Call for Applications: 2011 MCH Epi Pre-Conference Trainings
New Orleans, Louisiana

Option 1: Data Linkage

Title: Data Linkage Techniques and Tricks of the Trade

Trainers: Craig Mason, Ph.D.,
Director, Center for Research and Evaluation, Professor of Education & Applied
Quantitative Methods, University Of Maine

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State MCH Epidemiologist, Virginia Department of Health
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology & Community Health, Virginia
Commonwealth University

Learning Objectives
By the end of this training, the participant should be able to:
1) Describe successful approaches to negotiating data sharing agreements
2) Understand issues related to data security and confidentiality when working with
   identifiable data
3) Describe the difference between deterministic and probabilistic linkage
4) Identify common elements in datasets to be linked in preparation for linkage
5) Perform basic data cleaning, standardization, and de-duplication needed to prepare
   data for linkage
6) Load data into FRIL software package
7) Design linkage passes or iterations based on common elements / nature of records
8) Apply methods to deal with twins
9) Perform data linkage using FRIL and evaluate linkage results
10) Merge linkage results with original data to create final linked dataset

MCH Leadership Competencies

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**Requested Skills:** Participants should be familiar with SAS. Desire to learn FRIL (Fine-grained Record Integration and Linkage) data linkage software.

**Pre-Training Preparation:**
- Applicants will be required to complete a skills assessment prior to the training.
- Participants may be asked to read material pertaining to data linkage and the software tool (FRIL)