

ARIZONA EXPERIENCE:

**Looking At Two Possible Sources of Data for a
Performance Indicator**

By:

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HOW TO GET STARTED

- Met with other state agency staff to discuss purpose of the data file matching request – what is it needed for, who will be the end users of the data, to whom it will be submitted, and what benefit they (the other state agency) will get from it.
- Discuss the process: identify contact person in both agencies, identify data elements included in the file, file format, disk type (CD, Zip disk, floppy diskette), discuss time frame, what information to be included in the output file, and how to dispose the matching file.
- Execute a data sharing agreement

MATCHING PROCEDURES

- With Criminal Justice Agencies (Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Public Safety)
 - Initial matching, use combination of all variables, and then followed by a combination of any three variables:
 - Social security number
 - Name (last, first, middle)
 - Date of birth
 - Gender

- With Employment Agency:
 - Use client social security number

DATA FILE MATCHING RESULTS

(State Fiscal Year 2000)

- **Involvement in Criminal Justice (Number of Arrest)**
 - 14% matched clients
 - 75% of clients who reported an arrest during assessment were found to have arrest records in DPS
 - 25% of those who reported an arrest during assessment have no matched records in DPS
- **Employment Status**
 - 42% matched clients
 - 74% of (self-report) employed clients have matched records
 - 25% of (self-report) unemployed clients have matched records
 - 47% of no employment data have matched records

ISSUES

- Missing or bad social security number – limits the matching ability
- Need to ‘sell’ the benefits of this activity to other state agencies especially if they do not charge a fee
- Buy-in of internal staff to use matched numbers in lieu of self-report administrative data
- HIPAA requires re-writing of executed Data Sharing Agreement which took about a year in some cases to be completed
- Hard to impose timeframes especially when the agency does not charge a fee

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Temporarily stopped data file matching due to agency requirement to review and revise executed data sharing agreements to include HIPAA clauses for the protection of data.
- Currently strengthening data infrastructure and might resort back to data file matching as a method to validate self report data.
- Would need to get buy-in of internal staff to continue the data file matching process .