclusion in the Content Test. In general the Content Test evaluated alternatives for questions which showed some indication of a problem, for example, high missing data rates, estimates which differed systematically from other sources of the same information, or high simple response variance as measured in the Census 2000 Content Reinterview survey. In addition, the Content Test also included testing of three new topics proposed by other federal agencies for inclusion in the ACS.

To meet the primary objective of the 2006 ACS Content Test, analysts evaluated changes to question wording, response categories, instructions, or examples relative to the current version of the questions. Additionally, the Content Test design reflected two secondary objectives. One of the secondary objectives addressed form design alternatives for the basic demographic section of the form. The second addressed the content of the questionnaire mailing package. Results indicated no interaction between either of the two secondary objectives and the first objective addressing changes made to questions. Thus, this report will only address testing specific to the first objective - testing of alternative questions, response categories, etc.. Specifically, this report discusses only the testing of the newly designed marital history items, as there were no differences in the wording of the questions in either the control or test forms.

1.1.2 Marital History Items

Since World War II, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has been the sole source of information on the annual number of marriages and divorces in the United States, providing this information with some basic demographic characteristics—primarily age and race—at the national and state level. Information was collected from annual certificates of marriage and divorce from participating states in the marriage and divorce

registration area. After an evaluation study, NCHS determined that the quality of its data was very deficient and suspended the program (DHHS 1995). Since 1996, there have been no detailed statistics published by NCHS that would provide annual data about the characteristics of people who marry and divorce each year.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)—through the OMB interagency subcommittee—has requested that the American Community Survey (ACS) be used as the primary federal vehicle for the collection of marital data in order to replace the discontinued marriage and divorce registration system. To address issues regarding family life specified in proposed TANF legislation (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) for the upcoming renewal of the House welfare re-authorization bill (HR240), DHHS is asking the Census Bureau to include items on the ACS to answer the following questions:

- Can the ACS provide annual estimates of the number of people, at the national and state levels, who marry and divorce?
- Can the ACS provide data users with a socioeconomic profile of people involved in these demographic events?
- For currently married people, can the ACS provide accurate estimates of the duration of time people have been married?
- Can the ACS be used to estimate the number of times people have been married?
- Can the ACS replace the existing vital statistics system that currently provides only gross annual estimates of the number of people who marry in a given year but does not provide any geographic or demographic detail?

These requests by DHHS formed the basis of the content test questions for the marital history items (see Appendix A). A matrix format was designed for Content Test after cognitive testing on 40 test participants was performed that not only asked if people had been married or divorced in the last 12 months but also if they had been widowed or separated in the same time period (see section 3.2). Two other questions were asked to fulfill the DHHS request to obtain information on multiple marriages and the duration of the current marriage: (1) “How many times this person had been married?” and (2) “In what year did this person last get married?”

Because a critical aspect of the marital history data involved the collection of data for specific time periods, the content followup (CFU) survey asked questions concerning the nature of the divorce or separation if one had occurred in the past 12 months (see Appendix B). If divorced, a question was asked if the final decree was issued in that period. If separated, a question was asked if the separation was a legal separation or did the couple just stop living together. While these questions are not to be used in determining the selection criteria for any items, they were included to give the analyst a

qualitative feel for the meaning of these marital events (a legal event versus a change in living arrangements).

1.2 Previous testing done on marital history

Since the 1970s, two Census Bureau surveys, the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), have collected information on adults 15 years and over about the number of times they have been married and their dates of marriage, separation, divorce and widowhood. Responses to these items show that about 10 percent of last marriages dates and from 15-25 percent of the last marital disruption/termination dates are allocated.

To address these missing data issues, allocation procedures have been developed to provide reasonable national estimates of these events when compared with available data from NCHS. Allocation rates of about 10 percent for the date of last marriage for both men and women have been noted in the 1996 Survey of Income and Program Participation (O'Connell 2006) but have risen to approximately 15 percent in the 2001 and 2004 SIPP topical modules. These rates include people who broke off the interview before entering the marital history topical module, as well as for specific item nonresponse, and invalid or illogical answers.

An example of how survey data can be used to generate annual estimates of marital events was published using 2001 SIPP data (Kreider 2005). This report demonstrates that survey estimates of marital events in the last year, derived from the year of marital event item, closely replicate marriage and divorce data from the vital statistics system at the national level which, themselves, are often based on incomplete reports from individual states.

The SIPP evaluation reports for the marital history topical module have shown that allocation rates for marital events were slightly higher for men than for women; for separation/divorce than for marriage dates; and for people with multiple marriages. On an annual basis, the estimates seem to be consistently more deficient for the reporting of divorces than marriages and for time periods in excess of ten years compared with vital statistics data.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

2.1 Introduction

The existing ACS questionnaire does not contain any items on marital history. This makes the marital history evaluation report different from other reports in this series that have different versions of existing questions asked in control and test panels. For the marital history content test, the same questions were asked in both control and test panels. We will first examine if there are any reasons not to combine these two panels that have identical questions in order to use both samples together as a single database. Appendix

A outlines the set of questions to be used in the content test and summarizes the selection criteria for these research questions. The tables presented in Appendix D are used as the basis for evaluating the test questions.

Research questions 1, 2, and 3—which measure nonresponse rates and the internal logic of the responses—are deemed the most important items for evaluation. Question 4 examines these nonresponse rates by demographic characteristics. Question 5, which measures the reliability of the items in the followup survey, provides an evaluation of the consistency of the reports. The remaining questions provide more of a qualitative evaluation of the data, often requiring comparisons with other data sets.

Because the marital history items are new to the survey, they must be judged against benchmarked statistics from other sources to evaluate their reliability and usefulness to provide national level estimates of marital events as requested by DHHS. This presents several analytical problems for evaluating the success of these questions as a number of problems are encountered when comparing the ACS Content Test results with other data.

First, ACS data are weighted by treatment groups (control and test panels) for the purpose of testing different variations of items in the two panels—a test that is not applicable to the marital history items. This is not the usual way ACS data nor data from any Census survey are weighted to represent national estimates. This weighting procedure makes it difficult to compare national-level estimates from the ACS Content Test (for example, the number of people who married in the last year) with any other survey. Only proportions and percent distributions constitute meaningful comparisons.

Second, missing or inconsistent data in the ACS Content Test have not been allocated, as is the usual procedure with other data sets (for example, the SIPP). This creates noncomparability issues when benchmarking ACS Content Test data with other national data sets that have had missing data allocated and included in weighted estimates. Third, differences in sample design would affect the variances of the estimates from different surveys. Fourth, differences in overall questionnaire formats, collection procedures, and the date of the survey would create comparability issues even if different surveys were weighted, edited, and had missing data allocated the same way.

Since we will not be able to generate national-level weighted estimates of marital events from the content test, we will have to evaluate the results based on allocation rates and the internal consistency of reports between items and between the test and the followup surveys. In general, overall allocation rates less than 10 percent are acceptable for marital history items considering the recall or knowledge-based problems involved when using household proxy respondents.

Rates in excess of 20 percent would not be deemed as suitable for this survey. Rates between 10 percent and 20 percent would require an examination of the response patterns and distributions with data from other sources, fully realizing that only very general comparisons could be made in making any final recommendations.

2.2 Question 1—Item nonresponse rate for ‘marital event’ test questions

Question: What is the item nonresponse for the ‘marital event’ test question?

Selection Criterion: The item nonresponse rates (for each test question) are 10% or lower.

Tables 1, 2, 9, 10, 21 and 22 in Appendix D provide descriptive information on reports of marital events occurring within the last 12 months along with nonresponse rates. Nonresponse rates will be used to judge the quality of the response level to this item. Levels less than 10 percent are deemed to be acceptable. In addition, Tables 21 and 22 provide a way of judging the consistency of reporting of the marriage in the last 12-month item with the year of last marriage item on the Content Test.

Since we cannot generate a national-level estimate of the number of marriages from the ACS, tables 21 and 22 provide a test of the respondent’s understanding of the ‘marital event in the last 12 months’ item. Cognitive testing by Westat suggested that there were a small number of respondents (2 out of 40) who interpreted the last 12-month item as *being* in that marital state for the last 12 months as opposed to *entering* that marital state. For example, they incorrectly answered “Yes” to that question because they had been married during the last 12 months when the purpose of the question was to ascertain if the person had gotten married in the last 12 months.

We are anticipating that more than 90 percent of people who reported that they married in the last 12 months also will report their year of last marriage as either 2005 or 2006. Conversely, we also hope that more than 90 percent of those who did not marry in the last 12 months marked marriages dates of 2004 and earlier. Percentage agreements less than 90 percent would not be acceptable.

2.3 Question 2—Item nonresponse rate for ‘number of marriages’ test question

Question: What is the item nonresponse rate for the ‘number of marriages’ test question?

Selection Criterion: The item nonresponse rates (for each test question) are 10% or lower.

Tables 1, 2, 13 and 14 provide information on the number of times people have been married. Nonresponse rates will be used to judge the quality of the response level to this item. Levels less than 10 percent are deemed to be acceptable.

2.4 Question 3—Item nonresponse rate for ‘year of last marriage’ test question

Question: What is the item nonresponse rate for the ‘year of last marriage’ test question?

Selection Criterion: The item nonresponse rates (for each test question) are 10% or lower.

Tables 1, 2, 11, 12, 21 and 22 provide information on reporting the year of last marriage. Nonresponse rates will be used to judge the quality of the response level to this item. Levels 10 percent or lower are deemed to be acceptable.

2.5 Question 4—Item nonresponse rate differences by demographic characteristics

Question: Are there any significant differences in item nonresponse rates by demographic characteristics (possibly resulting in systematic response error by demographic characteristics)?

Selection Criterion: The difference in item nonresponse rates for specific demographic characteristics are consistent with differences seen in other surveys, AND that no demographic group has an item nonresponse rate of greater than 20 percent.

Tables 3 and 4 provide information on nonresponse levels by gender and socio-demographic indicators. It is of importance to DHHS that in addition to providing accurate levels of marital events we are able to describe the characteristics of those persons with a marital event in the last 12 months. We hope that no group exceeds the 20 percent nonresponse level although we do anticipate differences consistent with other surveys. From previous studies, we would expect nonresponse rates to be lower for women, people 25-44, Whites, non-Hispanics, and those with higher levels education.

2.6 Question 5—Level of reliability for the test questions

Question: What level of reliability does each of the test questions obtain?

Selection Criterion: The index of inconsistency should be in the low to low-moderate range for each test question.

Tables 23-33 show the tabulations that were used to measure the consistency of responses to the marital items in the initial and re-interview surveys that were taken approximately 2-3 weeks later. If an index of inconsistency for an item was in the low (0-19) or moderate (20-50) range, then it was deemed to be acceptable. For the year of last marriage item, the most important dates are those matches occurring within the current or previous year (2006 and 2005) as these dates are needed for the updating the number of marriages on an annual basis. For the number of times married item in the re-interview, we will use only the pre-coded responses “Once” and “Two or more times.”

2.7 Question 6—Qualitative meaning of ‘divorce in the last 12 months’

Question: Is the definition of divorce used by respondents who indicate a ‘divorce in the last 12 months’ comparable to the DHHS definition of divorce used in their tabulations?

Selection Criterion: Not considered as part of the selection criteria—used only for informational purposes only.

DHHS requested that we attempt to use the ACS to estimate the number of divorces occurring in a given year as the divorce registration area that was discontinued in 1996 formerly collected this information. The divorce registration area used the actual numbers of divorces legally finalized by individual state judicial systems to derive the national estimate. If the ACS is to produce divorce statistics comparable with the prior collection system, we need to know if “Yes” responses to the divorce in the last 12 months item represents actual divorce decrees (making it comparable to previously collected vital statistics data) or some other action such as starting a divorce proceeding or thinking about getting a divorce. A question was included only on the followup survey asking the respondent if the divorce represented the data of the final decree. Tables 34 and 35 address this issue and are viewed as supplemental information to the evaluation report.

2.8 Question 7—Qualitative meaning of ‘separation in the last 12 months’

Question: What is the definition of separation used by respondents who indicate a ‘separation in the last 12 months’?

Selection Criterion: Not considered as part of the selection criteria—used for informational purposes only.

A question on the meaning of separation was also included only on the followup survey. The question asked respondents if the separation they reported in the last 12 months represented a legal separation agreement or whether it just meant that the couple stopped living together without obtaining a legal agreement. Tables 34 and 35 address this issue and are viewed as supplemental information to the evaluation report.

2.9 Question 8—Comparability of marital event test data with other data sources

Question: Are the relative distributions of the number of times married and the incidence of marriages and divorces with a 12 month period roughly comparable to existing Census or NCHS data?

Selection Criterion: The relative distributions of marital events within the last year should be roughly equivalent to those obtained in SIPP and NCHS data.

Although the ACS overall sample used in the content test will not be weighted to represent U.S. national-level estimates, we can still analyze basic proportional distributions to see if they behave in an expected fashion with SIPP and vital statistics data. For example, estimates of the proportion of people who married in the last 12 months derived from the SIPP survey and vital statistics records will be compared with ACS data in Tables 9 and 10.

2.10 Question 9—Impact of moving marital status item from grid to sample page

Question: What impact does moving the marital status question from the grid to the detailed person pages have on the item nonresponse rate for the marital status question?

Selection Criterion: Not considered as part of the selection criteria—used for informational purposes only.

In all prior ACS instruments, the marital status item was located on the page containing the core demographic items (age, sex, relationship, race, and Hispanic origin). For this test, it is being moved to the detailed person page. It is possible that this movement will alter the nonresponse rates for this item. As marital status is used to screen the subsequent marital history items, it is possible that it may have an adverse effect on the response rates for these items. Tables 5 and 6 will be used to evaluate the effect of the test placement of the marital status item on the 2006 content test. These tables compare nonresponse rates and marital status distributions from the content test to the most recent ACS production file available at the time of this analysis.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data collection methods

3.1.1 The 2006 ACS Content Test data collection

The 2006 ACS Content Test consisted of a national sample of approximately 62,900 residential addresses in the contiguous United States. (The sample universe did not include Puerto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii). To meet the primary test objective of evaluating question wording changes, approximately half of the sample addresses were assigned to a test group (31,450) and the other half to a control group (31,450). For the topics already covered in the ACS, the test group included the proposed alternative versions of the questions, and the control group included the current version of the questions as asked on the ACS. Both the test and control questionnaires included three new topics not currently on the ACS. Both test and control included the three new topics to keep context and questionnaire length consistent between the two versions.

The ACS Content Test used a similar data collection methodology as the current ACS, though cost and time constraints resulted in some deviations. Initially, the ACS collects data by mail from sampled households, following a mailing strategy geared at maximizing mail response (i.e., a pre-notice letter, an initial questionnaire packet, a reminder postcard, and a replacement questionnaire packet). The Content Test implemented the same methodology, mailing each piece on the same dates as the corresponding panel in the ACS. However, the Content Test did not provide a toll-free number on the printed questionnaires for respondents to call if they had questions, as the ACS does. The decision to exclude this service in the Content Test primarily reflects resource issues in developing the materials needed to train and implement the operation for a one-time test. However, excluding this telephone assistance allows us to collect data that reflects the respondent's interpretation and response without the aid of a trained Census Bureau interviewer.

The ACS follows-up with mail nonrespondents first by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) if a phone number is available, or by Computer Assisted Personal-visit Interviewing (CAPI) if the unit cannot be reached by mail or phone. For cost purposes, the ACS subsamples the mail and telephone nonrespondents for CAPI interviewing. In comparison, the Content Test went directly to CAPI data collection for mail nonrespondents, dropping the CATI data collection phase in an effort to address competing time and resource constraints for the field data collection staff. While skipping the CATI phase changes the data collection methods as compared to the ACS, eliminating CATI allowed us to meet the field data collection constraints while also maintaining the entire mail nonrespondent universe for possible CAPI follow-up. Using CATI alone for follow-up would have excluded households for whom we do not have a phone number.

The ACS also implements an edit procedure on returned mail questionnaires, identifying units for follow-up who provided incomplete information on the form, or who reported more than five people living at the address. (The ACS questionnaire only has space to collect data for five people.) This is called the Failed Edit Follow Up operation (FEFU). The ACS calls all households identified as part of the FEFU edit to collect the remaining information via a CATI operation. The Content Test excluded this follow-up operation in favor of a content reinterview, called the Content Follow-Up (CFU). The CFU also contacts households via CATI but the CFU serves as a method to measure response error, providing critical evaluative information. The CFU operation included all households who responded by mail or CAPI and for whom we had a phone number. More information about the CFU operation follows below.

The Content Test mailed questionnaires to sampled households around December 28, 2005, coinciding with the mailing for the ACS January 2006 panel. The Content Test used an English-only mail form but the automated instruments (both CAPI and CFU) included both English and Spanish translations. Beginning February 2006, a sample of households that did not respond by mail was visited by Census Bureau field representatives in attempt to collect the data. The CAPI operations ended March 2, 2006.

3.1.2 Content Follow-Up data collection

The CFU reinterview, conducted by the Census Bureau's three telephone centers, provided a method for measuring response error. About two weeks after receiving the returned questionnaire or completed CAPI interview, the responding unit entered the CFU operation. Telephone staff completed the CFU interviews between January 17 and March 17, 2006. At the first contact with a household, interviewers asked to speak with the original respondent. If that person was not available, interviewers scheduled a callback at a time when the household member was expected to be home. If at the second contact we could not reach the original respondent, interviewers completed the interview with another adult household member.

The CFU reinterview did not replicate the full ACS interview. Rather, the CFU used the roster and basic demographic information from the original interview and only asked questions specific to the analytical needs of the Content Test. Reinterview questions were of two general formats: the same question as asked in the original interview (in some cases, modified slightly for a CATI interview), or a different set of questions providing more detail than the question(s) asked in the original interview for the same topic. For topics in which the CFU asked the same question as the original interview, the CFU asked the test or control version of the question based on the original treatment. For these cases, the goal was to measure the reliability of the answers – how often we obtained the same answer in the CFU as we did in the original mail or CAPI data collection. For topics using a different question or set of questions than the original interview, we asked the same detailed series of questions regardless of the original treatment condition. Generally, these questions were more numerous than what we could ask in the ACS. In some cases the questions came from another existing survey, for example, for labor force, we asked the labor force questions from the Current Population

Survey questions. In other cases the CFU asked additional probing questions based on prior testing results, such as for health insurance. For these topics, the goal was to measure how close the original answers were to the more detailed CFU answers.

3.2 Sample Design

The sample design for the ACS Content Test consisted of a multi-stage design, with the first stage following the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS) design for the selection of Primary Selection Units (PSUs) defined as counties or groups of counties. The first stage selection of PSUs resulted in 413 PSUs or approximately 900 counties being selected.

Within sampled PSUs, households were stratified into high and low response strata based on tract-level mail response rates to the Census 2000 long form and a stratified systematic sample of households was selected. The strata were defined such that the high response stratum contained 75 percent of the housing units that reside in tracts with the highest mail response rate. The balance of the tracts was assigned to the low response stratum. To achieve similar expected number of mail returns for the high and low response strata, 55 percent of the sample was allocated to the low response strata and 45 percent to the high response strata.

A two-stage sampling technique was used to help contain field costs for CAPI data collection. The initial sample of PSUs was sorted by percentage of foreign-born population since the majority of that target population responds via CAPI. At least one item undergoing testing in the content test required an adequate sample of this population. The 20 PSUs with the highest percentage of foreign-born population were included with certainty and the remaining PSUs were sampled at a rate of 1 in 3. For the second stage, mail nonresponding households were sampled at a rate of 1 in 2 within the top 20 PSUs and at a sampling rate of 2 in 3 within the remaining PSUs. The final design designated 151 PSUs be included in the CAPI workload.

In the majority of PSUs, we assigned cases to both the control and test groups. To maintain field data collection costs and efficiencies, PSUs with an expected CAPI workload of less than 10 sampled addresses had all of their work assigned to only one treatment (either control or test). The PSUs were allocated to the two groups such that the aggregated PSU characteristics between the two groups are similar for employment, foreign born, high school graduates, disabled, poverty status, tenure, and Hispanic origin. For more information on the 2006 ACS Content Test sample design, see Asiala (2006).

There was no sampling for CFU. A CFU interview was attempted for all responding households to the Content Test for which we had a phone number.

3.3 Methodological issues for marital history items

Unlike other items in the ACS Content Test which were being tested for changes in wording or categorical answers, the marital history items represented a new set of items

that had not appeared in prior ACS surveys. The Census Bureau contracted with WESTAT, a nationally recognized survey research organization, to conduct cognitive tests of the proposed questions to be added to the survey. The two basic objectives were to learn if the respondents' understanding of the questions matched the Census Bureau's intentions and if the respondents had any difficulties with the language, terms, or recall period used in the questions.

Between January 27 and March 4, 2005, WESTAT conducted 40 interviews in a semi-structured interview format at their headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, each interview lasting approximately 30 minutes (Grady and Jones 2005). The general impression given by most of the respondents was that the questions were easy to answer and that they were not overly personal. Several respondents suggested that the questions might be more difficult for non-native English speakers or more sensitive for divorced or widowed persons or people with complicated marital histories.

Three of the questions (see Appendix A), current marital status, number of times married, and year of last marriage, have been in use in Census Bureau surveys for almost 50 years and posed no problems to the respondents. The new question matrix, designed to collect information on whether a marital status change had occurred in the past 12 months, presented some problems for a small number of respondents. Two respondents interpreted the question incorrectly, assuming that it was asking whether the marital status identified in the previous question (which asked for the current marital status) was ongoing in the previous 12 months, rather than a new event. For example, a person who was currently married and who had been married only once and was married many years ago would also have been married in the last 12 months. Another respondent thought the question was being asked to double-check his previous answer about his current marital status. In addition, when the survey was actually conducted by the Census Bureau in January 2006, a number of interviewers reported confusion concerning the purpose of this set of questions.

Two important analytical issues for this set of questions are whether the respondent can provide answers to correctly report marital events in the past 12 months and whether the respondents understood the purpose of the question. Tables 21 and 22 in this report are the tables that can provide a measure of consistency between reports of marriages using the 12-month item, which seemingly caused confusion between both respondent and interviewer, and the year of last marriage item, that apparently did not cause any confusion.

Either question format can be used to provide DHHS with usable estimates of recent marriages for their purposes. The 12-month item would provide a rolling annual estimate of marriages since the period would vary according to when the ACS was conducted, while the year of last marriage item would provide an estimate tied to a specific calendar year. Consideration on using the latter question hinges on the preciseness of providing the exact year of marriage—in this case, 2005 being the most recent complete calendar year for which estimates could be obtained. This question, of course, cannot provide one with estimates of recent divorces that was part of the original DHHS request.

4. LIMITATIONS

4.1 General Content Test and Content Follow Up Limitations

As noted in section 3.1, Data Collection Methods, the Content Test maintained the same general mail data collection methodology as the ACS, but differed in the mail nonresponse follow-up operations. In general the deviations did not impact the validity of the results, and in many cases increased the effectiveness of the testing. However, some aspects of the Content Test implementation should be considered in evaluating the data.

- As noted, the Content Test did not include CATI data collection in order to meet field data collection constraints. While the design of the Content Test allowed all sampled housing units an opportunity to participate even without CATI, questions administered differently over the phone did not get the benefit of a full CATI operation (though some of the CAPI interviews actually do occur by phone). However, since only ten percent of ACS data is collected by CATI and CATI interviewers are trained to help respondents understand question intent and response categories, overall ACS data quality should not suffer when questions are implemented using CATI.
- Though the test design required that field interviewers work only control or only test cases, interviewers in both conditions worked regular ACS production interviews at the same time they completed the Content Test cases. By design the control instrument very closely replicated the ACS production instrument, only differing in the addition of the three newly proposed topics. As a result, interviewers in the test condition had to learn and use two very different instruments, while control interviewers used basically the same instrument between their Content Test cases and ACS production. Thus, test interviewers experienced more challenges in completing their overall caseload. Interviewer debriefing suggested that test interviewers had some difficulty dealing with the two very different instruments simultaneously which may have some impact on the administration of the test version.
- On the first day of CFU interviewing, we discovered a usability problem with the CFU instrument. Left unaddressed, the usability problem could have potentially impacted comparisons between the Content Test and CFU responses when looking specifically at gross difference rate or simple response variance calculations. However, we immediately implemented two steps to mitigate any data problems -- a special instruction sheet to remind interviewers about how to avoid the potential problem and a procedure to report any problems to headquarters for repair. Interviewers followed the instructions and reported 90 cases to us. Post-collection processing corrected all reported errors, though it is possible that some cases went unreported.

- The CFU universe did not include non-telephone households and vacant housing units. This only affects those question topics included in the CFU study that are related to the non-telephone household or vacant universes.

4.2 Limitation for marital history items

Since this ACS Content Test did not edit response or allocate missing data, the distributions shown in this report might be different from those if this survey underwent the standard Census Bureau editing and allocation routines. Caution, then, should be exercised in this analysis, giving consideration to the degree of nonresponse of individual items.

In addition, the Followup survey may produce discrepancies between initial and followup responses because of the nature of changing marital situations over time. People change their marital status over time so one may expect some degree of inconsistency in responses due to the reality of marital disruptions. Changes from some marital states, such as being married to being separated may occur with greater frequency than others, especially if no legal waiting period is required. Inconsistencies may also occur if different people report on the marital status of others in the household at the initial and followup interviews.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Response to the Content Test and Content Follow-Up

Control and test treatments groups obtained equivalent response rates overall, and for each mode of collection. Similarly, response to the Content Test is comparable to response for the production ACS.

The table below gives the weighted response rates for each data collection operation and a test of differences between the control and test groups. The overall response rate reflects the final response to the initial data collection (mail and CAPI only). There were no significant differences between response rates for the control and test groups. Note that the denominator for each calculation included only eligible cases for each mode.

Table 1. Content Test Response Rates, Control vs. Test

Response Rate	Total (%)	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Overall response rate	95.7	95.8	95.5	-0.3	± 0.9	No
Mail response rate	51.3	51.5	51.2	-0.3	± 2.2	No
CAPI response rate	92.4	92.6	92.1	-0.4	± 1.7	No
CFU response rate	76.2	75.9	76.4	0.5	± 1.6	No

5.2 Results for the marital history items and CFU divorce and separation items

5.2.1 General

The ACS Content Test consisted of two panels for the purposes of testing items that had different question phrasings or alternative categorical answers. For all of the marital history items, the questions were exactly the same on both the control and test panels. Before any evaluation analysis were undertaken, we first had to determine if the two panels could be combined and treated as one overall panel for the remainder of the evaluation.

Tables 1 and 2 show the nonresponse rates for the seven marital items for both men and women. Of the 14 possible difference tests, three items had higher nonresponse rates for women in the control than in the test panel (about 1 percentage point): the current marital status item and the widowed and divorced in the last 12-month items. No differences between control and test panels were found for men.

Despite the differences noted above in nonresponse rates for women, in no instance were differences found in the distribution of responses for these or any other items for women (see Tables 7-14). Given these results, we decided to combine both control and test panels and will base all subsequent results on the overall combined sample of households.

5.2.2 Research Question 1—What is the item nonresponse rate for the ‘marital event’ test question?

For both men and women, the married in the last 12 months item had a nonresponse rate of 9 percent, which passed the criterion level (Tables 1 and 2). The widowed, divorced and separated items had nonresponse rates between 11 and 12 percent for both men and women, which marginally exceed the selection criterion level of 10 percent.

These initial findings suggest that the marriage in the last 12 months item would be a recommended candidate for inclusion in the ACS while the other three require more detailed analysis as they marginally missed the criteria by one or two percentage points. However, the test of the internal consistency of responses between the year of marriage item and the marriage in the last 12 months item (Tables 21 and 22) provides additional information on the performance of this question.

When the logical consistency of responses to the marriage in the last 12 months item is compared with the actual responses to the year of last marriage (Tables 21 and 22), the data show that only 59 percent of men and 61 percent of women who reported in January 2006 that they had married in the last 12 months gave marriage dates of either 2005 or 2006. This consistency measure fails to meet the selection criteria of 90 percent reporting acceptable dates among those who responded “Yes” to the marriage in the last 12 months item. Even among those people who were currently married at the time of the survey, only 60 percent of men and 65 percent of women reported acceptable dates.

This strongly implies, along with the respondent's comments noted in the cognitive test (Grady and Jones 2005), that a substantial proportion of respondents (about four out of ten) who replied "Yes" to the 12-month marriage item were really saying that they were in the marital state in the last 12 months and not that they became married in that period. However, among respondents who correctly interpreted the question and reported that they did not get married in the last 12-months overwhelming (more than 95 percent) gave correct pre-2005 marriage dates.

5.2.3 Research Question 2— What is the item nonresponse rate for the 'number of marriages' test question?

Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the number of times married item passes the selection criterion with a 7 percent item nonresponse rate for both men and women. Research Question 8 will compare the reasonableness of the resulting distributions with other survey data.

5.2.4 Research Question 3— What is the item nonresponse rate for the 'year of last marriage' test question?

The nonresponse rate for both men and women to the year of last marriage item is 10 percent (Tables 1 and 2), an acceptable level for a year of marital event item as per the selection criterion. In addition, this rate is about the same as recorded in marital history supplements to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (O'Connell 2006).

Examination of the analytical comparability of the year of last marriage responses with other data sources (Research Question 8) will provide further evidence of the usability of this item to provide annual estimates of marriages.

5.2.5 Research Question 4— Are there any significant differences in item nonresponse rates by demographic characteristics (possibly resulting in systematic response error by demographic characteristics)?

Research Question 4 examines the socio-demographic differences in nonresponse rates. In general, nonresponse rates follow the same patterns for both men and women. Each item will be discussed in the sections below. Tables 3 and 4 correspond to this discussion. People with no reports of their demographic characteristics had the highest nonresponse rates for each item, reflecting their general nonresponsive behavior to the survey.

Married in the last 12 months. For this item, people now married had the lowest nonresponse rates (about 2 percent) followed by divorced people (about 6 percent for men and 4 percent for women). Widowed and separated people had considerably higher rates ranging from 10 to 14 percent. The very youngest and oldest people also had higher nonresponse rates to this item as did people with less than a high school education.

Blacks had the highest nonresponse rates for this item as did people that were not of Hispanic origin.

Widowed in the last 12 months. For this item, the highest nonresponse rates by marital status were for people separated at the time of the interview. Divorced and married people generally had lower rates (5 to 7 percent) while people who were actually widowed at the time of the interview had rates of 8 percent for men and 7 percent for women. Again, the highest rates were found for the youngest and oldest age groups and for people with less than a high school education. For this item, Blacks and Asians had nonresponse rates between 17 and 21 percent, considerably higher than Whites (about 11 percent). People not of Hispanic origin had nonresponse rates about 1 to 2 percentage points higher than people of Hispanic origin.

Divorced in the last 12 months. People who were currently divorced at the time of the survey had the least amount of response problem with this item. Separated and widowed people had the highest nonresponse rates. Once again, the youngest and oldest groups and people with less than a high school education had higher rates as did Blacks and Asians. People not of Hispanic origin had nonresponse rates about 1 to 3 percentage points higher than people of Hispanic origin.

Separated in the last 12 months. Separated people have the lowest nonresponse rates while people widowed at the time of the survey have the highest. Similar patterns by age, educational level, race and Hispanic origin as noted by divorce were evident for separated in the last 12 months nonresponse rates.

Year of last marriage. For this item, nonresponse rates for both married men and married women were considerably lower (3 to 4 percent) than those of other marital statuses (11 percent and over for both men and women who were widowed or separated at the time of the survey). Nonresponse rates were again highest among people 15 to 24 but showed only a 2-percentage point spread among the other marital status categories for men and women. People with less than a high school education had nonresponse rates about three times higher than those with at least some college. Nonresponse rates were twice as high for Blacks (21 percent for men and 20 percent for women) as for Whites (9 percent for both men and women). Also, in this instance nonresponse rates were higher for Hispanics than people not of Hispanic origin, reverse of what was found for the other marital indicators.

Number of times married. This item had very low nonresponse rates and relatively little variation by marital status, educational level, Hispanic origin and age (only a 1-3 percentage points spread), except for the 15-24 and 65+-year-old age groups. Blacks had nonresponse rates about twice as high as Whites (14 percent and 6 percent, respectively, for men and 13 percent and 6 percent, respectively, for women) while less than a 2-percentage point difference was noted by Hispanic origin.

As an overall summary of these items, nonresponse rates of over 20 percent were consistently noted only for people 15 to 24 (for both men and women) for all marital

history items and for Black men for the year of last marriage. People under age 25 made up 3 percent of all ever-married people in the Content Test while Black men made up 7 percent of all ever-married men. Demographic differences in nonresponse rates were consistent with those hypothesized based on findings from other studies and did not appear problematic as they have been successfully dealt with in other surveys.

5.2.6 Research Question 5—What level of reliability does each of the test questions obtain?

Research Question 5, concerning the internal reliability of the marital items, is addressed in Tables 23 to 33. Reliability was measured using the index of inconsistency, which is calculated by comparing the item responses in the Content Test with responses to the followup survey. The index of inconsistency (IOI) is the percentage of the variance that is due to simple response variance for the given response category and is a measure of reliability or consistency. IOI values of less than 20 percent indicate high reliability, 20 to 50 percent indicate a moderate level of reliability, and values over 50 percent indicate low reliability.

Table 24 indicates that the basic marital status item had low indices of inconsistency, only entering the moderate range (over 20 percent) for those people who reported that they were separated in the first interview. This is to be expected, as there may be a fine line between separation and a temporary absence. These transitions (which are counted as inconsistent responses) can be expected to occur over time reflecting disruptions in marital status.

Indices of inconsistency were in the low range for both the number of times married item (Table 26) and the date of last marriage item (Tables 31 and 33) for both men and women. These two items, in addition to qualifying for inclusion in the ACS based on the nonresponse criterion, also have good indices of inconsistency that further strengthens the argument for their inclusion. It is also important to note that for the full calendar year before the survey (2005), about 95 percent of men and 96 percent of women who initially reported that they were last married in 2005 also reported the same date in the followup survey. If one were to relax the criterion to within two years of 2005, over 98 percent of people reported a date in the followup interview that was within 2 years of their original response of 2005. These data can be reviewed in Table 29.

On the other hand, all four marital events in the last 12 months items had levels of inconsistency in the moderate to high range (Table 28). The index of inconsistency was extremely high for the separation event, reaching an index of over 75 percent for both men and women. It should be noted that for the marital event in the last 12-months items, very few people ever had a marital event. For the widowed, divorced and separated 12-month items, around 98 percent of people reported “No” in both the Content Test and the followup, while for the marriage in the last 12 months item approximately 95 percent reported that they were not married in that period in both the initial and followup interview. These data can be reviewed in Table 27.

5.2.7 Research Question 6—Is the definition of divorce used by respondents who indicate a ‘divorce in the last 12 months’ comparable to the DHHS definition of divorce used in their tabulations?

Research Question 6 was not included in the selection criteria but was collected to better understand the meaning of the responses to the divorce item. The sponsor, DHHS, sought to collect divorce data to produce conceptually comparable statistics with data collected in the former divorce registration area that estimated the number of legal divorces decreed each year. Tables 34 and 35 indicate that 84 percent of men and 92 percent of women who reported having gotten a divorce within the last 12 months stated that this was when their decree was finalized. This suggests that the reporting of this information could have presented comparability issues with prior DHHS estimates of divorces occurring each year.

5.2.8 Research Question 7— What is the definition of separation used by respondents who indicate a ‘separation in the last 12 months’?

Bearing in mind the high level of the index of inconsistency for the separation item, 78 percent of men and 76 percent of women who said that they had separated in the last 12 months stated that they had just stopped living together and had not obtained a legal separation agreement (tables 34 and 35). Perhaps this large percentage of people undergoing informal separations accounts for the high inconsistency indices for this item (Table 28).

5.2.9 Research Question 8— Are the relative distributions of the number of times married and the incidence of marriages and divorces with a 12 month period roughly comparable to existing Census or NCHS data?

These six items will be examined individually using survey data from the 2001 SIPP and the most recent vital statistics marriage, divorce and mortality data, albeit the first two estimates are from an incomplete and problem ridden administrative. Because of the numerous differences in these data sources, differences and estimates will be noted but are not being using as a selection criterion and no statistical conclusions should be drawn from these comparisons.

Marriage in the last 12 months.

Using the marriage in the last 12-month item, the proportion of ever-married people 15 years and over reporting they had been married in the last 12 months in Tables 9 and 10 was 4.2 percent for men and 3.9 percent for women. These percentages would produce unrealistically high estimate of the numbers of marriages occurring annually as current vital statistics data for 2005 show that only 3.0 percent of ever-married men and 2.6 percent of ever-married women were married in 2005 (Munson and Sutton 2006).

Year of last marriage. In contrast to the 12-month marriage item, the data from the year of last marriage item (Tables 11 and 12) produces corresponding marital occurrence percentages of 2.7 percent for men and 2.5 percent for women, incidence rates that are

more consistent with current vital statistics data (3.0 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively).

Misreports or false negatives to 12-month marriage item can only be partially corrected by using the year of last marriage data. The ACS is conducted over the entire January-December calendar year so a marriage occurring in the last 12-months can occur either in the ACS survey year or the year preceding the survey. Any respondent incorrectly reporting a marriage outside of the 12-months but providing a year for either of those two years cannot have their response fully verified by the year of last marriage item. For example, a respondent answers the questionnaire in October 2006 that he or she married in the last 12 months and provides a year of last marriage date of 2005. If the respondent actually married between October and December 2005, then the marriage in the last 12 months response is consistent. However, if the respondent actually married between January and September 2005, then the answers are inconsistent, but without collecting the actual month of marriage, a year date of 2005 would incorrectly accept the 12-month response answer.

Widowed in the last 12 months. Estimates of widowhood from tables 9 and 10 indicate that 0.6 percent of men and 1.0 percent of women were widowed in the last 12 months. Using mortality statistics from vital statistics for 2003 (the last year for which detailed data are available), it is estimated that widowhood rates were 0.4 percent for men and 0.7 percent for women. ACS data seem to report slightly higher incidence levels but reflect the correct pattern of higher death rates for men than women, thus creating higher levels of women becoming widows than men becoming widowers. SIPP data for 2001 also show the same male/female pattern but at a higher incidence level (0.7 percent for men and 1.4 percent women).

Divorced in the last 12 months.

Estimates of recent divorce from tables 9 and 10 indicate that 1.7 percent of men and 1.4 percent of women were divorced in the last 12 months. Using divorce statistics from vital statistics for 2005, 1.5 percent of ever-married men and 1.2 percent of ever-married women had divorced in 2005, about 0.2 percentage points lower than the ACS estimates. Data from the 2001 SIPP show percentages divorced in the last 12 months for both men and women about 1.4 percent. Given that the SIPP data, from a survey of less than 40,000 households, and the vital statistics data from an admittedly deficient system provide estimates of a roughly comparable nature, the comparative evidence suggests that the ACS divorce question may provide useful survey estimates for the Nation.

However, when looking at the percent difference of the vital statistics data compared with the content test data, the content test point estimate is 13 percent higher for men and 17 percent higher for women. When comparing the content test data to SIPP data, the point estimates are 21 percent higher for men and exactly the same for women. Since the point estimates of these events are small, it is important to understand that even a 0.2 percentage point change could make a difference.

Separated in the last 12 months.

Estimates of recent separation from tables 9 and 10 indicate that 1.6 percent of men and 2.0 percent of women were separated in the last 12 months. There are no comparable data from any administrative record system. SIPP data for 2001 indicate lower percentages of 1.4 percent for both men and women.

Number of times married.

This item produced very reasonable distributions when compared with other surveys. The most recent marital history data from the 2001 SIPP topical module show that the number of times both men and women had ever been married is approximately as follows—77 percent once, 18 percent twice, and 5 percent three or more times (Kreider 2005). These distributions are very close to the ACS Content Test results shown in Tables 13 and 14 (about 75 percent once, 20 percent twice, and 5 percent three or more times).

5.2.10 Research Question 9— What impact of moving marital status question from the grid to the detailed person pages have on the item nonresponse rate for the marital status question?

The final research question examines the impact of moving the current marital status item from the roster page on the current ACS to the detailed person page. Again, the sample design and followup procedures used in the standard ACS survey differ from that used in the Content Test, so differences noted should be treated with caution. The nonresponse rates for the Content Test are about 4 percent, while the nonresponse rates for the 2005 ACS are 2 percent (Table 5). These apparent differences in nonresponse rates may or may not be statistically different because the content test was not a replication of the actual ACS field procedure. Table 6 shows the possibility of very slight differences in the distribution of marital status responses. The marital status item should be kept in its same format and placed ahead of any of the proposed marital history items.

6. SUMMARY OF EMPIRICAL RESULTS

The questions in the 2006 ACS Content Test were designed to collect annual estimates of the numbers of people who have had a marital event in the last 12 months, the number of times people were married, and the duration of their current marriage. The motivation for these questions was to use the ACS as the primary federal vehicle for the collection of marital data to replace the discontinued marriage and divorce registration area that had previously provided this information to DHHS on an annual basis.

The results of this test indicate that the series of questions used to identify the occurrence of a marital event in the last 12 months (either a marriage, divorce, separation, or death of a spouse) failed to pass the selection criteria established in the analysis plan as a total unit of 4 items although the individual marital event for the divorce question appeared to produce comparable estimates with other data sources as the confidence interval around

the content test point estimate overlapped the vital statistics point estimate. For the individual items, at least one selection criterion failed: item nonresponse rates were too high, indexes of inconsistency were either in the moderate or high range, or analytical results proved illogical or inconsistent with either other questions in the Content Test or with benchmark data from other surveys or administrative records.

The two items asking the number of times people were married and the date of their last marriage proved acceptable both in terms of the nonresponse rates and index of inconsistency ranges in the selection criteria and when qualified, resulted in comparable distributions with estimates from other sources. The basic marital status item also produced comparable estimates with the 2005 ACS and requires no change in format.

Including the year of last marriage and number of times married items will fulfill the DHHS request for obtaining estimates of the number of marriages occurring in the last year, the number of times married, and the duration of the current marriage. The series of items in the marital event in the last 12-month format produced as complete package unacceptable results, although comparative estimates for divorce appeared reasonable.

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Appendix A. Content Test Information Page for Marital History (CFU Required)

Question Wording for Marital History Content Test:

Current ACS Wording (on Grid)

Content Test Wording (In person section)

What is this person's marital status?

What is this person's marital status?

Now married
Widowed
Divorced
Separated
Never married

Now married
Widowed
Divorced
Separated
Never married – *SKIP to question XX*

In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

a. Married?	Yes	No
b. Widowed?	Yes	No
c. Divorced?	Yes	No
d. Separated?	Yes	No

How many times has this person been married?

Once
Two times
Three or more times

In what year did this person last get married?

YEAR

|_|_|_|

Research Questions & Evaluation Measures:

No.	<u>Research Questions</u>	<u>Evaluation Measures</u>
1.	What is the item nonresponse rate for the 'marital event' test question?	Calculate the item nonresponse rate.
2.	What is the item nonresponse rate for the 'number of marriages' test question?	Calculate the item nonresponse rate.
3.	What is the item nonresponse rate for the 'year of last marriage' test question?	Calculate the item nonresponse rate.
4.	Are there any significant differences in item nonresponse rates by demographic characteristics (possibly resulting in systematic response error by demographic characteristics)?	Calculate the item nonresponse rate for each of a predefined set of demographic characteristics.
5.	What level of reliability does each of the test questions obtain?	Calculate the index of inconsistency for each test question separately.
6.	Is the definition of divorce used by respondents who indicate a 'divorce in the last 12 months' comparable to the DHHS definition of divorce used in their tabulations?	Proportion reporting in follow-up interview divorced with a legal decree versus without a legal decree.
7.	What is the definition of separation used by respondents who indicate a 'separated in the last 12 months'?	Proportion reporting in follow-up interview separated with a legal separation agreement versus without a legal agreement
8.	Are the relative distributions of the number of times married and the incidence of marriages and divorces within a 12 month period roughly comparable to existing Census or NCHS data?	Compare relative estimates of marital events (e.g., twice as many marriages as divorces) to those obtained in Census and NCHS surveys. *since not fully weighted or edited data, cannot make statistical comparisons
9.	What impact does moving the marital status question from the grid to the detailed person pages have on the item nonresponse rate for the marital status question?	Compare item nonresponse rates for Content Test (control and test) to 'raw' 2005 production data.

Selection Criteria:

Research Q	Criteria
1, 2, 3	The item non response rates (for each test question) are 10% or lower
5	The index of inconsistency should be in the low to low-moderate range for each test question
4	The difference in item nonresponse rates for specific demographic characteristics are consistent with differences seen in other surveys, AND that no demographic group has an item nonresponse rate of greater than 20%
8	The relative distributions of marital events within the last year should be roughly equivalent to those obtained in SIPP and NCHS data.
6,7, 9	Not considered as part of the selection criteria - Informational purposes only

To include the topic: Approval granted and questions should meet each of the criteria stated above.

Appendix B. Westat Cognitive Pretesting Report

Cognitive Testing of Proposed Items on Marital History for the American Community Survey

Final Report

May 18, 2005

Prepared for:

U.S. Census Bureau
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Cognitive Testing of Proposed Items on Marital History for the American Community Survey

Final Report

May 18, 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the cornerstone of the federal government's efforts to meet increasing demands for timely and relevant data for population and housing characteristics. When fully implemented in 2010, the ACS will be the largest household survey in the United States and will replace the long-form census questionnaire. Beginning in January 2005, a rolling nationwide sample of 250,000 housing unit addresses began receiving the new survey each month. Survey recipients that do not respond after a reminder mailing are contacted by telephone, and one in three addresses that still do not respond are visited for an in-person interview.

Study Purpose and Background

The U.S. Census Bureau (BOC) requested that Westat conduct cognitive tests of proposed changes to current survey questions and potential new questions for the ACS. BOC had two objectives for this task. First, they wanted to learn whether respondents' understanding of the questions and response categories matched BOC's in creating or modifying the questions. Second, they were interested in whether respondents had any difficulties with the language, terms, or recall period used in the questions.

There are two overarching goals for including additional marital history items on the ACS. The first is to obtain more accurate marriage and divorce data. The second is to meet proposed legislation requirements for new marriage-related data identified by the Department of Health and Human Services. Two versions of the questionnaire were developed and tested in both mail and telephone formats.

Forty interviews were conducted between January 27 and March 4, 2005, using a semi-structured interview format. All interviews were conducted at Westat's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Census staff observed some interviews conducted in a focus group conference room equipped with a one-way observation mirror. Interviews typically lasted 30 minutes.

Key Findings

Most respondents' general impression of the marital history survey questions was that the items were easy to answer for their household and that none of the questions were overly personal. Common descriptions heard across the interviews included “*clear*,” “*straightforward*,” and “*nothing too personal*.”

While most respondents found the questions easy to answer for themselves, several suggested that the questions might be more difficult or sensitive for some specific populations. More respondents completing the mail questionnaire felt this way. Specific subgroups mentioned included nonnative English speakers, immigrants, or divorced persons or persons with complicated marital histories. A couple of participants mentioned that the questions might be considered sensitive by divorced or widowed persons, although this proved not to be the case during testing.

Current Marital Status (versions I and II)

- Respondents had no difficulty understanding the intent of this item to collect information on respondents' current marital status and they found it easy to answer. One respondent commented that unmarried couples living together might be confused or offended as to how to define their marital status because no existing marital status category appeared to be applicable for them.
- During the debriefing interview, respondents were asked how they defined the marital status category “separated.” Of the five separated respondents, four considered themselves to be separated and one said he was “*now married*.” Definitions of separation varied, however, and were influenced by respondents' perceptions about the legal status and circumstances that led to the separation.
- Only about half of respondents could choose the correct marital status category for individuals with annulled marriages in hypothetical situations. Respondents were asked to imagine that an unrelated adult living in their household had a marriage that was annulled and is now single. When asked to choose a marital status category for this person, a small majority correctly chose “never married,” but nearly a quarter of that group was unsure about their response. The remaining respondents gave an incorrect response, didn't know, or did not think an existing marital status category applied. Most respondents who gave an incorrect response said they would consider the person to be divorced because they wanted to acknowledge in some way that a marriage had taken place.
- Respondents were also asked to define what “annulment” meant, which produced significant confusion and a variety of responses. About half of respondents essentially understood that an annulment could be a religious or legal process to dissolve a

marriage. However, few understood why one might seek a religious rather than a legal annulment, or vice versa. Other respondents discussed annulments as a legal procedure, but did not necessarily see a difference in outcome between an annulled marriage and a divorce. Many people, even if not able to accurately define annulment, were able to identify multiple justifications for obtaining an annulment.

- Respondents were asked to imagine that a divorced woman was living in their household and that her ex-husband had died several years following their divorce. Nearly half of respondents who were asked about this scenario would have identified her marital status category as “widowed” rather than “divorced” or would have chosen both categories.

Version I Questionnaire Testing

Duration of Most Recent Marital Status

- Respondents found the language “enter into this marital status” in the mail version of the question to be awkward and confusing. They described the wording as “*roundabout*” and “*unusual*.” Despite the awkward language, all seven married respondents who completed version I of the mail questionnaire gave an accurate response and did not find it difficult at all to remember the year in which they got married.
- This question was problematic for nonmarried respondents who clearly did not understand the intention of this question. The problem was because non-married respondents interpreted this item to be asking for the date of their marriage and not the most recent marital status that they identified in the previous question. Of the seven nonmarried respondents who completed version I of the mail questionnaire, both divorced respondents, two of three separated respondents, and one of two widows answered this question incorrectly and gave the date when they married.
- Most respondents had little trouble remembering the year of their most recent marital event. Married respondents often determined the year they were married based on the time span between other major life events such as the birth of a child, a job change, or a house purchase. Of the three respondents who had been married more than once, all correctly gave the date of their most recent marriage. Divorced respondents were probed to learn what factors they used to determine the date they considered themselves to be actually divorced. All said they considered themselves to be divorced when the final decree was issued by the courts. Separated respondents considered the date when either they or their spouse moved out permanently as the date when they became separated.

Version II Questionnaire Testing

Change in Marital Status in Previous 12 Months

- The majority of respondents said they thought “in the past 12 months” referred to a rolling time period starting from the date of the interview and going back 12 months to the same date in the previous year. Five respondents interpreted the phrase to mean a calendar or tax year. Two respondents said that they thought about the time period in terms of a calendar year, but they explained their response in terms of a rolling time period.
- The time period in which the interviews are conducted may influence how respondents interpret “in the past 12 months.” One respondent said that since the interview was so close to the beginning of the year (mid-February), her response was based on the 2004 calendar year. Had the interview been conducted mid-year, she would have interpreted the phrase to mean a rolling time period.
- A small number of respondents misinterpreted the question or did not understand the intent in gathering this type of information. Two respondents interpreted the question incorrectly, assuming that it was asking whether the marital status identified in the previous question was *ongoing* in the previous 12 months rather than a new event. Another respondent did not understand the intent of the question and assumed that the questions were being asked to double-check his response to the first question about his current marital status.

Number of Times Respondent Has Been Married

- Respondents had few difficulties interpreting or answering this question correctly and many described it as “*easy*.” The fact that, in many cases, households included two adults who were married once to each other contributed to the lack of response problems. In the six households that included one or more unrelated adults living together, a few provided an answer for these other adult household members, but respondents were less sure about whether they could accurately answer how many times the unrelated adult household members had been married previously.
- The 13 participants who completed a version II mail questionnaire were asked whether they noticed the italicized instruction “*do not count any marriages that ended in annulment*” when they read the question. Four respondents said they did not notice this instruction until it was mentioned in the debriefing interview and had not taken this into account in determining their answer to the question. Not surprisingly, given the small number of respondents interviewed, none had ever obtained an annulment, thus, it is impossible to know whether those with annulled marriages would interpret and answer the question correctly.

Duration of Most Recent Marriage

- Respondents found this question easy to answer for themselves and their spouse. Most respondents did not have any trouble correctly recalling the year of their (most recent) marriage. Those who found it more difficult to remember the year they were married said they would ask their spouse or try and determine the date based upon its proximity to other major life experiences (e.g., birth of child, graduation from college). One respondent said she found the wording of this question in the mail form to be odd because to her it assumed that someone had been married more than once.
- Those with unrelated adults in their household said they found this question to be more difficult to answer for their household members than the previous question about how many times they had previously been married.

Recommendations

The primary goals for conducting this research were to learn how well respondents understood the intended meaning of the survey items and whether there were any specific problems with the language, terms, or recall period used in the questions. BOC hoped testing would generate helpful information for determining which of the two versions yielded a better understanding of the questions and more accurate answers from respondents. Field testing with one version was planned for early 2006.

- The results from the interviews indicate that respondents understood the intent of the questions better in version II and gave more accurate responses than they did in the version I questionnaire. Generally, most respondents found the four version II questions to be straightforward, easy to answer, and nonsensitive. Results show that no significant changes are warranted to improve understanding of the version II questions, although minor changes may produce an increase in accurate responses for some questions. In version I, the proposed new question to measure duration of marriages was more problematic. It produced systematic errors in responses from nonmarried individuals, making it the less desirable version to use in field testing.

Version II

The following are specific recommendations that could be used to make modifications to the version II questions to improve the accuracy of responses;

- **Consider specifying relevant time period in question measuring changes in marital status in previous 12 months.** One-quarter of respondents incorrectly interpreted “in the past 12 months” to mean a calendar year and not a rolling time period as intended. If

feasible, the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) instrument could be programmed to provide a rolling 12-month time period and the mail forms could be printed with specific dates based on the date of interview.

- **Consider options for modifying the question measuring number of times married.** Three possible modifications include the following:
 - Exclude annulment instruction. Many respondents were confused about what an annulment was, and results from hypothetical scenarios used in the debriefing interviews showed that almost half of respondents could not identify the correct marital status of persons with annulled marriages. Even those who knew that an annulment erases a marriage wanted to recognize that a marriage had taken place in some way, even though they were instructed to exclude it.
 - Retain existing annulment instruction and add an extra line between the question and the italicized instruction to increase its visibility.
 - Add annulment instruction to the question to mirror the telephone version.

Version I

The following suggestions are also provided for version I questions in case they are used for future research.

- **Modify wording of question to more accurately gather data on duration of most recent marital status.** Nonmarried respondents frequently misinterpreted this question to be asking for the date of their marriage and not the date when they became widowed, separated, or divorced. The following two options are proposed:
 - Combine the two questions in Version I into one question in an alternative question format. This may increase respondents' understanding of the question and their accuracy in providing a response.
 - If BOC prefers the existing format, question rewording and visual cues may increase accuracy of responses. The following example simplifies the wording of the second question and uses arrows as a visual cue to underscore the intent for the date of the most recent marital event, and not necessarily the date of marriage.

1. INTRODUCTION

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the cornerstone of the federal government's efforts to meet increasing demands for timely and relevant data for population and housing characteristics. This survey will provide current demographic, socioeconomic, and housing information about America's communities every year—information that until now was only available once every decade. More than \$200 billion in federal funds are distributed annually to communities based on their census numbers.

When fully implemented in 2010, the ACS will be the largest household survey in the United States and will replace the long-form census questionnaire. Beginning in January 2005, a rolling nationwide sample of 250,000 housing unit addresses began receiving the new survey each month. Survey recipients that do not respond after a reminder mailing are contacted by telephone, and one in three addresses that still do not respond are visited for an in-person interview.

1.1 Study Purpose

The U.S. Census Bureau (BOC) requested that Westat conduct cognitive tests of proposed changes to current survey questions and potential new questions for the ACS. The questions to be tested covered five topic areas: housing characteristics, marital history, international migration, veteran status, and health insurance coverage. BOC had two objectives for this task. First, they wanted to learn whether respondents' understanding of the questions and response categories matched BOC's in creating or modifying the questions. Second, they were interested in whether respondents had any difficulties with the language, terms, or recall period used in the questions.

This report describes the study methodology, findings, and recommendations for cognitive interviews concerning proposed marital history questions. Results on the other four topic areas are reported separately.

There are two overarching goals for including additional marital history items on the ACS. The first is to obtain more accurate marriage and divorce data. The second is to meet proposed legislation requirements for new marriage-related data identified by the Department of Health and Human Services. Three additional questions have been proposed to obtain the following information:

- The annual number of marriages and divorces for individuals over age 15;
- The number of times individuals have been married; and
- The duration of marriages (or the most recent marriages of those individuals married more than once).

BOC asked that Westat test two versions of the questionnaire items. The first version included the original ACS question on current marital status and the three additional marriage-related items designed to address the new legislative data needs. A second version was intended only to measure the current marital status of the population and the duration of marriage. The shortened version reflects BOC's concern for the large increase in space required to accommodate the additional questions on the paper ACS questionnaire and the additional burden on respondents.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Design

Westat staff and BOC representatives met on January 10, 2005, to discuss background information on the ACS and the proposed marital history items and plans for cognitive testing. BOC distributed mail and telephone formats for each of the two questionnaire versions (see Appendix A). Westat reviewed the instruments and developed a set of probes, finalized in consultation with BOC, to be used in a debriefing interview following the administration of the ACS questionnaire. In addition to the probes (see Appendix B), Westat also developed a set of hypothetical scenarios (see Appendix C) to touch upon ambiguous marital history issues.

BOC also provided a guideline of how many interviews they wanted conducted based upon the interview format, questionnaire version, and respondents' marital status and race/ethnicity. Table 2-1 shows the distribution of interviews based on these criteria.

Table 2-1.—U.S. Census Bureau quotas for interviews according to marital status, race/ethnicity, interview format, and questionnaire version

Marital status	Mail				Telephone				Total interviews to be conducted
	White		Minority		White		Minority		
	Version I	Version II	Version I	Version II	Version I	Version II	Version I	Version II	
Married	5	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	20
Divorced	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Widowed	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
Separated	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
Total.....	10	8	4	4	3	5	3	3	40

2.2 Recruitment Plan

Westat drafted a recruitment plan that was submitted to BOC for approval prior to placing recruitment advertisements. The screening requirements included a mix of primary criteria (e.g., respondents' marital status) requested by BOC and secondary criteria developed by Westat (shown in Exhibit 2-1). The intention in using secondary criteria such as education level, number of times married, and number of adults and children living in the household was to prioritize households that might have more difficulty in completing the marital history questions. For example, it was believed that those with lower education levels or who had more complicated marital histories (e.g., multiple marriages including

periods of separation and/or divorce) would have more difficulty in choosing correct responses to the marital history items.

Exhibit 2-1. Screening requirements

Primary criteria:

- Marital status (50% married, 25% divorced, 15% widowed, 10% separated)
- Gender (50% male, 50% female)
- Race/ethnicity (75% white, 25% minority)

Secondary criteria:

- Education (less than high school, high school/GED, some college/vocational education, and college degree or more)
- Age (18 and older)
- Number of times married
- Number of adults living in household
- Number of children living in household
- Employed by Westat (exclude if within past 5 years)
- Articulate, understand English, and willing to talk with strangers

Recruiting went smoothly and quickly. A recruitment advertisement was placed in the *Gazette*, a weekly newspaper serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and a similar ad was placed in the *Washington City Paper* to attract District residents (see Appendix D). Westat maintained a dedicated 1-800 telephone number that interested persons could call to obtain more information about the project and to be screened for eligibility. Calls were handled by a Westat recruiter trained on the specific requirements for this project. The response to the advertisements was very positive, and additional ad placements or other recruiting modes were unnecessary. More than 150 calls were received in response to the advertisements, and 47 individuals were scheduled for interviews. A copy of the screener can be found in Appendix E.

Once interviews were scheduled, the recruiter sent participants an information letter and map with directions to Westat (see Appendix F). The recruiter also made follow-up reminder telephone calls to each participant one day prior to the interview to increase show rates. Of the 47 persons scheduled for interviews, 40 completed interviews, two cancelled and did not want to reschedule, and five failed to attend their scheduled interview.

2.3 Interviewer Training

Westat held an interviewer training on Monday, January 24, 2005. Three interviewers were trained; all had previous experience conducting cognitive interviews. The training session lasted approximately 4 hours and consisted of three components: an overview of the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey, discussion of study instruments and probes, review of cognitive interviewing techniques, and discussion of interview logistics and proper handling of Title 13 data. Interviewers used role plays to practice administering the questionnaires and conducting the debriefing interview. Additionally, interviewers practiced conducting interviews informally with Westat staff members who were unfamiliar with the study purpose. Examples of training materials can be found in Appendix G.

2.4 Interview Logistics and Procedures

Interviews were conducted between January 27 and March 4, 2005, using a semi-structured interview format. All interviews were conducted at Westat's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Census staff observed some interviews conducted in a focus group conference room equipped with a one-way observation mirror. Interviews typically lasted 30 minutes. Respondents were thanked for their participation and received a \$40 honorarium for their time (the honorarium receipt form is included in Appendix H). Interviews consisted of three components:

- **Introduction.** Interviewers explained the purpose of the project and assured participants that all responses would be treated as confidential, and all data would be reported only in the aggregate and without personal identifying information. Participants were asked for their permission to have the interview audiotaped, and (if applicable) that Census Bureau staff were observing behind a one-way mirror. Participants were also asked to sign a consent form. A copy of the introductory script and consent form can be found in Appendix H.
- **Administration of the ACS questionnaire.** Participants were asked to complete an ACS survey for their households. The testing instrument was designed to model a real ACS survey, although it was shortened from the full instrument to decrease the burden on test respondents. Participants were asked to respond to ACS questions through one of two survey modes:
 - **Mail.** The participants were provided with a paper-and-pencil copy of the ACS specially prepared for the cognitive interviews. They were asked to fill it out at their own pace, reading the questions and "thinking aloud" as they worked. The cognitive interviewer closely observed and took notes of any apparent difficulties experienced by the respondent.

- **Telephone.** After completing the introduction, the cognitive interviewer left the interview room and called back into the room from another location in the building. The participant was instructed to answer a telephone that had been placed on the conference table. The interviewer then administered the ACS items over the telephone.
- **Cognitive debriefing.** After the ACS survey was administered, the Westat interviewer conducted a follow-up debriefing to discuss any confusion or difficulties that participants might have had in answering the questions. The interviewer also probed issues related to each marital history question. During the debriefing, interviewers used their discretion to administer any or all of the hypothetical scenarios to delve into marital history issues that may have confused respondents or did not come up during the survey administration.

3. FINDINGS

The following sections describe the key findings from 40 cognitive interviews conducted in early 2005. Section 3.1 presents key demographic characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study and Section 3.2 describes their general impression of the marital history items. The remaining sections present results for each individual marital history questionnaire item organized by whether the item appeared in version I, version II, or both. Each of these sections begins with the questionnaire item displayed in both the mail and telephone formats to show differences in how questions were worded.

Respondents also commented on non-marital-history portions of the ACS questionnaire. While collecting these data was not part of the overall goal for this task, participants provided feedback that was considered valuable for BOC. These comments are provided in Appendix I.

3.1 Description of Study Participants

Participants' marital status and whether they received a mail or telephone survey and version I or II of the ACS questionnaire were aligned with the guidelines set forth by BOC. Respondents' marital status reflected levels that mirrored the incidence in the overall population. Fifty-five percent of respondents identified themselves as married, 23 percent were divorced, 10 percent were widowed, and 13 percent were separated (Table 3-1). One-fifth of respondents were married more than once. BOC expected more respondent difficulties with the mail questionnaire and requested that it be tested more intensively than the telephone version. About two-thirds (68%) of interviews were conducted using the mail versions of the questionnaire and one-third (33%) were conducted using the telephone versions. Versions I and II were each tested with roughly half of the respondents.

Data were also gathered on general demographic characteristics of survey respondents. About two-thirds of respondents (68%) were female and one-third was male. An equal proportion (30%) of respondents were ages 40–49 and 50–59. Nearly a quarter (23%) were 65 percent or older, and 18 percent were ages 18–39. Sixty-three percent of respondents were white, 13 percent were African American, and 5 percent were Hispanic. Forty-three percent of respondents had a college degree or higher level of education, 45 percent had some college, and 13 percent had a high school diploma or less. Half of the households had two adults, 28 percent had one adult, 15 percent had three adults, and 8 percent had four or more adults.

Table 3-1.—Demographic characteristics of interview respondents

Respondent characteristic	Total		Mail				Telephone			
			Version I		Version II		Version I		Version II	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total interviewees	40	100	14	100	13	100	7	100	6	100
Marital status										
Married.....	22	55	7	50	8	61	4	57	3	50
Divorced.....	9	23	2	14	3	23	2	29	2	33
Widowed.....	4	10	2	14	1	8	1	14	-	-
Separated.....	5	13	3	21	1	8	-	-	1	17
Married more than once	8	20	0	0	3	20	3	43	2	33
Gender										
Female.....	27	68	9	64	11	85	4	57	3	50
Male	13	33	5	35	2	15	3	43	3	50
Age										
18–39	7	18	2	14	5	38	0	0	0	0
40–49	12	30	5	35	2	15	4	57	1	17
50–64	12	30	2	14	5	38	2	29	3	50
65 or more.....	9	23	5	35	1	8	1	14	2	33
Race/ethnicity										
White.....	25	63	9	64	8	61	4	57	4	67
African American.....	13	33	5	35	3	23	3	43	2	33
Hispanic	2	5	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	
Education										
High school or less	5	13	3	21	0	0	1	14	1	17
Some college.....	18	45	8	57	6	46	2	29	2	33
College graduate or higher	17	43	3	21	7	54	4	57	3	50
Adults in household										
1	11	28	5	36	2	15	3	43	1	17
2	20	50	8	57	6	46	4	57	2	33
3	6	15	1	7	2	15	0	0	3	50
4 or more.....	3	8	0	0	3	23	0	0	0	0

NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

3.2 Respondents' General Impression of Marital History Survey Questions

All respondents were asked to provide their general impression of the marital history items included in the ACS questionnaire. For both versions, the majority of respondents reported that the items

were easy to answer for their household and that none of the questions were overly personal. Common descriptions heard across the interviews included “*clear*,” “*straightforward*,” and “*nothing too personal*.”

While most respondents found the questions easy to answer for themselves, several suggested that the questions might be more difficult or sensitive for some specific populations. More respondents completing the mail questionnaire felt this way. A few participants said that nonnative English speakers might have more difficulty answering the questions, and one person remarked that “*you really have to pay a lot of attention to the directions*.” Another person suggested that immigrants might have trouble interpreting questions correctly because laws and definitions about marital status may differ in other countries. Some married respondents felt the questions would be more difficult to answer for divorced persons or persons with complicated marital histories. A couple of participants mentioned that the questions might be considered sensitive by divorced or widowed persons, although this proved not to be the case during testing.

A small number of respondents thought the questions were asking for irrelevant information or were redundant. One respondent saw no need for the census to collect information other than “*a warm body count*” of how many people live in the United States. When asked to elaborate on her thoughts she said, “*I don’t understand the relevancy of asking these types of questions. It’s really not going to make an impact*.” Two respondents questioned the need for asking the marital status of children, and one specifically remarked that there should be an age limit under which this question should not apply. Two telephone respondents described the marital history questions as redundant. When completing the questions for themselves, they offered that they were married once—to their spouse. They seemed to grow annoyed when asked to answer the same questions and provide the same answers for their spouse.

3.3 Current Marital Status (versions I and II)

Mail: What is this person’s marital status?

- ☐ Now married
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Never married

Telephone: (Is NAME/Are you) now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?

Respondents had no difficulty understanding the intent of this item to collect information on respondents’ current marital status and they found it easy to answer. One respondent commented that

unmarried couples living together might be confused or offended as to how to define their marital status because no existing marital status category appeared to be applicable for them.

Defining the “separated” marital status category. During the debriefing interview, respondents were asked how they defined the marital status category “separated.” Of the five separated respondents, four considered themselves to be separated and one said he was “*now married*.” Definitions of separation varied, however, and were influenced by respondents’ perceptions about the legal status and circumstances that led to the separation. Some respondents defined separated couples as those who have gone through a process to obtain a legal separation, but most believed couples would be considered separated even if they parted informally by one spouse vacating the family household. Some respondents defined separation more broadly than the question intent, which is limited to separations due to problems within a marriage. These respondents included temporary logistical factors as appropriate reasons for identifying household members as separated. These factors included when a spouse is in the military, job or house hunting, attending school in another state, or living temporarily in another state.

Respondents’ diverse views on separation led to differences in their responses to hypothetical situations. They were asked to imagine that someone who had been married and agreed to a trial separation was living in their household, and they were asked to choose a marital status category for this imaginary individual. In the majority of interviews, respondents correctly identified individuals as “separated.” Some respondents concluded they would designate the hypothetical person’s marital status as “married.” They believed couples are still technically legally married until they divorce and the respondent was being asked to complete an official government document. About half of those who said they would choose “married” said their choice would depend on whether the person had a legal or trial separation. They believed that if it was a trial separation a reconciliation might occur and therefore, they considered the couple to still be married, while if a couple had obtained a legal separation, respondents viewed this as a step toward divorce, and they would identify the hypothetical household member as separated.

Choosing a marital status category for persons with an annulled marriage. Only about half of respondents could choose the correct marital status category for individuals with annulled marriages in hypothetical situations. Respondents were asked to imagine that an unrelated adult living in their household had a marriage that was annulled and is now single. When asked to choose a marital status category for this person, a small majority correctly chose “never married,” but nearly a quarter of that group were unsure about their response. The remaining respondents gave an incorrect response, didn’t know, or did not think an existing marital status category applied. Most respondents who gave an

incorrect response said they would consider the person to be divorced because they wanted to acknowledge in some way that a marriage had taken place.

Respondents were also asked to define what “annulment” meant, which produced significant confusion and a variety of responses. About half of respondents essentially understood that an annulment could be a religious or legal process to “*dissolve*” a marriage or “*wipe the slate clean.*” However, few understood why one might seek a religious rather than a legal annulment, or vice versa. Of those respondents who believed an annulment to be a religious process, many did not fully understand the purpose to be to allow Catholics to remarry in the church. Some thought religious annulments were legally binding, likening them to marriage ceremonies performed in churches, and considered them to be a legal option for those who did not want to divorce. One respondent remarked, “*It’s something in the Catholic religion... if you don’t want to say you’re married... it’s a way to get out of the marriage without getting a divorce.*” Other respondents discussed annulments as a legal procedure, but did not necessarily see a difference in outcome between an annulled marriage and a divorce.

Many people, even if not able to accurately define annulment, were able to identify multiple justifications for obtaining an annulment. These respondents understood that annulments could be granted when one or both spouses were underage, if the marriage was not consummated, or if the duration of marriage was short.

Choosing a marital status category for persons whose ex-spouse has died. In another hypothetical situation, respondents were asked to imagine that a divorced woman was living in their household and that her ex-husband had died several years following their divorce. Nearly half of respondents who were asked about this scenario would have identified her marital status category as “widowed” rather than “divorced” or would have chosen both categories. Some made this choice intentionally as one respondent put it, “*to be nice I would say she was widowed, but a legal answer would be divorced.*” If respondents unintentionally gave an incorrect response and said the woman was now a widow, it was because they focused on the husband’s death as the most recent event and felt it superceded the previous divorce.

3.4 Version I Questionnaire Testing

3.4.1 Duration of Most Recent Marital Status

Mail: In what year did this person
enter into this marital status?

Telephone: In what year did (NAME/
you) get (married/widowed/divorced/
separated)? _____

One new item was included in version I of the survey to measure the duration of the respondent's most recent marital event. Respondents found the language "enter into this marital status" in the mail version of the question to be awkward and confusing. They described the wording as "roundabout" and "unusual." Some married respondents attempted to reword it to make it easier to understand, frequently suggesting examples such as, "*In what year did you get married?*" Oftentimes, they then realized their alternate questions would only be relevant for married individuals, and then they had no further ideas for changing the question. Despite the awkward language, all seven married respondents who completed version I of the mail questionnaire gave an accurate response. They said it was not difficult at all to remember the year in which they got married. Remarking on the ease in answering this question, one older respondent said, "*The older you get, you're proud.*"

This question was problematic for nonmarried respondents who clearly did not understand the intention of this question. The problem was because non-married respondents interpreted this item to be asking for the date of their marriage and not the most recent marital status that they identified in the previous question. Of the seven nonmarried respondents who completed version I of the mail questionnaire, both divorced respondents, two of three separated respondents, and one of two widows answered this question incorrectly and gave the date when they married. During the debriefing interview, the third separated respondent second-guessed her correct answer and also believed the question might have been asking for the date when she got married. One married respondent was concerned that divorced persons might misinterpret the question and choose both "married" and "divorced," although this did not actually occur during testing.

Most respondents had little trouble remembering the year of their most recent marital event. Married respondents often determined the year they were married based on the time span between other major life events such as the birth of a child, a job change, or a house purchase. Several remarked that their anniversary was easy to remember because, coincidentally, it was close to the day of the interview, they were married only a few years, or it was an easy year to remember (e.g., 20th or 25th anniversary this year). Of the three respondents who had been married more than once, all correctly gave the date of

their most recent marriage. Divorced respondents were probed to learn what factors they used to determine the date they considered themselves to be actually divorced. All said they considered themselves to be divorced when the final decree was issued by the courts. Separated respondents considered the date when either they or their spouse moved out permanently as the date when they became separated. These respondents occasionally needed more time to determine their response. This was not due to any confusion, but rather was indicative of more complicated situations where a spouse may have moved in and out multiple times.

3.5 Version II Questionnaire Testing

3.5.1 Change in Marital Status in Previous 12 Months

Mail: In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did this person get:

Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Separated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Telephone: In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (NAME/you) get:

Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Separated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

This new question is designed to gather information on annual marriage and divorce rates, which is not currently being collected. Many of the respondents in the sample did not have a change in their marital status for many years, thus they considered the question to be very easy, even “*innocuous*” to answer for themselves and members of their household. Those respondents who had a more recent change in marital status, such as one respondent who was separated 13 months from the date of the interview, had to think more carefully to answer the questions, but none found the question difficult. A few respondents who received the telephone version of the questionnaire commented that they thought it was redundant to ask these questions about their spouse if they had already explained that they were married once to the same person.

During the debriefing interview, respondents were asked about how they interpreted the phrase “in the past 12 months.” The majority said they thought this referred to a rolling time period starting from the date of the interview and going back 12 months to the same date in the previous year. Five respondents who completed a version II questionnaire interpreted the phrase to mean a calendar or

tax year. Two respondents said that they thought about the time period in terms of a calendar year, but they explained their response in terms of a rolling time period.

The time period in which the interviews are conducted may influence how respondents interpret “in the past 12 months.” One respondent said that since the interview was so close to the beginning of the year (mid-February), her response was based on the 2004 calendar year. The interviewer probed her further and asked how she would interpret the time period if the interview were conducted in June. This changed her interpretation of the question, and in that situation she would have considered the timeframe to be from June 2004 to June 2005.

A small number of respondents misinterpreted the question or did not understand the intent in gathering this type of information. Two respondents interpreted the question incorrectly, assuming that it was asking whether the marital status identified in the previous question was *ongoing* in the previous 12 months rather than a new event. One respondent to the mail version, who had been separated for more than a decade, indicated she was not married in the previous 12 months and then skipped the rest of the questions in this item. During the debriefing interview, she realized her mistake and went back to change her answers. This time she indicated that she was not divorced or widowed, but did mark that she had been separated in the previous 12 months. When probed further, she said that she interpreted the question to be asking what her marital status was in the previous 12 months. Another respondent did not understand the intent of the question and assumed that the questions were being asked to double-check his response to the first question about his current marital status. He described the questions as “*kind of silly*.” One woman said she did not understand the relevance of the census asking questions about someone’s marital history other than current marital status.

3.5.2 Number of Times Respondent Has Been Married

Mail: How many times has this person been married? *Do not count any marriages that ended in annulment.*

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three or more times

Telephone: How many times (has NAME/have you) been married, not counting any marriages that ended in annulment? Is that once, twice, or three or more times?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three or more times

Respondents had few difficulties interpreting or answering this question correctly and many described it as “*easy*.” The fact that, in many cases, households included two adults who were married

once to each other contributed to the lack of response problems. In the six households that included one or more unrelated adults living together, a few provided an answer for these other adult household members, but respondents were less sure about whether they could accurately answer how many times the unrelated adult household members had been married previously.

The 13 participants who completed a version II mail questionnaire were asked whether they noticed the italicized instruction “*do not count any marriages that ended in annulment*” when they read the question. Four respondents said they did not notice this instruction until it was mentioned in the debriefing interview and had not taken this into account in determining their answer to the question. Not surprisingly, given the small number of respondents interviewed, none had ever obtained an annulment, thus, it is impossible to know whether those with annulled marriages would interpret and answer the question correctly.

3.5.3 Duration of Most Recent Marriage

Mail: In what year did this person last get married? _____

Telephone: In what year did (NAME/you) (get/last get) married? _____

Respondents found this question easy to answer for themselves and their spouse. Most respondents did not have any trouble correctly recalling the year of their (most recent) marriage. Those who found it more difficult to remember the year they were married said they would ask their spouse or try and determine the date based upon its proximity to other major life experiences (e.g., birth of child, graduation from college). One respondent said she found the wording of this question in the mail form to be odd because to her it assumed that someone had been married more than once.

Those with unrelated adults in their household said they found this question to be more difficult to answer for their household members than the previous question about how many times they had previously been married.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary goals for conducting this research were to learn how well respondents understood the intended meaning of the survey items and whether there were any specific problems with the language, terms, or recall period used in the questions. BOC hoped testing would generate helpful information for determining which of the two versions yielded a better understanding of the questions and more accurate answers from respondents. Field testing with one version was planned for early 2006.

The results from the interviews indicate that respondents understood the intent of the questions better in version II and gave more accurate responses than they did in the version I questionnaire. Generally, most respondents found the four version II questions to be straightforward, easy to answer, and nonsensitive. Results show that no significant changes are warranted to improve understanding of the version II questions, although minor changes may produce an increase in accurate responses for some questions. In version I, the proposed new question to measure duration of marriages was more problematic. It produced systematic errors in responses from nonmarried individuals, making it the less desirable version to use in field testing.

4.1 Version II

The following are specific recommendations that could be used to make modifications to the version II questions to improve the accuracy of responses;

- **Consider specifying relevant time period in question measuring changes in marital status in previous 12 months.** One-quarter of respondents incorrectly interpreted “in the past 12 months” to mean a calendar year and not a rolling time period as intended. If feasible, the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) instrument could be programmed to provide a rolling 12-month time period and the mail forms could be printed with specific dates based on the date of interview.
- **Consider options for modifying the question measuring number of times married.** Three possible modifications include the following:
 - Exclude annulment instruction. Many respondents were confused about what an annulment was, and results from hypothetical scenarios used in the debriefing interviews showed that almost half of respondents could not identify the correct marital status of persons with annulled marriages. Even those who knew that an annulment erases a marriage wanted to recognize that a marriage had taken place in some way, even though they were instructed to exclude it.

- Retain existing annulment instruction and add an extra line between the question and the italicized instruction to increase its visibility.
- Add annulment instruction to the question to mirror the telephone version.

4.2 Version I

The following suggestions are also provided for version I questions in case they are used for future research.

- **Modify wording of question to more accurately gather data on duration of most recent marital status.** Nonmarried respondents frequently misinterpreted this question to be asking for the date of their marriage and not the date when they became widowed, separated, or divorced. The following two options are proposed:
 - Combine the two questions in Version I into one question in an alternative question format. This may increase respondents' understanding of the question and their accuracy in providing a response.

Ex.

What is this person's current marital status? (*Choose one.*)

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separated | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married | |

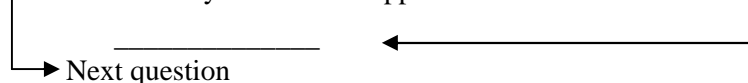
- If BOC prefers the existing format, question rewording and visual cues may increase accuracy of responses. The following example simplifies the wording of the second question and uses arrows as a visual cue to underscore the intent for the date of the most recent marital event, and not necessarily the date of marriage.

Ex.

A. What is this person's marital status?

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separated | In what year? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married | |

B. In what year did this happen?



APPENDIX A

MAIL AND TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS

American Community Survey

Cognitive Test CATI Instrument

Marital History-Version 1

January 25, 2005

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent respond to the telephone survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them “talk aloud” as they answer each question. Record answers on blank instrument and note any observations you have.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came from different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Interview Flow:

- First, create person roster.
- Ask question 2-8 for Person 1, then for Person 2, etc.
- Then ask questions 9a-16 for Person 1, for Person 2, etc.

<p>1. I am going to be asking some questions about everyone who is living or staying at this address. First let's create a list of the people, starting with you. What is your name?</p> <p><i>READ IF NECESSARY: What is the name of the next person living or staying here?</i></p> <p>IF NECESSARY: Please include everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months, and anyone else who does not have another usual place to stay.</p> <p><i>ENTER NAMES IN ROWS BELOW FOR UP TO SIX HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS</i></p>						
PERSON 1 (RESPONDENT)						
PERSON 2						
PERSON 3						
PERSON 4						
PERSON 5						
PERSON 6						
<p>Now we have additional questions about each person who has been listed. Let's begin again with you.</p> <p>ASK QUESTIONS 2-8 FOR PERSON 1, THEN FOR PERSON 2, ETC.</p>						

ROSTER and DEMOGRAPHICS	PERSON 1	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6
2. ASK IF NOT APPARENT: How is <NAME> related to you? 1. Husband or wife 2. Son or daughter 3. Brother or sister 4. Father or mother 5. Grandchild 6. In-law 7. Other relative 8. Roomer or boarder 9. Housemate or roommate 10. Unmarried partner 11. Foster child 12. Other non-relative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. IF NOT OBVIOUS ASK: (Is NAME/ Are you) male or female?	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female
4. What is (<Name>'s/your) date of birth? <i>Enter date of birth.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Would you say (<Name> is /you are): (years of age)? READ IF NECESSARY: What is your best estimate of (<Name>'s/your) age? <i>Enter age.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. (Is NAME/Are you) Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
7. I am going to read a list of race categories. Please choose one or more of the following categories to indicate what race or races (NAME considers him/herself/you consider yourself) to be. (Is <Name>/Are you)... <i>Read all answer categories. Enter all that apply.</i> 1. White 2. Black or African American 3. American Indian or Alaska Native 4. Asian 5. Native Hawaiian 6. Other Pacific Islander 7. Some Other Race	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ASK THESE QUESTIONS FOR EACH HH MEMBER BEFORE PROCEEDING.

REMINDE R TO THINK ALOUD IF NECESSARY.	PERSON 1	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6
<p><i>For person one: Now we have additional questions about each person we have listed. Let's begin again with (PERSON 1 NAME).</i></p> <p><i>For other household members: Now lets' talk about (NEXT PERSON NAME)</i></p> <p>8a. (Is NAME/Are you) now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?</p> <p>1. Now married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced 4. Separated 5. Never Married-SKIP TO QUESTION 9</p>	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never
<p>8b. In what year did (<Name>/you) get (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?</p> <p><i>Enter Year</i></p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<p>9. The next few questions deal with <Name's/your> place of birth and citizenship.</p> <p>Where (was <Name>/were you) born?</p> <p><i>Enter state of birth</i></p> <p><i>If United States, state unknown, enter US</i></p> <p><i>If not in the United States, enter NU</i></p> <p><i>If United States, DK or Ref, skip to Question 12a</i></p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<p>9b. In what country (was <Name>/were you) born?</p> <p><i>Enter country.</i></p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

<p><i>If Place of Birth is United States, skip to Question 12a</i></p> <p>10a. (Is <Name>/Are you) a citizen of the United States?</p> <p>Yes No ≡ <i>go to 12a</i> DK ≡ Ref≡</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>
<p>10b. (Was <Name>/Were you) born abroad of an American parent or parents, or did (<he/she>/you) become a citizen by naturalization?</p> <p>Born abroad of American parent or parents Citizen by naturalization DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>	<p>Am. parent Natural. DK Ref</p>
<p>11. When did (<Name>/you) come to live in the United States?</p> <p><i>Print year of entry.</i></p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><i>Ask everyone.</i></p> <p>12a. The next questions are about schooling and education. At any time IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS, (has <Name>/have you) attended a regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling that leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.</p> <p>Yes No ≡ <i>go to 13</i> DK ≡ <i>go to 13</i> Ref ≡ <i>go to 13</i></p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>	<p>Yes No DK Ref</p>

<p>12b. What type of school is this? Is it a public school or college or a private school or college?</p> <p>Public school or college Private school or college</p>	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private
<p>12c. What grade or level (was <Name>/ were you) attending?</p> <p>1. Nursery or preschool 2. Kindergarten 3. Grade 1 to grade 4 4. Grade 5 to grade 9 5. Grade 10 to grade 12 6. College Undergraduate (freshman to senior) 7. Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental or law school)</p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<p>13. What is the highest degree or level of school (<Name> has/you have) COMPLETED?</p> <p>(Read if necessary: If currently enrolled, what was the previous grade attended or highest degree received?)</p> <p>1. No schooling completed 2. Nursery school to 4th grade 3. 5th grade or 6th grade 4. 7th grade or 8th grade 5. 9th grade 6. 10th grade 7. 11th grade 8. 12th grade, NO DIPLOMA 9. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE-high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (GED) 10. Some college credit, but less than 1 year 11. 1 or more years of college, no degree 12. Associate degree in college (AA or AS) 13. Bachelor's degree (BA, AB, BS) 14. Master's degree (MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA) 15. Professional degree (MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD) 16. Doctorate degree (PhD, EdD)</p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

14. What is (<Name's/>your) ancestry or ethnic origin? <i>(Read if necessary: For example, Italian, Jamaican, African-American, Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian and so on.)</i> <i>Enter ancestry or ethnic origin.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15a. (Does <Name>/Do you) speak a language other than English at home? Yes No ≡ <i>go to 16a</i> DK ≡ <i>go to 16a</i> Ref ≡ <i>go to 16a</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
15b. What is this language? <i>Enter language.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15c. How well (does <Name>/do you) speak English – very well, well, not well, not at all?	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all
<i>If person < 1 years old, skip to next person/end</i> 16a. Did (<Name>/you) live in this house or apartment 1 year ago? Yes ≡ GO TO NEXT PERSON/END No ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i> DK ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i> Ref ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref

16b. Did (<Name>/you) live in the United States? Yes ≡ <i>SKIP TO 16D</i> No ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16C</i> DK ≡ <i>GO TO NEXT PERSON/END</i> Ref ≡ <i>GO TO NEXT PERSON/END</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
16c. What was that foreign country <i>Enter country.</i> <i>GO TO NEXT PERSON/END</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16d. What was the city or town? <i>Enter city or town.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16e. Did (<Name>/you) live inside the limits of (city or town)?	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
16f. What was the county? <i>Enter county.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16g. What was the state? <i>Enter state.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16h. What was the ZIP code? <i>Enter ZIP code.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

DRAFT

American Community Survey

Cognitive Test CATI Instrument

Marital History-Version 2

January 25, 2005

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent respond to the telephone survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them “talk aloud” as they answer each question. Record answers on blank instrument and note any observations you have.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came from different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Interview Flow:

- First, create person roster.
- Ask question 2-8 for Person 1, then for Person 2, etc.
- Then ask questions 9a-16 for Person 1, for Person 2, etc.

ROSTER and DEMOGRAPHICS	PERSON 1	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6
2. ASK IF NOT APPARENT: How is <NAME> related to you? 1. Husband or wife 2. Son or daughter 3. Brother or sister 4. Father or mother 5. Grandchild 6. In-law 7. Other relative 8. Roomer or boarder 9. Housemate or roommate 10. Unmarried partner 11. Foster child 12. Other non-relative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. IF NOT OBVIOUS ASK: (Is NAME/ Are you) male or female?	Male Female DK Ref	Male Female DK Ref	Male Female DK Ref	Male Female DK Ref	Male Female DK Ref	Male Female DK Ref
4. What is (<Name>'s/your) date of birth? <i>Enter date of birth.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Would you say (<Name> is /you are): (years of age)? READ IF NECESSARY: What is your best estimate of (<Name>'s/your) age? <i>Enter age.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. (Is NAME/Are you) Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
7. I am going to read a list of race categories. Please choose one or more of the following categories to indicate what race or races (NAME considers him/herself/you consider yourself) to be. (Is <Name>/Are you)... <i>Read all answer categories. Enter all that apply.</i> 1. White 2. Black or African American 3. American Indian or Alaska Native 4. Asian 5. Native Hawaiian 6. Other Pacific Islander 7. Some Other Race	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ASK THESE QUESTIONS FOR EACH HH MEMBER BEFORE PROCEEDING.

REMIND R TO THINK ALOUD IF NECESSARY.	PERSON 1	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6
<p><i>For person one: Now we have additional questions about each person we have listed. Let's begin again with (PERSON 1 NAME).</i></p> <p><i>For other household members: Now lets' talk about (NEXT PERSON NAME)</i></p>						
<p>8a. (Is NAME/Are you) now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?</p> <p>1. Now married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced 4. Separated 5. Never Married-SKIP TO QUESTION 9</p>	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never	Married Widow Divorce Sep. Never
8b1. In In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (<Name>/you) get...Married?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
8b2. (In In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (<Name>/you) get...) Widowed?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
8b3. (In In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (<Name>/you) get...) Divorced?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
8b4. (In In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (<Name>/you) get...) Separated?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
8c. How many times (has <Name>/have you) been married, not counting any marriages that ended in annulment? Is that once, twice, or three or more times?	Once Twice 3 +	Once Twice 3 +	Once Twice 3 +	Once Twice 3 +	Once Twice 3 +	Once Twice 3 +

ROSTER and DEMOGRAPHICS	PERSON 1	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6
8d. In what year did (<Name>/you) (get/last get) married? <i>Enter Year</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. The next few questions deal with <Name's/your> place of birth and citizenship. Where (was <Name>/were you) born? <i>Enter state of birth</i> <i>If United States, state unknown, enter US</i> <i>If not in the United States, enter NU</i> <i>If United States, DK or Ref, skip to Question 12a</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9b. In what country (was <Name>/were you) born? <i>Enter country.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

<p><i>If Place of Birth is United States, skip to Question 12a</i></p> <p>10a. (Is <Name>/Are you) a citizen of the United States?</p> <p>Yes No ≡ <i>go to 12a</i> DK ≡ Ref≡</p>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
<p>10b. (Was <Name>/Were you) born abroad of an American parent or parents, or did (<he/she>/you) become a citizen by naturalization?</p> <p>Born abroad of American parent or parents Citizen by naturalization DK Ref</p>	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref	Am. parent Natural. DK Ref
<p>11. When did (<Name>/you) come to live in the United States?</p> <p><i>Print year of entry.</i></p>						
<p><i>Ask everyone.</i></p> <p>12a. The next questions are about schooling and education. At any time IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS, (has <Name>/have you) attended a regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling that leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.</p> <p>Yes No ≡ <i>go to 13</i> DK ≡ <i>go to 13</i> Ref ≡ <i>go to 13</i></p>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref

<p>12b. What type of school is this? Is it a public school or college or a private school or college?</p> <p>Public school or college Private school or college</p>	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private	Public Private
<p>12c. What grade or level (was <Name>/ were you) attending?</p> <p>1. Nursery or preschool 2. Kindergarten 3. Grade 1 to grade 4 4. Grade 5 to grade 9 5. Grade 10 to grade 12 6. College Undergraduate (freshman to senior) 7. Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental or law school)</p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<p>13. What is the highest degree or level of school (<Name> has/you have) COMPLETED?</p> <p><i>(Read if necessary: If currently enrolled, what was the previous grade attended or highest degree received?)</i></p> <p>1. No schooling completed 2. Nursery school to 4th grade 3. 5th grade or 6th grade 4. 7th grade or 8th grade 5. 9th grade 6. 10th grade 7. 11th grade 8. 12th grade, NO DIPLOMA 9. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE-high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (GED) 10. Some college credit, but less than 1 year 11. 1 or more years of college, no degree 12. Associate degree in college (AA or AS) 13. Bachelor's degree (BA, AB, BS) 14. Master's degree (MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA) 15. Professional degree (MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD) 16. Doctorate degree (PhD, EdD)</p>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

14. What is (<Name's/>your) ancestry or ethnic origin? <i>(Read if necessary: For example, Italian, Jamaican, African-American, Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian and so on.)</i> <i>Enter ancestry or ethnic origin.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15a. (Does <Name>/Do you) speak a language other than English at home? Yes No ≡ <i>go to 16a</i> DK ≡ <i>go to 16a</i> Ref ≡ <i>go to 16a</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
15b. What is this language? <i>Enter language.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15c. How well (does <Name>/do you) speak English – very well, well, not well, not at all?	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all	Very well Well not well Not at all
<i>If person < 1 years old, skip to next person/end</i> 16a. Did (<Name>/you) live in this (building type) 1 year ago? Yes ≡ GO TO NEXT PERSON/END No ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i> DK ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i> Ref ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16B</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref

16b. Did (<Name>/you) live in the United States? Yes ≡ <i>SKIP TO 16D</i> No ≡ <i>CONTINUE TO 16C</i> DK ≡ <i>GO TO NEXT PERSON/END</i> Ref ≡ <i>GO TO NEXT PERSON/END</i>	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
16c. What was that foreign country <i>Enter country.</i> <i>Go to next person/end</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16d. What was the city or town? <i>Enter city or town.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16e. Did (<Name>/you) live inside the limits of (city or town)?	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref	Yes No DK Ref
16f. What was the county? <i>Enter county.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16g. What was the state? <i>Enter state.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16h. What was the ZIP code? <i>Enter ZIP code.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

THE American Community Survey

People are our most important resource. This Census Bureau survey collects information about education, employment, income, and housing— information your community uses to plan and fund programs. Your response is important, and we keep your answers confidential.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Paperwork Project 0607-0810, U.S. Census Bureau, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Stop 1500, Washington, D.C. 20233-1500. You may e-mail comments to Paperwork@census.gov; use "Paperwork Project 0607-0810" as the subject.

Respondents are not required to respond to any information collection unless it displays a valid approval number from the Office of Management and Budget. This 8-digit number appears in the bottom right on the front cover of this form.

¿NECESITA AYUDA? Si usted habla español y necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario, llame sin cargo alguno al **1-877-833-5625**.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our web site at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Start Here

This form asks for two types of information:

- basic information about the people who are living or staying at the address on the mailing label above
- more detailed information about each person living or staying here

➔ **What is your name?** Please PRINT the name of the person who is filling out this form. Include the telephone number so we can contact you if there is a question, and today's date.

Last Name

First Name

MI

Area Code + Number

Date (Month/Day/Year)

➔ **How many people are living or staying at this address?**
Number of people

➔ **Please turn to the next page to continue.**

FORM **ACS-1(X)MH.1**
(11-26-2004)

OMB No. 0607-0725

List of Residents

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Please fill out this form as soon as possible after receiving it in the mail.

- **LIST** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **LIST** anyone else staying here who does not have another usual place to stay.
- **DO NOT LIST** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away.

If this place is a **vacation home** or a **temporary residence** where no one in this household stays for more than 2 months, do not list any names in the List of Residents. **Complete only pages 4, 5, and 6 and return the form.**

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHOM TO LIST, CALL 1-800-354-7271.

→ If there are more than five people, list them here. We may call you for more information about them.

→ After you've created the List of Residents, answer the questions across the top of the page for the first five people on the list.

Person 1

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

1 What is this person's sex?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

2 What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Print numbers in boxes.

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

3 How is this person related to Person 1?

☒ Person 1

(Person 1 is the person living or staying here in whose name this house or apartment is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person, start with the name of any adult living or staying here.)

Person 2

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 2 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 3

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 3 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 4

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 4 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 5

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 5 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 6

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Person 7

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Person 8

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 5 and 6.

4 Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

Mark (X) the "No" box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.*

5 What is this person's race? Mark (X) one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race below.*
☐ Some other race — *Print race below.*

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.*

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race below.*
☐ Some other race — *Print race below.*

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.*

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race below.*
☐ Some other race — *Print race below.*

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.*

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race below.*
☐ Some other race — *Print race below.*

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.*

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race below.*
☐ Some other race — *Print race below.*

Person 9

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 10

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 11

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 12

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

➔ When you are finished, turn the page and continue with Person 1.

Person 1



Your answers are important! Every person in the American Community Survey counts.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 1 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

- 6 a. What is this person's marital status?**

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 7

- b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?**

Year

- 7 Where was this person born?**

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.
☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?**

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 10a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.**

Year

- 10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.**

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.**

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.**

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?**

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?**

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 14a

- b. What is this language?**

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?**

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 14 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?**

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?**

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?**

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 2



Survey information helps your community get financial assistance for roads, hospitals, schools, and more.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 2 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

- 6 a. What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 7

- b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?

Year

- 7 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.

- ☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 10a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

- 10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 14a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 14 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below, then SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

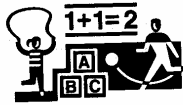
- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 3



Information about children helps
your community plan for child care,
education, and recreation.

- Please copy the name of Person 3 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

- 6 a. What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 7

- b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?

Year

- 7 Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States – Print name of state.

☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 10a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

- 10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 14a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 14 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?
Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 4



Knowing about age, race, and sex helps your community better meet the needs of everyone.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 4 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

- 6 a. What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 7

- b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?

Year

- 7 Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States – Print name of state.

☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 10a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

- 10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 14a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 14 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8

☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 5



Your answers help your community plan for the future.

➔ Please copy the name of Person 5 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

6 a. What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Never married – SKIP to question 7

b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?

Year

7 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.
- ☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 10a
- ☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
- ☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
- ☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
- ☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
- ☐ Yes, public school, public college
- ☐ Yes, private school, private college

b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
- ☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
- ☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
- ☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
- ☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
- ☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
- ☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
- ☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
- ☐ 9th grade
- ☐ 10th grade
- ☐ 11th grade
- ☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
- ☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- ☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
- ☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
- ☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
- ☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- ☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- ☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → SKIP to question 14a

b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Well
- ☐ Not well
- ☐ Not at all

14 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your participation.
- ☐ Yes, this house → STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your participation.
- ☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your participation.

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

THE American Community Survey

People are our most important resource. This Census Bureau survey collects information about education, employment, income, and housing— information your community uses to plan and fund programs. Your response is important, and we keep your answers confidential.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Paperwork Project 0607-0810, U.S. Census Bureau, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Stop 1500, Washington, D.C. 20233-1500. You may e-mail comments to Paperwork@census.gov; use "Paperwork Project 0607-0810" as the subject.

Respondents are not required to respond to any information collection unless it displays a valid approval number from the Office of Management and Budget. This 8-digit number appears in the bottom right on the front cover of this form.

¿NECESITA AYUDA? Si usted habla español y necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario, llame sin cargo alguno al **1-877-833-5625**.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our web site at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Start Here

This form asks for two types of information:

- basic information about the people who are living or staying at the address on the mailing label above
- more detailed information about each person living or staying here

➔ **What is your name?** Please PRINT the name of the person who is filling out this form. Include the telephone number so we can contact you if there is a question, and today's date.

Last Name

First Name

MI

Area Code + Number

Date (Month/Day/Year)

➔ **How many people are living or staying at this address?**

Number of people

➔ **Please turn to the next page to continue.**

FORM **ACS-1(X)MH.2**
(11-26-2004)

OMB No. 0607-0725

List of Residents

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Please fill out this form as soon as possible after receiving it in the mail.

- **LIST** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **LIST** anyone else staying here who does not have another usual place to stay.
- **DO NOT LIST** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away.

If this place is a vacation home or a temporary residence where no one in this household stays for more than 2 months, do not list any names in the List of Residents. **Complete only pages 4, 5, and 6 and return the form.**

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHOM TO LIST, CALL 1-800-354-7271.

→ If there are more than five people, list them here. We may call you for more information about them.

→ After you've created the List of Residents, answer the questions across the top of the page for the first five people on the list.

Person 1

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

1 What is this person's sex?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

2 What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth? Print numbers in boxes.

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

3 How is this person related to Person 1?

☒ Person 1

(Person 1 is the person living or staying here in whose name this house or apartment is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person, start with the name of any adult living or staying here.)

Person 2

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 2 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 3

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 3 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 4

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 4 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 5

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

Age (in years)

Month Day Year of birth

Relationship of Person 5 to Person 1.

- ☐ Husband or wife
☐ Son or daughter
☐ Brother or sister
☐ Father or mother
☐ Grandchild
☐ In-law
☐ Other relative
- ☐ Roomer, boarder
☐ Housemate, roommate
☐ Unmarried partner
☐ Foster child
☐ Other nonrelative

Person 6

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Person 7

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Person 8

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 5 and 6.

4 Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

Mark (X) the "No" box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. ↗

5 What is this person's race? Mark (X) one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — Print race. →

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. ↗
☐ Some other race — Print race below. ↗

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. ↗

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — Print race. →

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. ↗
☐ Some other race — Print race below. ↗

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. ↗

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — Print race. →

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. ↗
☐ Some other race — Print race below. ↗

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. ↗

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — Print race. →

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. ↗
☐ Some other race — Print race below. ↗

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. ↗

- ☐ White
☐ Black or African American
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

- ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian — Print race. →

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. ↗
☐ Some other race — Print race below. ↗

Person 9

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 10

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 11

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

Person 12

Last Name (Please print)

First Name MI

➡ When you are finished, turn the page and continue with Person 1.

Person 1



Your answers are important! Every person in the American Community Survey counts.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 1 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

- 6 What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 9

- 7 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 8 a. How many times has this person been married? Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments.

- ☐ Once
☐ Two times
☐ Three or more times

- b. In what year did this person last get married?
 Year

- 9 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.
☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 10 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 12a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 11 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.
 Year

MI

- 12 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 13
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 13 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 14 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 15 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 16a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 16 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5.
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 5

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 2



Survey information helps your community get financial assistance for roads, hospitals, schools, and more.

- Please copy the name of Person 2 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

- 6 What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 9

- 7 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 8 a. How many times has this person been married? Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments.

- ☐ Once
☐ Two times
☐ Three or more times

- b. In what year did this person last get married?

Year

- 9 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.
- ☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 10 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 12a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 11 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

MI 12

- a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 13
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 13 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 14 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 15 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 16a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 16 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6.
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 3 on page 6

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

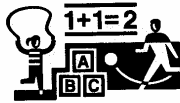
- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 3



Information about children helps
your community plan for child care,
education, and recreation.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 3 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

- 6 What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 9

- 7 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 8 a. How many times has this person been married?
Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments.

- ☐ Once
☐ Two times
☐ Three or more times

- b. In what year did this person last get married?
Year

- 9 Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States – Print name of state.

☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 10 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 12a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 11 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.
Year

- MI 12 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college?
Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 13
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 13 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box.
If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 14 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 15 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 16a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 16 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7.
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 4 on page 7

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?
Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 4



Knowing about age, race, and sex helps your community better meet the needs of everyone.

- ➔ Please copy the name of Person 4 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

- 6 What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 9

- 7 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 8 a. How many times has this person been married? Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments.

- ☐ Once
☐ Two times
☐ Three or more times

- b. In what year did this person last get married?

Year

- 9 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.
☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

- 10 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 12a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

- 11 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.
 Year

MI

- 12 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 13
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

- b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

- 13 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

- 14 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

- 15 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 16a

- b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

- c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

- 16 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8.
☐ Yes, this house → SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to the questions for Person 5 on page 8

- ☐ No, different house in the United States

- b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

- c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

Person 5



Your answers help your community plan for the future.

➔ Please copy the name of Person 5 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.
Last Name

First Name

6 What is this person's marital status?

- ☐ Now married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never married – SKIP to question 9

7 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get:

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8 a. How many times has this person been married?
Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments.

- ☐ Once
☐ Two times
☐ Three or more times

b. In what year did this person last get married?
Year

9 Where was this person born?

- ☐ In the United States – Print name of state.

☐ Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

10 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States → SKIP to question 12a
☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

11 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.
Year

MI

12

a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 13
☐ Yes, public school, public college
☐ Yes, private school, private college

b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- ☐ Nursery school, preschool
☐ Kindergarten
☐ Grade 1 to grade 4
☐ Grade 5 to grade 8
☐ Grade 9 to grade 12
☐ College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
☐ Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

13

What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
☐ 9th grade
☐ 10th grade
☐ 11th grade
☐ 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

14

What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

15

a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 16a

b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

c. How well does this person speak English?

- ☐ Very well
☐ Well
☐ Not well
☐ Not at all

16

a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old → STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your assistance.
☐ Yes, this house → STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your assistance.
☐ No, outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then STOP – Survey complete. Thank you for your assistance.

☐ No, different house in the United States

b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Name of city, town, or post office

c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

APPENDIX B

VERSION I AND VERSION II PROBES

Date: _____ Time: _____ Interviewer: _____ Respondent ID: _____

2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

**Cognitive Interview questions and probes
on Marital History questions**

VERSION 1 - PAPER

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent fill out a copy of the mail survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them read the question and their answer as they do so. Fill in their answers and note any observations you have.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the form/interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Now I'm going to ask you just a few of the questions again and get your thoughts in more depth. For this interview, we are particularly interested in the questions about marriage and divorce, and so forth.

First, what was your general impression about those questions?

6a. What is this person's marital status?

NOW MARRIED	(GO TO Q6B)
WIDOWED	(GO TO Q6B)
DIVORCED.....	(GO TO Q6B)
SEPARATED	(GO TO Q6B)
NEVER MARRIED.....	(GO TO Q7)

Probe:

Tell me in your own words what being separated means.

6b. In what year did this person enter into this marital status?

Enter year: _____

Probes: [ASK FIRST ABOUT RESPONDENT, OBTAIN R'S MARITAL HISTORY, AND THEN ABOUT PERSON 2-6.]

1. What was your first thought when I asked you this question?
OR
2. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
3. Tell me how you remember the year you got (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?
4. Tell me in your own words what the phrase "enter into this marital status" means to you?
5. How easy or hard was this question to answer (about yourself/Person 2-6)? Tell me why.

Now I'd like to understand a bit more how you answered the questions. To help me, I'd like to find out more about the marital history of people in your household. Let's start when you first got married and tell me about any times that you've been separated, divorced, widowed, or remarried up through today.

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	<i>Suggested probes</i> [ASK ONLY IF NECESSARY TO CLARIFY MARITAL HISTORY OR PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]
1			<p>[If married and married more than once:] When I asked in what year did (you /Person 2-6) entered into this marital status, which marriage did you think I was referring to?</p> <p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p>
2			<p>[If widowed:] (Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still living?</p> <p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that?</p>
3			<p>Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced?</p> <p>Is (your/Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still alive?</p> <p>[IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p> <p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled? In your own words, what does the term annulled mean?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

Date: _____ Time: _____ Interviewer: _____ Respondent ID: _____

2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

**Cognitive Interview questions and probes
on Marital History questions**

VERSION 2 - PAPER

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent fill out a copy of the mail survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them read the question and their answer as they do so. Fill in their answers and note any observations on your own copy of the mail survey.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the form/interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Now I'm going to ask you just a few of the questions again and get your thoughts in more depth. For this interview, we are particularly interested in the questions about marriage and divorce, and so forth.

First, what was your general impression about those questions?

6. What is this person's marital status?

NOW MARRIED	(GO TO Q7)
WIDOWED	(GO TO Q7)
DIVORCED.....	(GO TO Q7)
SEPARATED	(GO TO Q7)
NEVER MARRIED.....	(GO TO Q9)

Probe:

Tell me in your own words what being separated means.

7. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did this person get:

MARRIED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
WIDOWED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
DIVORCED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
SEPARATED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

INTERVIEWEE	INTERVIEW NOTES
PERSON 1 (RESPONDENT)	
PERSON 2	
PERSON 3	

Probes:

1. What was your first thought when you read this question?
OR
2. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
3. Some people think of a calendar year and some have other ways of thinking about 12 months. What way did you use?
4. How certain are you of when (Person 2-6) got (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?
(Ask for each marital status event.)
5. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself?
6. How easy or hard was this question to answer for (Person 2-6)?
7. Tell me why you rated the question this way (for yourself/for Person 2-6)?

8a. How many times has this person been married? *Do not count any marriages that ended in annulments?*

ONCE..... ☐
 TWICE..... ☐
 THREE OR MORE TIMES..... ☐

Probes:

1. In your words, what is this question asking?
2. Tell me what the word “annulment” means to you?

Probes: [ASK FIRST ABOUT RESPONDENT, OBTAIN R’S MARITAL HISTORY, AND THEN ABOUT PERSON 2-6.]

6. What was your first thought when I asked you this question?
OR
7. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
8. Tell me how you remember the year you got (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?
9. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself? Tell me why.

[IF APPROPRIATE AT THIS POINT:]

Now I’d like to understand a bit more how you answered the questions. To help me, I’d like to find out more about the marital history of people in your household. Let’s start when you first got married and tell me about any times that you’ve been separated, divorced, widowed, or remarried up through today.

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	<i>Suggested probes</i> [ASK ONLY IF NECESSARY TO CLARIFY MARITAL HISTORY OR PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]
1			<p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p> <p>[If widowed:] (Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6’s) ex-spouse still living?</p>
2			<p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that?</p> <p>Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced?</p> <p>Is (your/Person 2-6’s) ex-spouse still alive?</p> <p>[IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p>
3			<p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

8b. In what year did this person last get married?

Enter year: _____

INTERVIEWEE	INTERVIEW NOTES
PERSON 1 (RESPONDENT)	
PERSON 2	
PERSON 3	

Probes:

1. What was your first thought when you read this question?
OR
2. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
3. How do you remember the year you last get married?
4. How do you know the year (Person 2-6) last get married?
5. How certain are you of the year (Person 2-6) last get married?
6. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself?
7. How easy or hard was this question to answer for (Person 2-6)?
8. Tell me why you rated the question this way (for yourself/for Person 2-6)?

[IF NOT ASKED PREVIOUSLY:]

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	<i>Suggested probes</i> [ASK ONLY IF NECESSARY TO CLARIFY MARITAL HISTORY OR PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]
1			<p>[If married and married more than once:] When I asked in what year did (you /Person 2-6) get married, which marriage did you think I was referring to?</p> <p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p> <p>[If widowed:] (Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still living?</p>
2			<p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that? Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced?</p>
3			<p>Is (your/Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still alive? [IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p> <p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled? In your own words, what does the term annulled mean?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

Date:_____ Time:_____ Interviewer:_____ Respondent ID:_____

2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

**Cognitive Interview questions and probes
on Marital History questions**

VERSION 1 - CATI

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent respond to the telephone survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them “talk aloud” as they answer each question. Record answers on blank instrument and note any observations you have.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Now I'm going to ask you just a few of the questions again and get your thoughts in more depth. For this interview, we are particularly interested in the questions about marriage and divorce, and so forth.

First, what was your general impression about those questions?

8a. (Is NAME/Are you) now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?

NOW MARRIED	(GO TO Q8B)
WIDOWED	(GO TO Q8B)
DIVORCED	(GO TO Q8B)
SEPARATED	(GO TO Q8B)
NEVER MARRIED	(GO TO Q9)

Probe:

Tell me in your own words what being separated means.

8b. In what year did (NAME/you) get (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?

Probes: [ASK FIRST ABOUT RESPONDENT, OBTAIN R'S MARITAL HISTORY, AND THEN ABOUT PERSON 2-6.]

10. What was your first thought when I asked you this question?
OR
11. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
12. Tell me how you remember the year you got (married/widowed/divorced/separated)?
13. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself? Tell me why.

Now I'd like to understand a bit more how you answered the questions. To help me, I'd like to find out more about the marital history of people in your household. Let's start when you first got married and tell me about any times that you've been separated, divorced, widowed, or remarried up through today.

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	<i>Suggested probes</i> [ASK ONLY IF NECESSARY TO CLARIFY MARITAL HISTORY OR PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]
1			<p>[If married and married more than once:] When I asked in what year did (you /Person 2-6) get married, which marriage did you think I was referring to?</p> <p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p> <p>[If widowed:] (Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still living?</p>
2			<p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that?</p>
3			<p>Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced?</p> <p>Is (your/Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still alive?</p> <p>[IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p> <p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled? In your own words, what does the term annulled mean?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

Date:_____ Time:_____ Interviewer:_____ Respondent ID:_____

2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

**Cognitive Interview questions and probes
on Marital History questions**

VERSION 2 - CATI

Probing Strategy:

- A ‘think aloud’ approach will be used including a practice think aloud exercise after the respondent signs the consent form
- Have respondent respond to the telephone survey for themselves and up to five household members. Have them “talk aloud” as they answer each question. Record answers on blank instrument and note any observations you have.
- Majority of probing will be retrospective - done AFTER all ACS items have been asked for household members. Repeat the question (“One of the questions I asked you was.....”) along with the respondent’s answer. Then probe. As necessary, tailor probes to the respondent, and the person or situation for which the respondent is reporting. Also, you may need to probe the same question/issue for more than one person in the household (e.g., people came different countries, or emigrated at different times, etc.)
- While completing the interview, probe IMMEDIATELY on obvious ‘issues’ – a noticeable problem such as respondent confusion, changing of answers, response is ‘don’t know’ or the cognitive interviewer needs some clarification on something the respondent said as part of the think aloud response. Example generic probes are:
 - *I noticed you hesitated before answering – can you tell me what you were thinking about?*
 - *You seem a bit confused – can you tell me about that?*
- Follow-up with more specific probes (e.g., those regarding specific phrases), as appropriate.
- Before dismissing respondent, ask if they have any additional comments on the questions asked in the interview.

Now I'm going to ask you just a few of the questions again and get your thoughts in more depth. For this interview, we are particularly interested in the questions about marriage and divorce, and so forth.

First, what was your general impression about those questions?

8a. (Is NAME/Are you) now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?

NOW MARRIED	(GO TO Q8B1)
WIDOWED	(GO TO Q8B1)
DIVORCED.....	(GO TO Q8B1)
SEPARATED	(GO TO Q8B1)
NEVER MARRIED.....	(GO TO Q9)

Probe:

Tell me in your own words what being separated means.

8b1. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (NAME/you) get... Married?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

8b2. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (NAME/you) get... Widowed?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

8b3. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (NAME/you) get... Divorced?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

8b4. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, did (NAME/you) get... Separated?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

INTERVIEWEE	INTERVIEW NOTES
PERSON 1 (RESPONDENT)	
PERSON 2	
PERSON 3	

Probes:

1. What was your first thought when I asked you this question?
OR
2. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
3. Some people think of a calendar year and some have other ways of thinking about 12 months.
What way did you use?
4. How certain are you of when (Person 2-6) got (married/widowed/divorced/separated)? (Ask for each marital status event.)
5. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself?
6. How easy or hard was this question to answer for (Person 2-6)?
7. Tell me why you rated them this way?

8c. How many times (has NAME/have you) been married, not counting any marriages that ended in annulment? Is that once, twice, or three or more times?

ONCE..... ☐

TWICE..... ☐

THREE OR MORE TIMES..... ☐

Probes:

1. In your own words, what is this question asking?
2. Tell me what the word “annulment” means to you.

Now I’d like to understand a bit more how you answered the questions. To help me, I’d like to find out more about the marital history of people in your household. Let’s start when you first got married and tell me about any times that you’ve been separated, divorced, widowed, or remarried up through today.

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	<i>Suggested probes</i> [ASK ONLY IF NECESSARY TO CLARIFY MARITAL HISTORY OR PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]
1			<p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p> <p>[If widowed:] (Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6’s) ex-spouse still living?</p>
2			<p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that?</p> <p>Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced?</p> <p>Is (your/Person 2-6’s) ex-spouse still alive?</p>
3			<p>[IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p> <p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled? In your own words, what does the term annulled mean?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

8d. In what year did (NAME/you) (get/last get) married?

Enter year: _____

INTERVIEWEE	INTERVIEW NOTES
PERSON 1 (RESPONDENT)	
PERSON 2	
PERSON 3	

Probes:

1. What was your first thought when I asked you this question?
OR
2. What were you thinking as you came up with that answer?
3. How do you remember the year you (got/last got) married?
4. **[IF CURRENTLY MARRIED AND MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE:]** When I asked in what year did (you /Person 2-6) get married, which marriage did you think I was referring to?
5. How do you know the year (Person 2-6) (got/last got) married?
6. How certain are you of the year (Person 2-6) (got/last got) married?
7. How easy or hard was this question to answer about yourself?
8. How easy or hard was this question to answer for (Person 2-6)?
9. Tell me why you rated them this way?

[IF NOT ASKED PREVIOUSLY:]

Now I'd like to understand a bit more how you answered the questions. To help me, I'd like to find out more about the marital history of people in your household. Let's start when you first got married and tell me about any times that you've been separated, divorced, widowed, or remarried up through today.

Person #	Current marital status	Marital history	Suggested probes
1			<p>[If married and married more than once:] When I asked in what year did (you /Person 2-6) get married, which marriage did you think I was referring to?</p> <p>[If received annulment:] How did (your/Person 2-6) annulment affect your answers to the questions?</p> <p>[If widowed:]</p>
2			<p>(Have you/has Person 2-6) been married more than once? (Were you/Was Person 2-6) ever divorced? When did (you/Person 2-6) remarry? (If ever divorced:) Is (your /Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still living?</p> <p>[If ever divorced] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? When was that?</p>
3			<p>Why is the year you gave me for (yourself/Person 2-6) the one in which you consider (yourself /Person 2-6) to be divorced? Is (your/Person 2-6's) ex-spouse still alive? [IF NO] how did you choose between the categories of divorced and widowed?</p> <p>[If ever separated:] Did (you/Person 2-6) obtain a legal separation? In what year (were you/was Person 2-6) legally separated?</p> <p>[If adult never married] By any chance did (Person 2-6) have a marriage that was annulled? In your own words, what does the term annulled mean?</p>

[PROBE INCONSISTENCIES.]

APPENDIX C

SCENARIOS

**2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
COGNITIVE TESTING**

Marital History Scenarios

SCENARIO A

Your brother has been living in your household for several months while he searches for a job. He married in 1988, and he and his wife agreed to a trial separation in January 2004.

SCENARIO B

Your spouse's sister has been living in your household since her divorce in June, 2002. Her ex-husband died in February 2004.

SCENARIO C

Your sister's best friend sold a house 3 months ago and is living with you until the new house is ready to be occupied. She was married in 1995 and legally separated from her spouse in December 2003.

SCENARIO D

Your mother, who lives with you, was married in 1958 and divorced in 1962. She remarried in 1964. Her second husband died in 2001.

SCENARIO E

Your son's good friend has been living in your household since college graduation while he searches for a job. He was married briefly while in college and the marriage was annulled.

APPENDIX D

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT

2006 American Community Survey Cognitive Testing

Recruitment Advertisement

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Receive \$40

Westat, a social science research corporation, is helping the U.S. Census Bureau evaluate a survey for an important national project. We are conducting interviews with people who live in the Washington, DC, area. The interviews will take place at our offices in Rockville, MD. A \$40 cash incentive will be paid for an interview lasting about 1 hour. Interviews will be conducted in English. Day and evening times are available. To see if you qualify, please call **(240) 314-7518** and leave a message.

WESTAT

EOE

www.westat.com

APPENDIX E

RECRUITMENT SCREENER

**Marital History Cognitive Interviews
Participant Screener**

Name: _____ Phone: _____ ID#: _____

A few (days/weeks) ago, you called us in response to an advertisement for research volunteers. We are looking for people willing to meet with us here at Westat located in Rockville, MD, for a study being conducted for the U.S. Census Bureau. It will take an hour or less, and we're paying people \$40 for participating. We're scheduling interviews beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 25th and for the next several weeks.

In order to find out if you are eligible to participate in this study, I need to ask you a few questions.

1. First, have you ever worked for Westat? (since 2000?)

YES :__ : [IF SINCE 2000, TERMINATE]
NO :__ :

2. Have you participated in a focus group or interview with Westat in the last six months?

YES :__ : [TERMINATE]
NO :__ :

3. What is your age? [RECRUIT A MIX.]

:____ : [IF UNDER 18, TERMINATE]

4. RECORD GENDER. IF NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: Are you male or female? [RECRUIT EVEN MIX.]

MALE :__ :
FEMALE :__ :

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [RECRUIT A MIX.]

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL :__ :
HIGH SCHOOL/GED :__ :
SOME COLLEGE/VOC. ED :__ :
COLLEGE DEGREE OR MORE :__ :

6. Which of the following best describes your employment status? [RECRUIT A MIX.]

WORKING FULL-TIME	:__:
WORKING PART-TIME	:__:
RETIRED	:__:
UNEMPLOYED	:__:

7. What is your race or ethnic background? [RECRUIT ACCORDING TO QUOTAS]

WHITE	:__:
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	:__:
HISPANIC/LATINO	:__:
ASIAN	:__: [TERMINATE]
OTHER	:__: [TERMINATE]

8. How would you describe your current marital status? Are you:

MARRIED	:__: [GO TO Q9.]
DIVORCED	:__: [GO TO Q10.]
WIDOWED	:__: [GO TO Q10.]
SEPARATED	:__: [GO TO Q10.]
NEVER MARRIED	:__: [TERMINATE]

9. Is this your only marriage or have you been married before?

ONLY MARRIAGE	:__:
MARRIED BEFORE	:__:

10. Not including yourself, how many people age 18 and older live in your household?

ONE	:__:
TWO	:__:
THREE OR MORE	:__:

11. Not including yourself, how many people under age 18 live in your household?

ONE	:__:
TWO	:__:
THREE OR MORE	:__:

INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF THIS PERSON HAS DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH OR SEEMS SHY OR UNWILLING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, PLEASE TERMINATE.

***CHECK PARTICIPANT TRACKING GRID AND DETERMINE WHETHER RESPONDENT IS NEEDED IN THIS STUDY.**

IF TERMINATED, TELL THEM WE MAY BE ABLE TO USE THEM IN ANOTHER STUDY WE ARE CONDUCTING FOR THE CENSUS BUREAU IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND WE WILL CONTACT THEM IF THEY QUALIFY.

SCHEDULE INTERVIEW

Thank you for answering my questions. You do qualify for this study and if you are interested, I'd like to schedule an appointment for an interview at a time that's convenient for you. Let me read you some times I have available and you can choose the time that is best for you:

****Martha – if individual prefers an evening time slot, ask them what time/day they prefer and tell them you will call them back. Then call Meredith Grady at x2748 to schedule an interviewer.**

Tues., 1/25			1:00	2:30	4:00	5:30
Wed., 1/26	10:00	11:30	2:00	3:30		
Thurs., 1/27	10:00	11:30	1:00	3:00		
Fri., 1/28	10:00	11:30				
Mon., 1/31	10:00	11:15		3:30	4:45	
Tues., 2/1			1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Wed., 2/2	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Thurs., 2/3	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Fri., 2/4	10:00	11:15				
Mon., 2/7	10:00	11:15				
Tues., 2/8	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Wed., 2/9	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Thurs., 2/10	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Fri., 2/11	10:00	11:15				
Mon., 2/14	10:00	11:15			3:30	
Tues., 2/15			1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Wed., 2/16	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Thurs., 2/17	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Fri., 2/18	10:00	11:15				
Mon., 2/21	10:00	11:15		3:00	4:15	5:30
Tues., 2/22	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Wed., 2/23	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Thurs., 2/24	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Fri., 2/25	10:00	11:15				
Mon., 2/28	10:00	11:15		3:00	4:15	5:30
Tues., 3/1			1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Wed., 3/2	10:00	11:15	1:45	3:00	4:15	5:30
Thurs., 3/3	10:00	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:30	4:45
Fri., 3/4	10:00	11:15				

****Times listed in bold may be conducted in the focus group observation room (TA1099), if desired.**

May I please have your name, address and (confirm your) telephone number? We need your address so that we can send you directions on how to get to Westat's office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

ONLY ONE PER HOUSEHOLD

Let me (confirm/get) your telephone number: _____

I will send you a letter with driving directions and a map out to you shortly. It will also include instructions on where to park. If you have to cancel your interview, we would appreciate it if you could give us a call back, even if it's the same day, so that we can schedule someone in your place. We will include the telephone number in the letter we send to you. Thank you very much for helping us with this research project.

APPENDIX F

INFORMATION LETTER



1650 Research Boulevard • Rockville, Maryland 20850-3195
tel. 301-251-1500 • fax 301-294-2040 • www.westat.com

Dear _____,

Thank you for your willingness to help us with our research. As we discussed with you on the phone, your interview is scheduled for _____, at _____. The interview should last about an hour and you will be paid \$40 cash at the completion of the interview.

Directions to Westat:

- Take I-270 to exit 6B (Rt. 28/W. Montgomery Ave.). At the third light turn right onto Research Blvd. Westat's Twelve Oaks TA building will be about ¼ mile on the left.
- Or take Rockville Pike to Shady Grove Rd, heading west. Shortly after the I-270 exit, turn left onto Research Blvd. Westat is about ¾ mile on the right. Turn into the entrance marked "12 Oaks" (at 1550 Research Blvd.) and park in a visitor parking space or any available space. Please enter the building at the front entrance facing Research Blvd. You will need to sign in at the front desk and receive a visitor badge before being escorted to your interview.

There are a couple of things for you to note before you arrive for your interview.

- First, please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled interview to check-in. We are scheduling many interviews each day and if you arrive late, we may not be able to fit you in before the next interview.
- Please do not bring young children with you as they may not participate in the interview and we are unable to provide child care. Also, our waiting area is very small and there is no place for people to wait for you while you are being interviewed.

If for some reason you cannot make your interview, **please call toll-free 888-847-7140** as far in advance as possible, so that we can schedule someone in your place.

Thanks!

APPENDIX G

INTERVIEWER TRAINING MATERIALS

**American Community Survey - Marital History
Cognitive Interview Training**

AGENDA

- Introduction and project background information
 - Full ACS survey
 - Purpose of testing Marital History questions
- Types of respondents and recruiting priorities
- Review of Marital History instruments
 - Versions 1 and 2
 - CATI and paper
- Conducting interviews and cognitive interviewing methods
- Interview summaries/admin details
 - Writing interview summaries
 - Assigning interviewers
 - Security - Title 13
 - Greeting respondents and using conference rooms
 - Checking project voice mail remotely
 - Using recording equipment
- Role plays

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS

1. Purpose of the research

- Be very familiar with the instrument

(Reviewed by Meredith just before this part of the training.)

- Have your goals in mind

Understand the concerns that Census has with regard to the marital history question:

- ~ *Are respondents reporting their correct, current marital status?*
E.G.: Saying they are divorced if they do not yet have a legal decree
Saying they are widowed if they were divorced and then the ex-spouse died
- ~ *Do respondents understand all terms correctly?*
E.G.: “past 12 months”
“enter into this marital status”
“annulment”
- ~ *How accurately do respondents report for other HH members?*
E.G.: How do they remember number of marriages or year of divorce for other HH members?
- ~ *Other concerns?*

- Develop probes beforehand

Some probes have been developed. When doing the role play interviews, think about what others might be useful given the goals of the research.
Interviewers do not have to limit themselves to the probes on the instruments.

- Practice—cognitive interviewing is an art, not a science

Conduct at least 2 interviews (version 1 and 2, CATI and paper) before “going live.”

2. Put the respondent at ease

Review the script that was delivered to Census.

~ *It is a guide; adapt the format for your convenience*

- Thank R for helping to improve our research
- Assure confidentiality; get permission to tape; if observers are present, explain
- A “test” of the interview, not the participant; we want all comments and ideas
- Explain the purpose and demonstrate the techniques
 - ~ *Asking for more explanation (concurrent debriefing)*
 - ~ *Thinking aloud (concurrent or post-interview)*
 - ~ *Thinking back on the interview (post-interview debriefing)*
- Have R sign the consent form

3. During the interview

- Pay attention to body language
 - ~ *Listen for hesitation when administering the CATI*
 - ~ *Watch the R fill out the paper version and note on your copy where they are pausing to think; ask them to think aloud if appropriate*
- Follow your instincts about probing
- Note inconsistency in response

4. After the interview

- Capture the respondent's opinion of the questionnaire and the general ease or difficulty of the items
 - ~ *General probe about proxy responses*
- Do post-interview debriefing
 - ~ *Most of the probing will be post-interview*
 - ~ *[Review of all the probes.]*
 - ~ *[Review of the testing scenarios.]*
- Use a variety of techniques
- Ask R to suggest wording for confusing questions (*How could we say that in a clearer way?*)
- R's final comments; thanks and give honorarium
- Write your notes
 - ~ *Writing some notes immediately (certainly before the next interview) is very helpful even if you intend to review the tape later and flesh out the summary*

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

Role Plays

The following scenarios represent situations you are likely to encounter in your ACS interviews. We would like you to practice with them both during and after the training to help familiarize yourself with the different versions of the questionnaire and formats (e.g., paper and CATI) that will be used in testing. Practicing a few times will also help make you more comfortable with the interviewing process.

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

ROLE PLAY 1 (use Version 1 or 2)

The respondent (F, Afr Amer, 36) is married and lives with her husband (M, Afr Amer 37). They were married in 1998 and this is the first marriage for both of them. They have 2 daughters ages 4 and 1 ½.			
V1	Person 1 Respondent/ Person 2 - Husband	V2	Person 1 - Respondent/ Person 2 - Husband
6a or 8a	NOW MARRIED	6 or 8a	NOW MARRIED
6b or 8b	1998	7 or 8b	NO TO ALL Qs
		8a or 8c	ONCE
		8b or 8d	1998
Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respondent has no problems in answering questions for herself or spouse. ▪ Single marital event for each; not within the last 12 months 			

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

ROLE PLAY 2 (use Version 2)

The respondent (F, white, 42) is married for the first time and lives with her husband (M, Hispanic, 49). They were married in December 2003. He married for the first time in the early 1980s (respondent is unsure of exact year) and was legally divorced in 2000. They live with his three children from his first marriage: F Hispanic, age 19, M Hispanic age 16, M Hispanic age 14. His daughter is unmarried, attends college locally, and lives at home.

Provide the following marital history responses:

Paper/CATI	Person 1 Respondent	Person 2 Husband	Person 3 Daughter, age 19
6 or 8a	Current marital status: NOW MARRIED	Current marital status: NOW MARRIED	Current marital status: NEVER MARRIED
7 or 8b	In past 12 months: GOT MARRIED	In the past 12 months: GOT MARRIED	SKIP TO QUESTIONS ON IMMIGRATION STATUS
8a or 8c	Number of times married? ONCE	Number of times married? TWICE	
8b or 8d	Year got married? 2003	Year last got married? Early 1980s and 2003	

Note:

- Respondent incorrectly answers 7/8b "In the past 12 months did this person get..."
- Respondent is unsure of whether husband's first marriage was annulled and does not know what annulment means.
- Respondent is unsure of date of husband's first marriage and includes date of first and second marriage in response to 8b/8d.

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

ROLE PLAY 3 (Use Version 1)

<p>The respondent (F Afr Amer, 53) was divorced twice; once in 1982, she remarried in 1985 and then divorced again in 1994. She obtained a legal separation from her first husband in 1979. Her second husband is deceased since 2004. She has two sons (M Afr Amer, 30 and M Afr Amer 27) from her first marriage and a third son (M Afr Amer 18) from her second. Her oldest son separated from his wife in 2002 or 2003 and has returned home. Her other two sons do not reside with her.</p>		
Paper/CATI	Person 1 Respondent	Person 2 Son, age 30
6a or 8a	Current marital status: WIDOWED	Current marital status: SEPARATED
6b or 8b	Paper:1994 and 2004 CATI: 2004	2003
<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respondent is unsure of when son was separated, but knows he moved in to her house in 2003. ▪ Respondent incorrectly identifies herself as widowed instead of divorced. ▪ Respondent misinterprets "enter into this marital status" and gives date of 2nd divorce and when her ex-spouse died 		

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

ROLE PLAY 4 (use Version 1)

In 2004, the respondent (F white 38) separated from her second husband (M white 41) who was also married once before. She first married when she was 22 and divorced the following year in 1989. She met her second husband in 1991 and they married in 1995. Her second husband separated from his first wife in 1992 and obtained a divorce in 1994. She now lives with her sister (F white 36) and her cousin (F Hispanic 38). She has two children (M white 8 and M white 6). Her sister is single and also has two kids (M white 6 and F white 5). Her cousin is divorced and doesn't have any children. The respondent doesn't remember exactly when her cousin got divorced, but says "I think I was pregnant with my second child at the time."

Paper/ CATI	Person 1 Respondent	Person 2 Son, age 8	Person 3 Son, age 6	Person 4 Cousin	Person 5 Sister	Person 6 Nephew age 6
6a or 8a	Current marital status: SEPARATED	Current marital status: NEVER MARRIED	Current marital status: NEVER MARRIED	Current marital status: DIVORCE D	Current marital status: NEVER MARRIED	Current marital status: NEVER MARRIED
6b or 8b	Paper: 1995 CATI: 2004			Paper: 1997? CATI: 1997?		

Note:

- Respondent incorrectly identifies "entered into this marital status" as 1995 on paper survey
- Respondent is not sure when her cousin was divorced.

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
MARITAL HISTORY COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS**

ROLE PLAY 5 (use Version 2)

The respondent (F Hispanic 71) was married once for 48 years and became a widow IN 2003. She has three children although none of them are currently living with her.	
Paper/CATI	Person 1: Respondent
6 or 8a	Current marital status: WIDOWED
7 or 8b	In past 12 months got: WIDOWED
8a or 8c	# of times married: ONCE
8b or 8d	Year got married: 1956
Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respondent misinterprets marital status in the previous twelve months. 	

APPENDIX H

INTERVIEW SCRIPTS AND FORMS

2006 American Community Survey Cognitive Interview Testing Marital History

Introduction

We appreciate your taking the time to help us with our research study. Let me give you some more details about the project.

U.S. Census Bureau

Every 10 years the Census Bureau conducts the Decennial Census of the Population for the purpose of 'counting' the number of people in the country. But the Census Bureau also conducts many surveys to estimate how many people are in different age groups, their education level and marital status. They do this in a variety of ways, most often by mailing a questionnaire to households asking someone to fill it out and send it back. But the Census Bureau also contacts household by phone and in-person in order to complete their questionnaires.

Purpose of interview

Today we are helping the Census Bureau improve the questions that are in one of their surveys called the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau conducts this survey every month of every year to continuously update the information collected in the census. One person in each household completes the survey for all members of the household. To ensure that the information gathered in the survey is useful, it's important that people are able to easily understand the questions and provide meaningful answers.

Procedures

Confidentiality

Audiotaping

Observers

CONSENT FORM: *We routinely ask our study participants to give us written consent before we begin. The form contains the points I've just gone over with you and indicates you have agreed to take part. Please take a minute to read it, and if you agree, sign it.*

[PAPER]

Fill out questionnaire; take as long as you need. Remember you are answering for all the people who live in your household.

[CATI:]

These questions are designed to be asked over the telephone, so I'm going to go to another room and call into this room. When you hear this phone ring, go ahead and pick it up. I'll be playing the role of a Census Bureau interviewer who has called you to collect information about the household you live in and all the other people who live there.

THINK-ALLOUD PRACTICE:

Because we're testing the questions, it helps if we understand what respondents are thinking as they answer them. So I'd appreciate it if you could try and "think aloud" while give me the answers. As much as possible, talk out loud about whatever comes to mind while you think about the question and come up with your answer.

EXAMPLE: Suppose one of the questions is: "How many windows are in your house or apartment?" In coming up with an answer, someone may think aloud by saying:

"Well, there are two windows in the living room, one in the kitchen, one in the bathroom, and we have three bedrooms with one window in each. So that's a total of seven windows – Oh, but then our basement has two very tiny windows – am I supposed to count those? If I counted those, it would a total of nine windows."

Why don't you try it now? How many windows are in your house or apartment?

(Give positive feedback.)

Any questions? All right, if you are ready, let's begin.

CONSENT FORM

This study is being conducted on behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau. Each year the Census Bureau conducts many different surveys. The Census Bureau routinely tests the questions used on these surveys in order to produce the best information possible.

You have volunteered to take part in a study to improve the procedures used for one of the Census Bureau's surveys. In order to have a complete record of your comments, your interview session will be audio-taped. We plan to use the tapes to improve the survey. Only staff directly involved in this questionnaire design research project will have access to these tapes. The answers you give us are strictly confidential.

Check one:

I grant permission to audio-tape my interview

I do NOT grant permission to audio-tape my interview

Your interview may be observed by other researchers working on this project, including Census Bureau staff.

The interview will take one hour or less. You will be paid \$40 cash at the end of the interview.

You may decline to answer any questions in this interview.

I consent to participating in this research based on the above conditions.

Participant's Signature

Printed Name

Date

HONORARIUM RECEIPT

This study is being conducted on behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau. Each year the Census Bureau conducts many different surveys. The purpose of the interview is to to test questions that will be used by the Census Bureau on future surveys they conduct.

My signature at the bottom of this form certifies that I have received a cash incentive of \$40 for completing an interview on behalf of the Census Bureau.

Participant's Signature

Printed Name

Date

APPENDIX I

**RESPONDENTS' COMMENTS ON
NON-MARITAL HISTORY ACS SURVEY ITEMS**

APPENDIX I

RESPONDENTS' COMMENTS ON NON-MARITAL HISTORY ACS SURVEY ITEMS

This section describes findings on the nonmarital history portions of the American Community Survey (ACS) mail and telephone questionnaires. While the main objective was to conduct research for the existing and proposed marital history questions, participants also provided important feedback on other aspects of the questionnaire including participants' understanding and completion of the questions, navigation of the ACS form, and general issues they encountered while filling out the survey.

RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF SELECTED SURVEY ITEMS

RACE and ETHNICITY

Mail: What is this person's race? *Mark (X) one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.*

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*
- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Other Asian - *Print race.*
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander – *Print race below.*
- ☐ Some Other Race – *Print race below.*

Telephone: I am going to read a list of race categories. Please choose one or more of the following categories to indicate what race or races (NAME considers him/herself/you consider yourself) to be. (Is <Name>/Are you)...

Read all answer categories. Enter all that apply.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Some Other Race

Most respondents answered this item with little or no hesitation, although some respondents found this item somewhat sensitive and exclusive of persons of multiracial heritage.

- While thinking aloud, one respondent said that she did not like to report her and her spouse's race. She further explained that she would prefer an option such as "other," but

failed to notice the existing “Some other race” category. When reading the form, she noticed the directional arrow and space available next to “Other Asian,” but did not notice that an individual could also use this space to provide information for the “Other Pacific Islander” and “Some other race” categories.

- One white respondent thought that some of the race categories could be construed as offensive by some people. He felt that the “White” category seemed “*racist*” to him and he suggested changing the name of this category to “Caucasian.”
- Another respondent found the questions on race and ethnicity to be “*disconcerting*.” She came from a culture that did not ask people to identify their race or ethnicity and was not accustomed to having to answer such questions.
- One respondent wondered how persons who considered themselves to be multi-racial would be able to complete the race question.

EDUCATION

Mail: At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? *Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.*

- ☐ No, has not attended in the last 3 months, **SKIP to question 11**
- ☐ Yes, public school, public college
- ☐ Yes, private school, private college

Telephone: At any time IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS, (has NAME/have you) attended regular school or college? *Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, go to 13
- ☐ DK, go to 13
- ☐ Ref, go to 13

Respondents who homeschool their children commented that none of the response categories for this question were applicable to them. One respondent was a little surprised and offended by this item and the following question that asked respondents to specify the last grade completed for each household member who was currently enrolled in school. She read the categories and then announced that none applied to her because she homeschools her four children. She noticed the skip pattern and realized that unless she indicated that her children go to public or private school, she would not be able to provide the last grade completed for each of her children. She thought about this for a little while and then decided to leave this question blank and complete the grade information in the subsequent question. Another respondent who homeschooled her daughter hesitated as to how to answer this question and then chose “No, has not attended in the last 3 months.” She did so acknowledging that her daughter was receiving an education, but that she did not attend school.

Not all respondents interpreted and answered this question correctly. Some respondents did not follow the italicized instructions that directed them to only consider schooling that leads to a high school diploma or a college degree. For example, one respondent reported “yes” to this item, but while completing the next question on the last grade completed, she remarked aloud that her courses were non-credit continuing education courses. Without realizing her error, she also incorrectly chose “college undergraduate years” as the last grade completed when the correct response should have been “high school graduate.” Another respondent who was taking professional development courses floundered when considering whether her coursework would be considered part of schooling leading to a college degree; she decided to report both “yes” and “no” to this question.

Mail: What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- ☐ No schooling completed
- ☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
- ☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
- ☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
- ☐ 9th grade
- ☐ 10th grade
- ☐ 11th grade
- ☐ 12th grade - **NO DIPLOMA**
- ☐ **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE** - high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- ☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
- ☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
- ☐ Bachelor’s degree (for example, BA, AB, BS)
- ☐ Master’s degree (for example MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- ☐ Professional degree (for example MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- ☐ Doctorate degree (for example PhD, EdD)

Telephone: What is the highest degree or level of school (<Name> has/you have) COMPLETED?

(Read if necessary: If currently enrolled, what was the previous grade attended or highest degree received?)

- ☐ No schooling completed
- ☐ Nursery school to 4th grade
- ☐ 5th grade or 6th grade
- ☐ 7th grade or 8th grade
- ☐ 9th grade
- ☐ 10th grade
- ☐ 11th grade
- ☐ 12th grade, NO DIPLOMA
- ☐ **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**-high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (GED)
- ☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree
- ☐ Associate degree in college (AA or AS)
- ☐ Bachelor’s degree (BA, AB, BS)
- ☐ Master’s degree (MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- ☐ Professional degree (MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- ☐ Doctorate degree (PhD, EdD)

This question elicited confusion among some respondents, causing some to provide inaccurate data. These respondents interpreted the question to be asking for *current* level of education undertaken by each household member (who has attended regular school or college in the previous three months) rather than the last degree or level *completed* as indicated in the question. Furthermore, some

respondents did not fully understand the question and italicized instruction. In one case, a respondent reported a household member's current level of enrollment on the paper questionnaire. When probed during the debriefing interview, the respondent said she provided the current level of education because the household member had completed at least half of the school year at the time of the interview. Another respondent erroneously reported the current educational level for one of his children, but then correctly reported the last level of education completed for his other two children. While completing the questionnaire, he realized his mistake, corrected it, and commented that this question might not give the Census Bureau the data they want because many people would be more likely to mark the current grade of each of their children rather than the last grade the child had completed.

Some high school graduates misinterpreted the response categories and were dissatisfied that the question did not allow them to acknowledge recent educational achievements. One respondent expressed frustration when answering this question and noted that the question and response categories did not allow respondents to acknowledge their "true" educational level if they have taken a few extra courses beyond a completed degree. Another respondent felt that one response option did not suffice for people like her who were high school graduates and had taken at least some college credit. Therefore, she chose both "high school graduate" and "some college credit, but less than 1 year." In both cases, the respondents did not realize that "some college credit, but less than 1 year" or "1 or more years of college, no degree" were applicable to their situation.

ANCESTRY

Mail: What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin? *(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukranian, and so on.)*

Telephone: What is (<NAME's</your) ancestry or ethnic origin? *(Read if necessary: For example: Italian, Jamaican, African American, Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukranian, and so on.)*

This item was problematic for some respondents who did not know what criteria they were supposed to use to define the ancestry or ethnic origin for themselves and their households. Confusion tended to stem from inconsistencies in which generation should be used to define ancestry and ethnic origin. Respondents tended to use a household member's grandparents to determine ancestry or ethnic origin. In cases where the grandparents for the respondents and their children were all born in the United States, some respondents would hesitate when reviewing the examples before answering "American." In

families where the respondents' grandparents were born overseas, but the grandparents of their children (the respondents' parents) were born in the United States, respondents were sometimes unsure.

- One respondent felt that since all members of the household were born in the United States, she considered them to all be “American.” After reviewing the examples provided in the question, she hesitated because “American” was not among them. After thinking about how to answer the question, she chose to skip the item.
- One respondent did not hesitate in providing her or her husband's ancestry based on their grandparents who lived outside of the United States. However, she became confused when asked to identify her children's ancestry or ethnic origin. Since her own parents were born in the United States, she did not know if she should identify her children as American or Eastern European as she had for herself and her husband. She ultimately reported “Eastern European” for everyone in the household.
- Another respondent was unsure of how to respond to the question because the grandparents of the household members were all born in the United States and she did not see an appropriate category in the examples provided. The respondent decided to report the ancestry as “White” because of this uncertainty.

For some respondents, the examples of ancestry or ethnic origin given in the question stem may cause some confusion around differences in perceptions about nationality and ancestry. For example, one respondent expressed concern for respondents who consider their ancestry to Jewish. This respondent pointed out that the examples listed were all national in origin (i.e., country or regionally specific), but she commented that being Jewish is not necessarily a form of national identity (since it can be a religious or cultural identity to some). She chose to report herself as “Jewish.”

LIST OF RESIDENTS GRID

While the task of the interviewers was to describe issues related to the marital history questions, interviewers also noted some interesting patterns and issues pertaining to the navigation of the paper questionnaire (see Appendix A). Most respondents were able to navigate the form with little difficulty, but some respondents encountered more trouble, resulting in inaccurate or missing data.

Some respondents completing a mail questionnaire found the List of Residents grid daunting in terms of the amount of information presented on the two pages, and they needed a few moments to orient themselves. The grid was intended to be completed horizontally across both pages for each person before progressing to the next household member. Oftentimes, respondents would orient themselves to the grid and then complete the page on the left-hand side before moving to the questions on the right-hand

page. When they arrived at the first question on the right-hand page, most realized their mistake and, although momentarily embarrassed at having filled the questionnaire incorrectly, they proceeded to complete the items for each of the members of their household. In two cases, though, respondents became confused and did not complete all of the requested information. One person completed the race and ethnicity questions for herself but did not answer them for the other members of her household. Another respondent who had identified herself as Person 1 did not indicate how the subsequent household members were related to her. Respondents suggested using visual guides such as arrows, a descriptive header, or some other indicator to reinforce the horizontal nature of the grid.

While some respondents were embarrassed or momentarily confused when realizing they had not filled out the grid as it is intended to be completed, it is important to note that they may not have felt this way if they filled out the question unobserved at home.

In most cases, respondents chose themselves as Person 1. Occasionally, respondents would list their spouse as Person 1. While in most instances it did not matter who was Person 1, in two cases respondents chose themselves as Person 1 in Question 1 and then realized when they got to Question 3 of the grid that the homeowner should be identified as Person 1. These participants suggested that the instruction be displayed earlier so that respondents can correctly chose who should be Person 1 at the beginning of the grid. Some respondents wondered aloud who should be Person 1 and suggested that an instruction be included to indicate that it is always the respondent.

General Issues

Some respondents felt that some of the items in the questionnaire were redundant or burdensome. In one case, a respondent commented that he felt burdened by having to write his name several times while completing the survey. This respondent suggested that the form should not require respondents to have to repeatedly write their names on each page of the form (their names are requested three times).

Respondents were asked to report the number of people living or staying at their address on the front cover the questionnaire. However, the instruction to exclude college students living away from home for more than two months appears on the inside of the form. Thus, a few situations occurred where respondents included college students in their count on the cover but then, upon realizing they should exclude them, did not include them in the List of Residents grid. Respondents did not always go back to the cover and revise the number of household members.

In addition, while not a significant issue, some respondents completing a mail questionnaire rushed through answering the questions and at times missed some skip patterns. While most quickly realized their mistakes and corrected them, others did not. This may have been influenced by the fact that respondents were completing the questionnaire while being observed and wanted to complete it quickly.

Appendix C. Question Wording for CFU Items For Divorce and Separation Dates

To better interpret the dates of divorce and separation, two re-interview questions were asked following the 12-month marital event item.

(1) For all people who reported that they divorced in the last 12 months,
Was the final divorce decree issued in that 12-month period?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know
- ☐ Refused

(2) For all people who separated in the last 12 months,
Was there a legal separation agreement obtained in that 12-month period or did (you/Person X) stop living together as a couple without obtaining a separation agreement?

- ☐ Legal separation agreement obtained
- ☐ No legal separation agreement– just stopped living together as a couple
- ☐ Don't Know
- ☐ Refused

Appendix D. Evaluation Tables

Overview Marital History Tables

Tables 1-2

- Item nonresponse rates for each Marital item for Males/Females presented overall and by Control/Test. Although the same questions are used on Control/Test, it's necessary to look at them individually to ensure there are no unexpected differences. If no differences exist, then it's ok to combine them for the rest of the item nonresponse tables.
- You may only wish to include the 'overall' (combined) estimates in the final report.
- These tables meet Research Questions #1-3.

Tables 3-4

- Item nonresponse rates for each Marital item across specified demographics. This table meets Research Question #4.

Tables 5-6

- Item nonresponse and Distribution comparisons for 2005 ACS (pre-edited data) vs. 2006 Content Test.
- Meets Research Question #9.

Tables 7-14

- Distributions of each Marital item presented overall and by Control/Test. (Same reasoning as Tables 1-2).
- You may only wish to include the 'overall' (combined) estimates in the final report.
- Meets Research Question #1-3

Tables 15-20

- Distributions of Marital items across specified demographics.
- Tables 15-20 meet Research Question #8.

Tables 21-22

- Consistency of reporting a marital event in the last year with last year of marriage.
- Meets Research Question #3.

Tables 23-33

- Presents content followup statistics for Marital Status, Number of Times Married, Marital History and Year of Last Marriage to meet Research Question #5.

Table 34-35

- Type of marital disruption for people reporting a divorce or separation in last 12 months.
- Meets Research Questions #6 and #7.

Tables 36-37

- Modified versions of Tables 9-10. Distribution of Marital History questions, overall and by Control/Test; accounting for multiple responses. Tables will be produced as supplemental/background information.

Tables 38-39

- Modified versions of Tables 13-14. Distribution of Number of Times Married, overall and by Control/Test; accounting for multiple responses. Tables will be produced as supplemental/background information.

Table 1. Item Nonresponse Rates for Marital Status, Marital History, Last Year of Marriage and Number of Times Married, Overall and Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Marital Status	4.0	4.1	3.9	-0.2	±0.5	No
Married last 12 months	8.5	8.6	8.5	-0.1	± 1.0	No
Widowed last 12 months	11.5	11.4	11.7	0.3	± 1.1	No
Divorced last 12 months	11.5	11.4	11.6	0.1	±1.1	No
Separated last 12 months	11.7	11.6	11.9	0.3	± 1.1	No
Year of last marriage	10.3	10.7	10.0	-0.7	±1.4	No
Number of Times Married	7.3	7.4	7.2	-0.2	±1.1	No

*If no differences between Control & Test in tables 1-2, then ok to combine for future item nonresponse tables

Table 2. Item Nonresponse Rates for Marital Status, Marital History, Last Year of Marriage and Number of Times Married, Overall and Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Marital Status	4.2	4.7	3.8	-0.9	± 0.5	Yes
Married last 12 months	9.0	9.3	8.6	-0.7	±0.9	No
Widowed last 12 months	11.5	12.0	10.9	-1.1	± 0.9	Yes
Divorced last 12 months	11.8	12.3	11.3	-1.0	± 0.9	Yes
Separated last 12 months	11.8	12.3	11.4	-0.9	± 0.9	No
Year of last marriage	10.3	10.7	9.8	-1.0	± 1.2	No
Number of Times Married	6.9	7.3	6.5	-0.8	±0.9	No

Table 3: Item Nonresponse of Marital Status, Marital History, Year of Last Marriage and Number of Times Married by Specified Demographic Characteristics– Male Respondents

	Marital Status	Married Last 12 Months	Widowed Last 12 Months	Divorced Last 12 Months	Separated Last 12 Months	Last Year of Marriage	Number of Times Married
Marital Status							
Now Married	NA	2.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	3.5	2.0
Widowed	NA	14.1	7.6	15.8	16.0	14.8	3.4
Divorced	NA	6.0	6.9	4.0	6.7	13.5	2.1
Separated	NA	13.8	15.1	15.1	5.5	13.4	4.6
No report	NA	94.9	95.2	95.3	95.6	96.9	96.1
Age							
15-24	2.6	29.3	34.5	34.2	34.8	36.0	34.7
25-34	3.7	7.3	11.1	10.7	10.7	10.1	7.8
35-44	3.2	5.8	8.2	7.7	8.3	8.5	5.1
45-54	3.7	6.5	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.9	5.3
55-64	4.1	7.8	10.8	10.8	10.9	9.0	6.1
65+	7.0	13.0	17.0	17.9	18.0	12.4	9.5
Race							
White alone	3.7	8.1	11.0	11.0	11.2	8.7	6.3
Black alone	7.1	14.5	17.8	17.7	17.8	21.3	13.8
Asian alone	5.8	10.9	20.5	20.4	20.2	11.0	8.8
Other single race	4.2	7.2	9.2	9.3	9.0	15.9	11.2

Multiple races	3.7	6.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	8.6	5.2
No report	3.1	7.7	9.9	9.8	10.4	10.9	7.3
Hispanic origin							
Hispanic	3.4	7.3	9.7	9.6	9.7	14.3	8.3
Not Hispanic	3.8	8.3	11.3	11.3	11.5	9.5	6.8
No report	19.2	36.0	43.8	43.8	43.8	30.9	26.6
Education							
Less than high school	1.9	7.5	11.2	11.2	11.5	10.1	4.6
High school/GED	1.8	5.2	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	3.8
At least some college	0.9	3.6	6.6	6.5	6.8	3.8	2.4
No report	47.8	65.7	67.7	67.8	68.0	74.6	68.6

Table 4: Item Nonresponse of Marital Status, Marital History, Year of Last Marriage and Number of Times Married by Specified Demographic Characteristics– Female Respondents

	Marital Status	Married Last 12 Months	Widowed Last 12 Months	Divorced Last 12 Months	Separated Last 12 Months	Last Year of Marriage	Number of Times Married
Marital Status							
Now Married	NA	2.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3.3	1.7
Widowed	NA	10.4	7.1	12.8	12.8	10.9	1.7
Divorced	NA	4.3	5.2	2.9	5.1	8.2	1.3
Separated	NA	10.9	11.3	11.0	3.2	12.8	3.0
No report	NA	95.7	96.1	95.9	96.1	95.5	95.0
Age							
15-24	3.5	24.1	29.1	28.7	29.0	28.9	25.8
25-34	2.6	5.9	9.2	8.9	8.7	6.3	4.6
35-44	2.3	4.5	6.8	6.3	6.5	7.4	3.2
45-54	3.2	6.5	8.5	8.3	8.4	7.9	4.9
55-64	4.3	8.0	10.0	10.5	10.6	8.1	5.8
65+	9.4	16.2	18.6	20.5	20.6	16.8	11.8
Race							
White alone	4.2	9.0	11.4	11.8	11.9	9.1	6.4
Black alone	6.2	14.2	16.6	16.9	16.4	20.0	13.1
Asian alone	4.9	9.1	18.2	18.0	18.2	10.4	6.3
Other single race	3.1	6.7	7.8	7.3	7.7	12.1	6.3

Multiple races	3.5	6.0	9.0	9.0	8.4	6.3	5.6
No report	3.3	7.0	8.7	9.0	9.0	10.4	6.3
Hispanic origin							
Hispanic	3.3	7.3	9.3	9.2	9.5	12.2	6.3
Not Hispanic	4.2	8.9	11.3	11.7	11.7	9.7	6.7
No report	18.7	31.0	39.0	38.7	39.3	27.2	23.4
Education							
Less than high school	2.1	8.1	10.8	11.4	11.2	11.7	5.0
High school/GED	2.2	6.7	9.2	9.7	9.7	8.5	3.9
At least some college	1.1	3.8	6.1	6.3	6.4	3.6	2.2
No report	54.0	67.9	70.5	71.0	71.1	74.2	67.4

Table 5. Item Nonresponse comparisons for the Marital Status Item – 2005 Pre-edited ACS vs. 2006 ACS Content Test

	2005 ACS	2006 ACS Content Test	Difference
Marital Status			
Males	1.7	4.0	2.3
Females	2.0	4.2	2.2

Table 6: Distribution of Marital Status -- 2005 Pre-edited ACS vs. 2006 ACS Content Test

	2005 ACS	2006 ACS Content Test	Difference
MALES			
Married	56.1	58.5	2.4
Widowed	2.4	2.3	-0.1
Divorced	8.7	9.0	0.2
Separated	1.8	1.5	-0.3
Never married	31.0	28.8	-2.2
FEMALES			
Married	50.7	52.7	2.0
Widowed	9.4	8.9	-0.5
Divorced	11.5	11.2	-0.3
Separated	2.7	2.4	-0.3
Never married	25.7	24.8	-0.8

Table 7: Distribution of Marital Status, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married	58.5	57.4	59.5	2.1	±2.0	Yes
Widowed	2.3	2.1	2.5	0.4	±0.5	No
Divorced	9.0	9.4	8.5	-0.9	±1.2	No
Separated	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	±0.4	No
Never married	28.8	29.5	28.0	-1.6	±1.9	No

*If no differences between Control & Test in tables 7-14, then ok to combine for future distribution tables

Table 8: Distribution of Marital Status, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married	52.7	53.3	52.1	-1.2	±1.6	No
Widowed	8.9	9.0	8.9	-0.1	±1.0	No
Divorced	11.2	10.8	11.6	0.7	±1.1	No
Separated	2.4	2.3	2.5	0.2	±0.5	No
Never married	24.8	24.6	25.0	0.4	±1.5	No

Table 9: Distribution of Marital History, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married last 12 months	4.2	4.2	4.2	-0.1	±0.9	No
Widowed last 12 months	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.1	±0.3	No
Divorced last 12 months	1.7	2.2	1.2	-1.0	±0.7	Yes
Separated last 12 months	1.6	1.7	1.5	-0.1	±0.5	No

*Percentages reflect only ‘yes’ responses to each marital history question

**See also Table 33 in Appendix A

Table 10: Distribution of Marital History, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married last 12 months	3.9	4.1	3.6	-0.5	±0.8	No
Widowed last 12 months	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.2	±0.3	No
Divorced last 12 months	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.2	±0.5	No
Separated last 12 months	2.0	1.9	2.1	0.2	±0.6	No

*Percentages reflect only ‘yes’ responses to each marital history question

**See also Table 34 in Appendix A

Table 11. Distribution of Year of Last Marriage, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
2005-06	2.7	2.8	2.7	-0.1	±0.7	No
2000-04	13.3	13.2	13.4	0.3	±1.8	No
1999 and earlier	73.6	73.4	73.9	0.6	±2.3	No
Year invalid or missing	10.3	10.7	10.0	-0.7	±1.4	No

Table 12. Distribution of Year of Last Marriage, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
2005-06	2.5	2.5	2.5	-0.1	±0.6	No
2000-04	11.5	11.6	11.5	-0.1	±1.5	No
1999 and earlier	75.7	75.1	76.3	1.1	±1.8	No
Year invalid or missing	10.3	10.7	9.8	-1.0	±1.2	No

Table 13: Distribution of Number of Times Married, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Once	74.9	74.2	75.7	1.6	±2.0	No
Twice	20.0	20.8	19.2	-1.7	±1.9	No
Three or more times	5.1	5.0	5.1	0.1	±1.0	No
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0			

*Percentages reflect only single responses to the number of times married question

**See also Table 35 in Appendix A

Table 14: Distribution of Number of Times Married, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Once	76.6	76.1	77.2	1.1	±1.6	No
Twice	18.5	19.2	17.9	-1.3	±1.6	No
Three or more times	4.8	4.8	4.9	0.1	±0.9	No
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0			

*Percentages reflect only single responses to the number of times married question

**See also Table 36 in Appendix A

Table 15: Distribution of Marital Events in the Last 12 Months For People 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Male Respondents

		Married in last 12 months?		Widowed in last 12 months?		Divorced in last 12 months?		Separated in last 12 months?	
	Number of Responses*	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error
Marital Status									
Now Married	14033	5.1	±0.6	0.2	±0.1	0.4	±0.2	0.5	±0.2
Widowed	613	1.0	± 0.7	15.5	± 4.3	0.0	± 0.0	0.2	± 0.3
Divorced	2087	1.1	± 1.1	0.2	± 0.2	11.8	± 2.8	2.5	± 1.0
Separated	444	1.3	± 0.8	0.1	± 0.1	0.5	± 0.8	44.9	± 6.9
No report	1570	0.3	± 0.3	0.0	± 0.0	0.2	± 0.2	0.0	± 0.0
Age									
15-24	538	23.7	± 6.4	0.0	± 0.1	5.2	± 4.5	1.6	± 1.3
25-34	2320	9.5	± 1.6	0.2	± 0.2	3.1	± 1.1	3.4	± 1.1
35-44	3734	4.1	± 0.9	0.1	± 0.2	2.6	± 1.2	2.5	± 0.8
45-54	4282	2.5	± 0.8	0.6	± 0.5	1.6	± 0.6	1.8	± 0.5
55-64	3712	2.5	± 0.8	0.4	± 0.4	0.5	± 0.3	0.6	± 0.2
65+	4161	2.1	± 0.6	1.9	± 0.6	0.6	± 0.4	0.2	± 0.1
Race									
White alone	13323	3.6	± 0.5	0.7	± 0.2	1.6	± 0.4	1.4	± 0.3
Black alone	1724	4.3	± 2.0	0.5	± 0.3	1.7	± 1.2	3.1	± 1.2
Asian alone	752	9.7	± 2.7	0.1	± 0.1	0.9	± 1.0	1.0	± 1.0

Other single race	1045	6.3	± 1.9	0.2	±0.2	1.9	± 0.9	1.7	± 0.8
Multiple races	312	4.0	± 1.9	0.1	± 0.1	1.9	± 1.7	2.5	± 1.9
No report	1591	5.0	± 1.7	0.6	± 0.6	2.5	± 1.8	2.1	± 1.1
Hispanic origin									
Hispanic	2455	6.0	± 1.3	0.6	± 0.8	2.0	± 1.0	2.5	± 1.0
Not Hispanic	15897	3.9	± 0.5	0.6	± 0.2	1.6	± 0.4	1.5	± 0.3
No report	395	4.0	± 2.2	0.7	± 0.8	2.5	± 1.6	2.8	± 1.6
Education									
Less than high school	2736	4.3	± 1.1	1.0	± 0.5	1.9	± 1.0	1.9	± 0.7
High school/GED	4606	4.1	± 0.9	1.0	± 0.5	2.2	± 1.0	2.5	± 0.8
At least some college	9713	4.5	± 0.6	0.4	± 0.2	1.5	± 0.4	1.2	± 0.2
No report	1558	1.6	± 0.6	0.2	± 0.2	0.4	± 0.3	0.5	± 0.3
Total	18747	4.2	± 0.4	0.6	± 0.2	1.7	± 0.4	1.6	± 0.3

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 16: Distribution of Marital Events in the Last 12 Months For People 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Female Respondents

		Married in last 12 months?		Widowed in last 12 months?		Divorced in last 12 months?		Separated in last 12 months?	
	Number of Responses*	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error	Yes	Margin of Error
Marital Status									
Now Married	13965	5.4	±0.6	0.1	± 0.1	0.2	± 0.2	0.7	± 0.2
Widowed	2634	1.7	± 1.0	7.8	± 1.2	0.3	± 0.2	0.3	± 0.2
Divorced	3209	0.2	± 0.2	0.1	± 0.1	8.4	± 1.4	2.9	± 1.0
Separated	696	1.9	± 1.6	0.0	± 0.0	0.3	± 0.3	37.5	± 6.2
No report	1928	0.5	± 0.3	0.0	± 0.0	0.2	± 0.2	0.0	± 0.0
Age									
15-24	733	18.7	± 4.3	0.2	± 0.2	1.3	± 0.8	5.0	± 3.3
25-34	2905	10.4	± 1.9	0.0	± 0.0	3.1	± 1.1	4.1	± 1.1
35-44	4059	3.6	± 0.8	0.4	± 0.4	2.6	± 0.7	3.4	± 0.9
45-54	4870	1.8	± 0.5	0.3	± 0.1	1.0	± 0.3	1.6	± 0.5
55-64	4333	1.7	± 0.7	1.0	± 0.3	0.5	± 0.2	0.8	± 0.5
65+	5532	1.7	± 0.6	3.0	± 0.6	0.3	± 0.1	0.4	± 0.2
Race									
White alone	15754	3.3	± 0.5	1.2	± 0.2	1.2	± 0.2	1.7	± 0.4
Black alone	2392	4.1	± 1.5	1.0	± 0.4	1.9	± 0.9	3.0	± 0.8
Asian alone	860	11.0	± 2.9	0.8	± 0.6	4.2	± 3.0	2.7	± 2.2

Other single race	1184	4.5	± 1.3	0.3	± 0.2	1.6	± 0.6	2.4	± 0.9
Multiple races	363	6.5	± 5.8	0.0	± 0.0	1.9	± 1.3	2.9	± 1.5
No report	1879	4.5	± 1.4	0.3	± 0.2	1.2	± 0.7	2.8	± 1.4
Hispanic origin									
Hispanic	2837	6.0	± 1.3	1.0	± 0.7	2.3	± 1.0	3.6	± 0.9
Not Hispanic	19067	3.6	± 0.4	1.0	± 0.2	1.3	± 0.2	1.8	± 0.3
No report	528	2.2	± 1.1	1.4	± 1.0	0.9	± 0.8	0.5	± 0.6
Education									
Less than high school	3082	3.7	± 0.8	1.4	± 0.4	1.4	± 0.7	2.4	± 0.8
High school/GED	6004	4.1	± 1.0	1.4	± 0.5	1.5	± 0.5	2.5	± 0.7
At least some college	11289	4.0	± 0.5	0.7	± 0.2	1.4	± 0.3	1.8	± 0.4
No report	1877	1.7	± 0.6	0.7	± 0.3	0.3	± 0.2	1.1	± 1.1
Total	22432	3.9	± 0.4	1.0	± 0.2	1.4	± 0.2	2.0	± 0.3

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 17: Distribution for Number of Times Married for People Age 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Male Respondents

		Number of Times Married								
	Number of Responses*	Once		Twice		Three or more times		No report		Total
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	
Marital Status										
Now Married	14033	74.3	±1.3	19.3	±1.1	4.3	± 0.6	2.0	± 0.5	100.0%
Widowed	613	77.1	± 4.2	15.7	± 3.7	3.8	± 2.4	3.4	± 1.3	100.0%
Divorced	2087	66.4	± 3.3	22.2	± 2.7	9.4	± 2.1	2.1	± 1.3	100.0%
Separated	444	70.8	± 6.3	19.3	± 5.4	5.3	± 4.1	4.6	± 2.0	100.0%
No report	1570	2.8	± 0.8	1.0	± 0.5	0.1	± 0.2	96.1	± 0.9	100.0%
Age										
15-24	538	64.2	± 5.8	0.9	± 0.7	0.2	± 0.3	34.7	± 6.0	100.0%
25-34	2320	83.9	± 2.3	7.3	± 1.8	1.0	± 0.7	7.8	± 1.6	100.0%
35-44	3734	76.6	± 2.2	15.7	± 1.9	2.7	± 0.9	5.1	± 1.0	100.0%
45-54	4282	66.4	± 2.2	23.1	± 1.8	5.2	± 1.3	5.3	± 0.9	100.0%
55-64	3712	60.7	± 2.3	25.3	± 2.1	7.9	± 1.3	6.1	± 0.9	100.0%
65+	4161	64.7	± 2.2	19.6	± 1.8	6.2	± 1.3	9.5	± 1.2	100.0%
Race										
White alone	13323	69.1	± 1.2	19.5	± 1.0	5.1	± 0.7	6.3	± 0.5	100.0%
Black alone	1724	61.1	± 4.1	20.5	± 3.1	4.5	± 2.0	13.8	± 2.5	100.0%
Asian alone	752	78.7	± 5.7	10.5	± 5.1	2.1	± 1.1	8.8	± 3.3	100.0%

Other single race	1045	72.5	± 4.7	14.1	± 3.2	2.2	± 0.9	11.2	± 4.4	100.0%
Multiple races	312	67.0	± 7.0	22.2	± 7.0	5.6	± 2.6	5.2	± 2.3	100.0%
No report	1591	73.1	± 3.1	15.3	± 2.5	4.3	± 1.6	7.3	± 2.2	100.0%
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	2455	73.8	± 3.3	16.0	± 2.7	1.9	± 0.7	8.3	± 2.2	100.0%
Not Hispanic	15897	69.2	± 1.2	18.9	± 1.0	5.1	± 0.6	6.8	± 0.6	100.0%
No report	395	50.6	± 4.9	18.5	± 3.8	4.3	± 2.1	26.6	± 4.8	100.0%
Education										
Less than high school	2736	70.2	± 3.2	18.5	± 2.6	6.7	± 1.7	4.6	± 0.7	100.0%
High school/GED	4606	69.7	± 2.0	20.9	± 1.8	5.6	± 1.1	3.8	± 0.7	100.0%
At least some college	9713	74.7	± 1.4	19.0	± 1.2	3.9	± 0.6	2.4	± 0.5	100.0%
No report	1558	24.0	± 4.2	5.0	± 1.4	2.3	± 1.3	68.6	± 4.4	100.0%
Total	18747	69.5	± 1.2	18.5	± 0.9	4.7	± 0.6	7.3	± 0.6	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 18: Distribution for Number of Times Married for People Age 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Female Respondents

		Number of Times Married								
	Number of Responses*	Once		Twice		Three or more times		No report		Total
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	
Marital Status										
Now Married	13965	76.2	± 1.2	18.0	± 1.0	4.1	± 0.5	1.7	± 0.3	100.0%
Widowed	2634	77.0	± 2.3	16.4	± 2.0	4.9	± 1.3	1.7	± 0.7	100.0%
Divorced	3209	70.2	± 2.7	20.9	± 2.1	7.6	± 1.5	1.3	± 0.6	100.0%
Separated	696	73.6	± 4.5	17.7	± 3.7	5.6	± 3.0	3.0	± 1.4	100.0%
No report	1928	3.9	± 1.0	0.9	± 0.4	0.3	± 0.3	95.0	± 1.2	100.0%
Age										
15-24	733	70.6	± 6.0	3.6	± 2.1	0.0	± 0.0	25.8	± 6.0	100.0%
25-34	2905	85.0	± 2.1	10.1	± 2.0	0.4	± 0.2	4.6	± 1.0	100.0%
35-44	4059	75.1	± 2.1	18.0	± 1.8	3.7	± 0.9	3.2	± 0.6	100.0%
45-54	4870	68.0	± 2.1	20.7	± 1.6	6.4	± 1.1	4.9	± 0.7	100.0%
55-64	4333	64.0	± 2.3	22.9	± 1.7	7.3	± 1.3	5.8	± 0.8	100.0%
65+	5532	69.0	± 1.7	15.0	± 1.4	4.2	± 0.8	11.8	± 1.1	100.0%
Race										
White alone	15754	70.0	± 1.3	18.4	± 0.9	5.1	± 0.6	6.4	± 0.5	100.0%
Black alone	2392	67.6	± 2.9	16.8	± 2.5	2.6	± 1.2	13.1	± 2.2	100.0%
Asian alone	860	85.4	± 3.7	7.7	± 3.3	0.6	± 0.5	6.3	± 2.1	100.0%

Other single race	1184	79.3	± 3.1	12.1	±2.2	2.2	±0.9	6.3	±1.6	100.0%
Multiple races	363	73.8	± 4.9	15.9	± 3.9	4.6	± 2.2	5.6	± 2.5	100.0%
No report	1879	74.1	± 3.3	15.6	± 2.7	3.9	± 1.4	6.3	± 1.6	100.0%
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	2837	76.6	± 2.7	15.0	± 2.3	2.1	± 0.6	6.3	± 1.2	100.0%
Not Hispanic	19067	70.9	± 1.2	17.6	± 0.9	4.8	± 0.6	6.7	± 0.6	100.0%
No report	528	57.0	± 4.1	16.7	± 3.2	2.9	± 1.4	23.4	± 3.5	100.0%
Education										
Less than high school	3082	71.1	± 2.9	18.9	± 2.4	4.9	± 1.2	5.0	± 1.1	100.0%
High school/GED	6004	72.5	± 1.8	18.9	± 1.5	4.7	± 0.8	3.9	± 0.6	100.0%
At least some college	11289	76.1	± 1.4	17.1	± 1.0	4.6	± 0.9	2.2	± 0.3	100.0%
No report	1877	24.2	± 2.6	7.2	± 1.6	1.3	± 0.5	67.4	± 3.1	100.0%
Total	22432	71.4	± 1.1	17.3	± 0.8	4.5	± 0.6	6.9	± 0.5	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 19: Distribution for Year of Last Marriage for People Age 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Male Respondents

		Year of Last Marriage								
	Number of Responses*	2005-06		2000-04		1999 and earlier		Invalid Year of Marriage or No report		Total
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	
Marital Status										
Now Married	14033	3.4	±0.4	15.5	± 1.0	77.6	± 1.1	3.5	± 0.6	100.0%
Widowed	613	0.2	± 0.3	1.2	± 0.7	83.8	± 4.7	14.8	± 4.6	100.0%
Divorced	2087	0.6	± 0.7	6.9	± 1.5	79.0	± 3.1	13.5	± 2.7	100.0%
Separated	444	0.7	± 0.6	18.5	± 4.7	67.5	± 5.6	13.4	± 3.3	100.0%
No report	1570	0.0	± 0.0	0.4	± 0.3	2.6	± 0.8	96.9	± 0.8	100.0%
Age										
15-24	538	22.3	± 6.3	41.0	± 6.2	0.7	± 0.8	36.0	± 6.0	100.0%
25-34	2320	8.9	± 1.7	43.0	± 3.4	38.1	± 3.5	10.1	± 1.8	100.0%
35-44	3734	2.5	± 0.6	17.4	± 1.8	71.5	± 2.1	8.5	± 1.4	100.0%
45-54	4282	1.0	± 0.4	7.3	± 1.0	82.8	± 1.6	8.9	± 1.2	100.0%
55-64	3712	0.8	± 0.4	3.9	± 0.9	86.3	± 1.4	9.0	± 1.2	100.0%
65+	4161	0.5	± 0.4	1.7	± 0.6	85.3	± 1.5	12.4	± 1.3	100.0%
Race										
White alone	13323	2.5	± 0.4	12.2	± 0.8	76.6	± 1.0	8.7	± 0.7	100.0%
Black alone	1724	2.1	± 1.3	15.6	± 3.2	60.9	± 3.7	21.3	± 3.0	100.0%

Asian alone	752	2.7	± 1.5	20.0	± 5.7	66.3	±5.8	11.0	± 3.6	100.0%
Other single race	1045	5.1	± 2.3	17.2	± 2.9	61.8	± 5.5	15.9	± 4.2	100.0%
Multiple races	312	2.5	± 1.8	21.0	± 8.1	67.9	± 7.7	8.6	± 3.0	100.0%
No report	1591	3.3	± 1.4	14.0	± 2.7	71.8	± 3.9	10.9	± 2.6	100.0%
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	2455	3.9	± 1.2	18.4	± 2.5	63.4	± 3.2	14.3	± 2.5	100.0%
Not Hispanic	15897	2.6	± 0.3	12.7	± 0.8	75.2	± 1.1	9.5	± 0.7	100.0%
No report	395	0.7	± 0.8	7.1	± 2.4	61.2	± 5.3	30.9	± 4.9	100.0%
Education										
Less than high school	2736	2.7	± 0.9	11.7	± 2.0	75.5	± 2.4	10.1	± 1.5	100.0%
High school/GED	4606	2.8	± 0.8	13.8	± 1.7	75.0	± 2.0	8.3	± 1.1	100.0%
At least some college	9713	3.0	± 0.5	14.7	± 1.1	78.5	± 1.3	3.8	± 0.6	100.0%
No report	1558	0.4	± 0.3	2.6	± 0.9	22.4	± 3.8	74.6	± 3.8	100.0%
Number of Times Married										
Once	12708	2.3	± 0.4	12.7	± 0.9	81.4	± 1.1	3.5	± 0.6	100.0%
Twice	3317	4.1	± 1.1	18.6	± 1.9	74.5	± 2.2	2.8	± 0.8	100.0%
Three or more	874	7.1	± 2.9	21.4	± 4.5	66.1	± 5.3	5.4	± 3.0	100.0%
No report	1848	0.0	± 0.2	0.3	± 0.3	1.8	± 0.6	97.9	± 0.6	100.0%
Total	18747	2.7	± 0.3	13.3	± 0.8	73.6	± 1.0	10.3	± 0.7	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 20: Distribution for Year of Last Marriage for People Age 15+ Who Were Ever Married – Female Respondents

		Year of Last Marriage								
	Number of Responses*	2005-06		2000-04		1999 and earlier		Invalid Year of Marriage or No report		Total
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	
Marital Status										
Now Married	13965	3.7	±0.5	15.6	±0.9	77.4	± 1.1	3.3	± 0.5	100.0%
Widowed	2634	0.1	± 0.1	1.1	± 0.6	87.9	± 2.1	10.9	± 2.0	100.0%
Divorced	3209	0.0	± 0.1	4.4	± 1.0	87.4	± 1.7	8.2	± 1.4	100.0%
Separated	696	1.0	± 1.5	13.9	± 3.2	72.4	± 5.1	12.8	± 4.6	100.0%
No report	1928	0.0	± 0.0	0.6	± 0.4	3.9	± 1.0	95.5	± 1.1	100.0%
Age										
15-24	733	20.2	± 4.9	47.4	± 6.0	3.4	± 1.9	28.9	± 6.0	100.0%
25-34	2905	8.3	± 1.6	38.3	± 2.8	47.1	± 2.8	6.3	± 1.3	100.0%
35-44	4059	1.8	± 0.4	13.8	± 1.7	77.1	± 1.9	7.4	± 1.2	100.0%
45-54	4870	0.9	± 0.5	6.0	± 0.9	85.2	± 1.4	7.9	± 1.2	100.0%
55-64	4333	0.8	± 0.5	2.2	± 0.6	89.0	± 1.3	8.1	± 1.0	100.0%
65+	5532	0.1	± 0.1	0.9	± 0.3	82.2	± 1.4	16.8	± 1.4	100.0%
Race										
White alone	15754	2.3	± 0.3	10.8	± 0.7	77.8	± 1.0	9.1	± 0.7	100.0%
Black alone	2392	2.0	± 1.1	10.3	± 2.5	67.7	± 3.5	20.0	± 3.3	100.0%

Asian alone	860	3.7	±2.3	20.7	± 5.0	65.2	± 5.4	10.4	± 3.6	100.0%
Other single race	1184	3.2	± 1.3	15.1	± 3.0	69.6	± 3.5	12.1	± 2.3	100.0%
Multiple races	363	4.8	± 5.2	17.6	± 5.3	71.3	± 6.6	6.3	± 2.5	100.0%
No report	1879	3.2	± 1.3	11.9	± 2.5	74.4	± 3.5	10.4	± 2.1	100.0%
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	2837	4.0	± 1.2	16.6	± 2.8	67.2	± 3.2	12.2	± 1.7	100.0%
Not Hispanic	19067	2.3	± 0.3	11.0	± 0.7	77.0	± 1.0	9.7	± 0.8	100.0%
No report	528	0.6	± 0.6	5.1	± 2.0	67.1	± 4.0	27.2	± 3.7	100.0%
Education										
Less than high school	3082	1.7	± 0.7	8.0	± 1.6	78.6	± 2.3	11.7	± 1.8	100.0%
High school/GED	6004	2.8	± 0.8	9.0	± 1.1	79.7	± 1.7	8.5	± 1.2	100.0%
At least some college	11289	2.7	± 0.4	14.8	± 0.9	78.8	± 1.1	3.6	± 0.5	100.0%
No report	1877	1.1	± 1.1	2.4	± 1.2	22.2	± 2.4	74.2	± 2.7	100.0%
Number of Times Married										
Once	15337	2.3	± 0.4	10.6	± 0.8	83.0	± 1.1	4.1	± 0.6	100.0%
Twice	3899	3.8	± 1.0	16.8	± 1.8	76.3	± 2.0	3.1	± 0.9	100.0%
Three or more	1003	4.9	± 2.2	22.6	± 3.9	68.5	± 4.3	4.0	± 2.5	100.0%
No report	2193	0.0	± 0.0	0.4	± 0.3	3.4	± 1.3	96.2	± 1.3	100.0%
Total	22432	2.5	± 0.3	11.5	± 0.7	75.7	± 1.0	10.3	± 0.8	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 21. Consistency of reporting marriage events in last 12 months with year of last marriage for people age 15+ who were ever married – Male Respondents

				Married in last 12 months				Not married in last 12 months				Unknown if married in last 12 months			
	Number of Responses*			Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total	Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total	Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total
Overall	Married 814	Not-Mar 15549	Unknown 2384	58.7	39.4	1.9	100.0%	0.3	95.0	4.7	100.0%	0.1	27.9	72.1	100.0%
Marital Status															
Now Married	782	12770	481	59.8	38.4	1.8	100.0%	0.3	96.9	2.7	100.0%	0.4	64.4	35.2	100.0%
Widowed	7	487	119	0	100.0	0.0	100.0%	0.2	86.0	13.8	100.0%	0.0	77.9	22.1	100.0%
Divorced	9	1893	185	46.1	53.0	0.9	100.0%	0.1	87.2	12.7	100.0%	0.2	72.1	27.7	100.0%
Separated	8	334	102	55.3	27.4	17.3	100.0%	0.0	88.0	12.0	100.0%	0.0	78.9	21.1	100.0%
No report	8	65	1497	6.2	75.2	18.6	100.0%	0.0	27.0	73.0	100.0%	0.0	1.6	98.4	100.0%
Age															
15-24	107	209	222	90.5	8.2	1.3	100.0%	1.8	82.2	16.0	100.0%	0.0	3.8	96.2	100.0%
25-34	264	1804	252	80.1	18.2	1.7	100.0%	1.5	93.8	4.7	100.0%	0.7	17.7	81.6	100.0%
35-44	178	3194	362	56.4	42.6	1.0	100.0%	0.2	95.0	4.8	100.0%	0.1	27.8	72.1	100.0%
45-54	99	3757	426	34.6	62.4	2.9	100.0%	0.1	95.4	4.5	100.0%	0.0	28.4	71.6	100.0%
55-64	84	3203	425	28.2	68.9	3.0	100.0%	0.1	95.9	4.0	100.0%	0.0	31.7	68.3	100.0%
65+	82	3382	697	23.5	73.7	2.8	100.0%	0.0	95.2	4.8	100.0%	0.0	35.7	64.3	100.0%
Race															
White alone	475	11416	1432	64.1	34.6	1.3	100.0%	0.2	96.2	3.6	100.0%	0.1	32.1	67.7	100.0%

Black alone	65	1233	426	43.7	53.8	2.5	100.0%	0.3	88.6	11.1	100.0%	0.1	16.0	83.9	100.0%
Asian alone	87	568	97	23.9	72.5	3.6	100.0%	0.5	96.5	3.0	100.0%	0.0	23.9	76.1	100.0%
Other single race	74	838	133	72.2	23.4	4.4	100.0%	0.7	88.3	11.0	100.0%	0.0	15.4	84.6	100.0%
Multiple races	18	263	31	43.5	54.4	2.2	100.0%	0.8	95.6	3.5	100.0%	0.0	21.5	78.5	100.0%
No report	95	1231	265	54.2	43.6	2.2	100.0%	0.7	93.9	5.4	100.0%	0.0	22.2	77.8	100.0%
Hispanic origin															
Hispanic	166	1971	318	51.4	43.8	4.8	100.0%	0.9	89.8	9.3	100.0%	0.0	18.1	81.9	100.0%
Not Hispanic	631	13353	1913	60.9	37.8	1.3	100.0%	0.2	95.7	4.1	100.0%	0.1	29.2	70.7	100.0%
No report	17	225	153	17.7	80.1	2.2	100.0%	0.0	93.3	6.7	100.0%	0.0	25.5	74.5	100.0%
Education															
Less than high school	131	2246	359	48.8	48.9	2.3	100.0%	0.7	92.8	6.5	100.0%	0.1	43.4	56.5	100.0%
High school/GED	201	4009	396	58.5	38.7	2.8	100.0%	0.4	93.5	6.1	100.0%	0.4	48.2	51.4	100.0%
At least some college	434	8777	502	63.3	35.5	1.2	100.0%	0.1	97.7	2.2	100.0%	0.1	52.8	47.1	100.0%
No report	41	417	1100	23.3	68.3	8.4	100.0%	0.0	63.3	36.7	100.0%	0.1	5.0	95.0	100.0%
Number of Times Married															
Once	587	11566	555	51.5	46.7	1.8	100.0%	0.2	96.3	3.5	100.0%	0.4	91.1	8.5	100.0%
Twice	163	3005	149	69.7	29.3	1.0	100.0%	0.5	96.8	2.7	100.0%	0.0	91.1	8.9	100.0%
Three or more	55	775	44	90.0	9.7	0.3	100.0%	0.4	94.0	5.7	100.0%	0.8	89.1	10.1	100.0%
No report	9	203	1636	5.4	10.7	83.9	100.0%	0.0	7.2	92.8	100.0%	0.0	1.0	99.0	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 22. Consistency of reporting marriage events in last 12 months with year of last marriage for people age 15+ who were ever married – Female Respondents

				Married in last 12 months				Not married in last 12 months				Unknown if married in last 12 months			
	Number of Responses*			Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total	Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total	Married 2005-06	Married LE 2004	Invalid or No marriage year given	Total
Overall	Married 875	Not-Mar 18518	Unknown 3039	60.5	35.4	4.1	100.0%	0.2	95.3	4.5	100.0%	0.1	31.3	68.5	100.0%
Marital Status															
Now Married	819	12687	459	65.0	30.9	4.1	100.0%	0.2	97.4	2.4	100.0%	0.4	62.4	37.2	100.0%
Widowed	27	2222	385	1.5	95.4	3.1	100.0%	0.1	89.7	10.3	100.0%	0.0	82.6	17.4	100.0%
Divorced	10	2976	223	0.0	84.4	15.6	100.0%	0.0	92.2	7.8	100.0%	0.8	83.8	15.4	100.0%
Separated	8	562	126	50.8	49.2	0.0	100.0%	0.0	87.6	12.4	100.0%	0.3	81.6	18.1	100.0%
No report	11	71	1846	0.0	92.7	7.3	100.0%	0.0	53.4	46.6	100.0%	0.0	2.1	97.9	100.0%
Age															
15-24	144	351	238	92.8	5.6	1.5	100.0%	4.9	85.6	9.5	100.0%	0.1	3.5	96.4	100.0%
25-34	300	2327	278	75.8	22.6	1.6	100.0%	0.4	97.3	2.3	100.0%	0.6	27.1	72.3	100.0%
35-44	169	3572	318	46.8	43.7	9.5	100.0%	0.1	95.5	4.4	100.0%	0.0	33.2	66.8	100.0%
45-54	109	4255	506	49.3	46.9	3.8	100.0%	0.0	95.9	4.1	100.0%	0.1	37.7	62.3	100.0%
55-64	65	3731	537	42.9	52.2	5.0	100.0%	0.0	96.8	3.2	100.0%	0.4	35.4	64.2	100.0%
65+	88	4282	1162	4.5	88.5	7.1	100.0%	0.0	92.8	7.2	100.0%	0.0	33.5	66.5	100.0%
Race															
White alone	491	13402	1861	65.5	30.5	4.0	100.0%	0.1	96.3	3.5	100.0%	0.2	34.5	65.4	100.0%

Black alone	85	1733	574	44.4	49.6	6.0	100.0%	0.2	89.3	10.5	100.0%	0.1	21.3	78.6	100.0%
Asian alone	108	641	111	32.5	65.3	2.2	100.0%	0.1	95.1	4.8	100.0%	0.0	29.7	70.3	100.0%
Other single race	64	982	138	67.7	30.2	2.2	100.0%	0.1	92.2	7.6	100.0%	0.3	21.5	78.2	100.0%
Multiple races	18	315	30	73.5	26.5	0.0	100.0%	0.0	98.1	1.9	100.0%	0.0	23.6	76.4	100.0%
No report	109	1445	325	62.3	31.7	6.0	100.0%	0.5	93.9	5.7	100.0%	0.1	25.8	74.1	100.0%
Hispanic origin															
Hispanic	188	2254	395	56.0	32.5	11.4	100.0%	0.7	92.0	7.3	100.0%	0.1	28.2	71.7	100.0%
Not Hispanic	668	15951	2448	61.9	35.8	2.4	100.0%	0.1	95.7	4.1	100.0%	0.2	32.0	67.8	100.0%
No report	19	313	196	29.1	58.1	12.8	100.0%	0.0	94.4	5.6	100.0%	0.0	25.2	74.8	100.0%
Education															
Less than high school	139	2511	432	36.6	55.8	7.6	100.0%	0.4	91.5	8.1	100.0%	0.0	47.6	52.4	100.0%
High school/GED	180	5214	610	64.9	29.0	6.1	100.0%	0.1	94.2	5.7	100.0%	0.6	52.1	47.2	100.0%
At least some college	516	10111	662	65.4	33.0	1.5	100.0%	0.1	97.9	2.0	100.0%	0.0	56.2	43.8	100.0%
No report	37	534	1306	25.6	56.2	18.2	100.0%	2.1	67.3	30.6	100.0%	0.0	4.8	95.2	100.0%
Number of Times Married															
Once	640	13913	784	55.6	40.1	4.3	100.0%	0.2	96.0	3.8	100.0%	0.0	89.4	10.5	100.0%
Twice	178	3512	209	75.1	23.0	1.9	100.0%	0.1	96.7	3.1	100.0%	1.2	93.7	5.1	100.0%
Three or more	46	897	60	70.0	29.7	0.3	100.0%	0.3	95.2	4.5	100.0%	2.9	97.1	0.0	100.0%
No report	11	196	1986	0.0	7.8	92.2	100.0%	0.0	22.7	77.3	100.0%	0.0	0.7	99.3	100.0%

*Number of Persons represents unweighted counts.

Table 23. Marital Status at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+

	Initial: Yes Followup: Yes	Initial: No Followup: Yes	Initial: Yes Followup: No	Initial: No Followup: No	Total
MALE					
Now Married	60.4	0.7	1.0	37.9	100.0
Widowed	1.9	0.2	0.3	97.6	100.0
Divorced	7.9	0.5	0.5	91.2	100.0
Separated	1.0	0.4	0.3	98.3	100.0
Never Married	26.3	0.8	0.5	72.4	100.0
FEMALE					
Now Married	54.2	0.7	0.8	44.4	100.0
Widowed	8.6	0.4	0.4	90.6	100.0
Divorced	10.6	0.4	0.5	88.4	100.0
Separated	1.5	0.5	0.4	97.6	100.0
Never Married	22.5	0.7	0.4	76.4	100.0

Table 24: Content Followup Statistics for Marital Status

	Initial	Followup	Net Difference Rate		Gross Difference Rate		Index of Inconsistency		
			Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin Err	Level
MALE									
Now Married	61.4	61.1	.3	.2	1.7	.3	3.6	.6	L
Widowed	2.2	2.1	.1	.1	.5	.2	12.6	4.4	L
Divorced	8.3	8.3	.0	.2	.9	.2	6.2	1.5	L
Separated	1.3	1.4	-.1	.1	.7	.1	25.9	5.4	M
Never Married	26.8	27.1	-.3	.3	1.3	.3	3.2	.7	L
Total									
FEMALE									
Now Married	55.0	54.8	.2	.3	1.5	.3	3.0	.5	L
Widowed	9.0	9.0	.1	.2	.8	.2	4.9	1.2	L
Divorced	11.1	11.1	.1	.2	.9	.2	4.7	.9	L
Separated	1.9	2.0	.0	.2	.9	.2	23.1	4.7	M
Never Married	22.9	23.2	-.3	.2	1.1	.2	3.1	.6	L
Total	100.0	100.0						±	

Table 25. Number of times married at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married

	Initial: Yes Followup: Yes	Initial: No Followup: Yes	Initial: Yes Followup: No	Initial: No Followup: No	Total
MALE					
Once	73.5	1.4	1.7	23.4	100.0
Two or more times	23.4	1.7	1.4	73.5	100.0
FEMALE					
Once	74.5	1.0	1.9	22.6	100.0
Two or more times	22.6	1.9	1.0	74.5	100.0

Table 26: Content Followup Statistics for Number of Times Married

	Initial	Followup	Net Difference Rate		Gross Difference Rate		Index of Inconsistency		
			Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin Err	Level
MALE									
Once	75.2	74.9	.3	.5	3.2	.5	8.5	1.2	L
Two or more times	24.8	25.1	-.3	.5	3.2	.5	8.5	1.2	L
Total									
FEMALE									
Once	76.4	75.5	.8	.4	2.9	.4	8.0	1.1	L
Two or more times	23.6	24.5	-.8	.4	2.9	.4	8.0	1.1	L
Total	100.0	100.0						±	

Table 27. Marital Event in last 12 months at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married

	Initial: Yes	Initial: No	Initial: Yes	Initial: No	Total
	Followup: Yes	Followup: Yes	Followup: No	Followup: No	
MALE					
Married in last 12 months	2.5	0.6	1.8	95.2	100.0
Widowed in last 12 months	0.5	0.2	0.3	99.1	100.0
Divorced in last 12 months*	1.0	0.1	1.0	97.9	100.0
Separated in last 12 months*	0.2	0.1	1.3	98.4	100.0
FEMALE					
Married in last 12 months	2.3	0.5	1.5	95.7	100.0
Widowed in last 12 months	0.7	0.1	0.4	98.8	100.0
Divorced in last 12 months*	1.0	0.1	0.4	98.4	100.0
Separated in last 12 months*	0.3	0.2	1.8	97.7	100.0

*For CFU, the percent reflects the final response after the divorce/separation followup questions.

**Percentages reflect 'yes' responses to each question.

Table 28. Content Followup Statistics for Marital Events in last 12 months

	Initial	Followup	Net Difference Rate		Gross Difference Rate		Index of Inconsistency		
			Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin of Err	Level
MALE									
Married in last 12 months	4.0	3.0	1.2	.4	2.4	.4	33.8	5.4	M
Widowed in last 12 months	0.6	0.6	.1	.2	.4	.2	32.1	14.0	M
Divorced in last 12 months*	1.8	1.2	.9	.4	1.1	.4	35.8	9.9	M
Separated in last 12 months*	1.4	0.4	1.3	.3	1.4	.3	77.5	12.8	H
FEMALE									
Married in last 12 months	3.6	2.7	1.0	.4	2.0	.4	31.9	6.2	M
Widowed in last 12 months	1.0	0.9	.2	.1	.5	.1	25.2	6.1	M
Divorced in last 12 months*	1.3	1.1	.3	.2	.6	.2	22.6	7.4	M
Separated in last 12 months*	1.9	0.5	1.7	.4	2.0	.4	75.9	11.7	H

*For CFU, the percent reflects the final responses after the divorce/separation followup questions.

**Percentages reflect 'yes' responses to each question.

Table 29. Duration of Marriage (Year of Last Marriage) at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married, Initial vs. CFU

	Exact Match		± 2 Year Match		± 4 Year Match	
	Match	No Match	Match	No Match	Match	No Match
MALE						
2006	88.8	11.2	93.6	6.4	93.6	6.4
2005	94.7	5.3	98.0	2.0	98.4	1.6
2004	88.7	11.3	98.5	1.5	98.8	1.2
2003	83.0	17.0	97.7	2.3	98.6	1.4
2002	83.6	16.4	96.6	3.4	97.9	2.1
2001	79.0	21.0	90.1	9.9	95.1	4.9
2000	84.5	15.5	96.9	3.1	98.7	1.3
1995-1999	80.2	19.8	93.3	6.7	94.4	5.6
1990-1994	82.5	17.5	93.8	6.2	96.5	3.5
1989 and earlier	85.7	14.3	94.2	5.8	96.2	3.8
FEMALE						
2006	91.1	8.9	96.4	3.6	96.4	3.6
2005	96.1	3.9	97.9	2.1	98.2	1.8
2004	86.2	13.8	98.3	1.7	99.2	0.8
2003	84.6	15.4	97.4	2.6	97.4	2.6
2002	77.9	22.1	95.7	4.3	96.4	3.6
2001	84.6	15.4	93.6	6.2	98.1	1.9
2000	83.1	16.9	93.2	6.8	95.9	4.1
1995-1999	84.2	15.8	94.7	5.3	95.7	4.3
1990-1994	84.5	15.5	94.0	6.0	95.6	4.4
1989 and earlier	86.3	13.7	94.8	5.2	96.2	3.8

Table 30. Duration of Marriage (Year of Last Marriage) at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married, Initial vs. CFU

	Initial: Yes Followup: Yes	Initial: No Followup: Yes	Initial: Yes Followup: No	Initial: No Followup: No	Total
MALE					
2006	0.1	0.0	0.0	99.8	100.0
2005	2.5	0.2	0.1	97.2	100.0
2004	2.1	0.4	0.3	97.2	100.0
2003	2.3	0.3	0.5	96.9	100.0
2002	2.1	0.5	0.4	97.1	100.0
2001	2.3	0.6	0.6	96.5	100.0
2000	3.0	0.4	0.5	96.1	100.0
1995-1999	12.3	1.0	1.2	85.5	100.0
1990-1994	10.5	0.7	0.9	87.9	100.0
1989 and earlier	57.8	1.0	0.6	40.6	100.0
FEMALE					
2006	0.1	0.0	0.0	99.9	100.0
2005	2.4	0.2	0.1	97.3	100.0
2004	1.8	0.3	0.3	97.6	100.0
2003	2.2	0.3	0.4	97.1	100.0
2002	1.8	0.4	0.5	97.3	100.0
2001	2.1	0.5	0.4	97.0	100.0
2000	2.4	0.4	0.5	96.7	100.0
1995-1999	10.7	0.9	0.9	87.5	100.0
1990-1994	9.9	0.9	0.8	88.5	100.0
1989 and earlier	62.2	0.7	0.6	36.5	100.0

Table 31. Content Followup Statistics for Duration of Marriage at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married

	Initial	Followup	Net Difference Rate		Gross Difference Rate		Index of Inconsistency			Simple Response Variance**	
			Est	ME	Est	ME	Est	ME	Level	Est	ME
MALE											
2006	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	17.5	27.0	L	7.0	± 13.7
2005	2.6	2.7	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	7.1	1.9	L	1.5	± 1.3
2004	2.4	2.5	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2	13.7	3.4	L	0.8	± 0.7
2003	2.7	2.6	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.2	15.7	3.9	L	0.9	± 0.7
2002	2.5	2.5	-0.1	0.2	0.9	0.3	17.9	4.9	L	11.3	± 15.9
2001	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.3	20.1	5.4	M	1.8	± 0.8
2000	3.5	3.3	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.3	13.6	4.3	L	2.0	± 1.7
1995-1999	13.5	13.3	0.2	0.5	2.2	0.4	9.4	1.7	L	4.9	± 2.3
1990-1994	11.4	11.2	0.2	0.4	1.6	0.4	8.0	1.7	L	2.0	± 0.6
1989 and earlier	58.4	58.8	-0.4	0.3	1.6	0.3	3.2	0.7	L	3.9	± 1.0
Total	100.0	100.0								3.6	± 0.8
FEMALE											
2006	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.9	33.6	L	9.6	±24.4
2005	2.5	2.6	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	6.5	2.8	L	2.6	±2.4
2004	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	13.9	4.3	L	0.4	±0.2
2003	2.6	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2	14.0	3.7	L	4.0	±4.6
2002	2.3	2.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.3	19.9	5.4	L	1.8	±1.2
2001	2.4	2.6	-0.1	0.2	0.9	0.2	18.0	4.6	L	1.2	±0.6
2000	2.9	2.8	0.1	0.3	0.9	0.2	15.4	4.5	L	4.2	±3.2
1995-1999	11.6	11.5	0.1	0.4	1.8	0.5	8.8	2.1	L	3.6	±2.1
1990-1994	10.7	10.8	-0.1	0.4	1.6	0.4	8.6	1.9	L	2.8	±1.0
1989 and earlier	62.8	62.9	-0.1	0.3	1.4	0.3	2.9	0.6	L	2.8	±0.6
Total	100.0	100.0								2.9	±0.5

* Differences based on those reporting on all requested variables in both initial and follow-up survey.

** SRV is Based on continuous measurement of Year of Last Marriage

Table 32. Married in the Last Year (Year of Last Marriage) at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married, Initial vs. CFU

	Initial: Yes Followup: Yes	Initial: No Followup: Yes	Initial: Yes Followup: No	Initial: No Followup: No	Total
MALE					
2005-2006	2.6	.2	.1	97.1	100.0
Before 2005	97.1	.1	.2	2.6	100.0
FEMALE					
2005-2006	2.5	.3	.1	97.2	100.0
Before 2005	97.2	.1	.3	2.5	100.0

Table 33. Content Followup Statistics for Married in the Last Year at Initial interview and CFU for people 15+ who were ever married

	Initial	Followup	Net Difference Rate		Gross Difference Rate		Index of Inconsistency		
			Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin of Err	Estimate	Margin Err	Level
MALE									
2005-2006	2.7	2.8	-.1	0.09	.4	0.09	6.7	1.83	L
Before 2005	97.3	97.2	.1	0.09	.4	0.09	6.7	1.83	L
FEMALE									
2005-2006	2.6	2.7	-.2	0.15	.4	0.15	6.9	2.78	L
Before 2005	97.4	97.3	.2	0.15	.4	0.15	6.9	2.78	L

Table 34: Type of Marital Disruption For People Reporting a Divorce or Separation in the Last 12 months among people who Were Ever Married age 15+ – Male Respondents

	Reported a divorce in the last 12 months at the reinterview				Reported a separation in the last 12 months at the reinterview			
Characteristics at initial interview	Number reporting a divorce*	Divorce decree finalized in last 12 months?			Number reporting a separation*	Type of separation occurring?		
		Yes	No	No report		Separation agreement	Just stopped living together	No report
Overall	144	83.8	15.8	0.4	241	18.5	78.1	3.4
Marital Status								
Now Married	13	89.7	10.3	0.0	70	5.0	95.0	0.0
Widowed	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Divorced	118	81.9	17.6	0.5	54	21.1	77.5	1.4
Separated	7	80.1	19.9	0.0	103	25.4	71.4	3.1
No report	5	100.0	0.0	0.0	9	44.9	39.1	16.0
Age								
15-24	4	65.1	34.9	0.0	13	13.8	80.6	5.7
25-34	42	94.6	5.4	0.0	69	25.8	67.1	7.1
35-44	46	81.0	19.0	0.0	68	8.6	91.4	0.0
45-54	30	76.6	23.4	0.0	51	18.7	78.9	2.4
55-64	14	93.1	0.0	6.9	24	33.5	61.5	5.0
65+	8	95.5	4.5	0.0	16	24.5	73.3	2.2
Race								
White alone	95	87.1	12.2	0.7	150	18.2	78.6	3.3

Black alone	16	90.4	9.6	0.0	46	5.5	90.6	3.9
Asian alone	3	100.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Other single race	11	100.0	0.0	0.0	18	20.7	66.4	13.0
Multiple races	2	10.2	89.8	0.0	4	0.0	100.0	0.0
No report	17	75.8	24.2	0.0	21	33.7	65.6	0.7
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	26	90.4	6.7	2.8	46	10.8	82.9	6.3
Not Hispanic	114	82.4	17.6	0.0	188	19.3	78.0	2.7
No report	4	100.0	0.0	0.0	7	60.8	39.2	0.0
Education								
Less than high school	24	67.7	30.2	2.1	47	24.6	72.7	2.7
High school/GED	38	77.0	23.0	0.0	69	13.1	83.8	3.1
At least some college	76	94.2	5.8	0.0	110	20.8	76.0	3.3
No report	6	100.0	0.0	0.0	12	25.4	63.4	11.2
Number of Times Married								
Once	88	80.9	18.4	0.7	153	19.0	77.7	3.2
Twice	35	81.2	18.8	0.0	49	19.2	80.8	0.0
Three or more	14	100.0	0.0	0.0	20	12.2	86.4	1.4
No report	6	100.0	0.0	0.0	14	31.4	68.6	0.0

*Number is unweighted counts. Totals may differ by characteristic depending on presence or absence of characteristic data.

Table 35: Type of Marital Disruption For People Reporting a Divorce or Separation in the Last 12 months among people who Were Ever Married age 15+ – Female Respondents

	Reported a divorce in the last 12 months at the reinterview				Reported a separation in the last 12 months at the reinterview			
	Number reporting a divorce*	Divorce decree finalized in last 12 months?			Number reporting a separation*	Type of separation occurring?		
		Yes	No	No report		Separation agreement	Just stopped living together	No report
Overall	176	92.2	7.8	0.0	274	19.6	76.1	4.3
Marital Status								
Now Married	5	90.7	9.3	0.0	75	8.3	91.4	0.3
Widowed	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Divorced	153	94.4	5.6	0.0	71	35.0	60.8	4.2
Separated	11	44.2	55.8	0.0	116	15.0	77.8	7.2
No report	5	100.0	0.0	0.0	8	61.5	38.5	0.0
Age								
15-24	13	87.1	12.9	0.0	15	15.9	84.1	0.0
25-34	45	93.8	6.2	0.0	82	12.8	76.2	11.0
35-44	57	92.8	7.2	0.0	93	24.7	75.1	0.2
45-54	39	90.6	9.4	0.0	50	30.2	69.8	0.0
55-64	17	86.5	13.5	0.0	22	13.0	78.3	8.7
65+	5	94.3	5.7	0.0	12	0.0	100.0	0.0
Race								
White alone	120	91.4	8.6	0.0	165	17.5	74.9	7.6

Black alone	17	88.2	11.8	0.0	44	3.6	96.4	0.0
Asian alone	5	100.0	0.0	0.0	8	73.0	27.0	0.0
Other single race	13	71.7	28.3	0.0	17	38.3	61.7	0.0
Multiple races	3	100.0	0.0	0.0	6	0.0	100.0	0.0
No report	18	100.0	0.0	0.0	34	23.3	76.7	0.0
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	33	85.4	14.6	0.0	49	17.4	82.6	0.0
Not Hispanic	142	93.9	6.1	0.0	221	19.8	75.0	5.2
No report	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	4	60.3	39.7	0.0
Education								
Less than high school	19	97.7	2.3	0.0	46	8.8	91.2	0.0
High school/GED	52	93.7	6.3	0.0	73	23.3	67.4	9.3
At least some college	99	90.0	10.0	0.0	142	21.2	76.3	2.4
No report	4	100.0	0.0	0.0	12	18.4	81.6	0.0
Number of Times Married								
Once	101	90.8	9.2	0.0	172	13.4	80.8	5.8
Twice	48	97.3	2.7	0.0	62	31.1	68.6	0.3
Three or more	20	86.9	13.1	0.0	24	19.5	73.7	6.8
No report	5	100.0	0.0	0.0	12	47.0	53.0	0.0

*Number is unweighted counts. Totals may differ by characteristic depending on presence or absence of characteristic data.

Table 36: Distribution of Marital History, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married last 12 months	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	± 0.9	No
Widowed last 12 months	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.1	± 0.3	No
Divorced last 12 months	1.7	2.2	1.2	-1.0	± 0.7	Yes
Separated last 12 months	1.6	1.7	1.5	-0.1	± 0.5	No

*Percentages include respondents who marked multiple responses ('yes' and 'no') to the marital history questions

Table 37: Distribution of Marital History, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Married last 12 months	3.9	4.1	3.7	-0.4	± 0.8	No
Widowed last 12 months	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.2	± 0.3	No
Divorced last 12 months	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.2	± 0.5	No
Separated last 12 months	2.0	1.9	2.1	0.2	± 0.6	No

*Percentages include respondents who marked multiple responses ('yes' and 'no') to the marital history questions

Table 38: Distribution of Number of Times Married, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Male Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Once	74.9	74.2	75.7	1.6	± 2.0	No
Twice	20.0	20.8	19.2	-1.7	± 1.9	No
Three or more times	5.1	5.0	5.1	0.1	± 1.0	No
Multiple Marks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	± 0.0	No

Table 39: Distribution of Number of Times Married, Overall and by Control Vs. Test – Female Respondents

	Overall	Control (%)	Test (%)	Difference (%)	Margin of Error (%)	Significant
Once	76.6	76.1	77.2	1.1	± 1.6	No
Twice	18.5	19.2	17.9	-1.3	± 1.6	No
Three or more times	4.8	4.8	4.9	0.1	± 0.9	No
Multiple Marks	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	± 0.0	Yes