Linking Data in the County

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Contra Costa County

Beginning the Process

- Foster Care data from CWS/CMS
  - Extracts generated using Business Objects
- CalWORKs data from CalWIN
  - Extracts generated using Business Objects or SQL queries
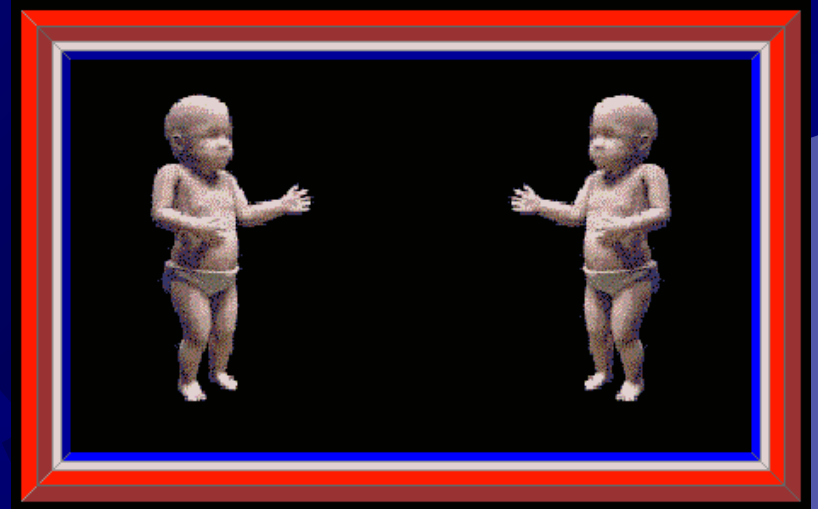
Accessible Data

- Developing a Business Objects Universe of linked data
  - Involves extensive IT commitment and involvement
  - Requires validation at numerous steps along the path of linking and extracting data

Matching Rules

- Two sets of criteria to count as a "match"

- If a match on either of the sets of rules - counted as a "match"

Initial Matching Rules (1)

- The CWS/CMS and CalWIN SSN's must match exactly. In addition, ANY one of the following must be true
  - The CWS/CMS and CalWIN birthdays must be within 30 days of each other
  - The CWS/CMS and CalWIN birthdays must have the same day and month
  - Both of the following must be true
    - The CWS/CMS and CalWIN first name must have the same first four characters after apostrophes have been removed
    - The gender codes must match

Initial Matching Rules (2)

- ALL the following must be true
  - The CWS/CMS and CalWIN birthdays must be within 30 days of each other
  - The first four letters of the CWS/CMS and CalWIN first name must match after apostrophes and dashes have been removed
  - The first thee letters of the CWS/CMS and CalWIN last name must match after any spaces have been removed

Match Using Foster Children

- Approximately 1550 children in Child Welfare Supervised Foster Care and 2150 with an open case (includes FM)
  - Can we find these children in CalWIN – regardless of the program they are associated with ?
- 98% match for foster children, 95% match for all children with an open case
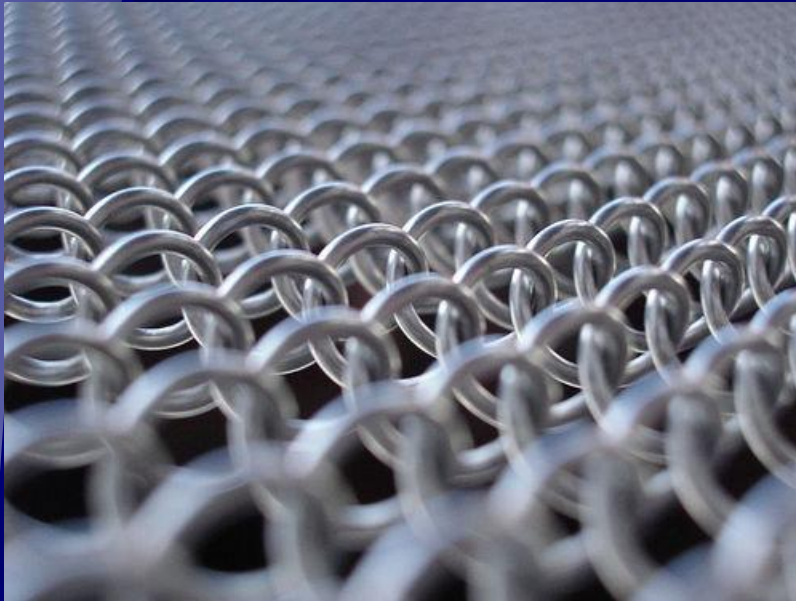- Random sample validated

The Case of "A.R."

- Eight potentially "good" matches
  - Data entry problems in most match areas - both CWS and CalWIN side
  - Several CalWIN Case ID's and CalWIN #'s
- Several others with numerous duplicates
- Requires a plan for data cleanup

Linked Cases

- August 07 Sample
  - 66% of Child Welfare Cases have or have had a CalWORKs case
  - 20% of these are currently open
  - 72% of open cases are single parents
  - 68% of open cases are WTW

Child Welfare Outcomes

- Does CalWORKs involvement affect Child Welfare outcomes?
  - Define the independent and dependent variables
  - May utilize a cohort sample
  - For some outcomes you can develop a comparison group that makes sense

Research Example

- Topic: Does the speed of getting a job affect time to reunification?
  - Number of days from entry into program until employed is independent variable
  - Number of days from removal to reunification is dependent variable
  - Clarification needed to further define variables, e.g.,
    - Subsidized versus unsubsidized employment
    - Severity of reason for removal as a covariate

Next Steps in Contra Costa

- Define the research questions
- Preparing the "raw" data so that it is available
- Continuing to build relationships with other bureaus within our department

Issues to Consider

- We are facing software and hardware upgrades
  - Business Objects/Oracle upgrades from 6.5 to 11
- Archiving of data
  - Put a plan in place to allow for easy access for research/evaluation purposes – data warehouse
- Managing priorities
  - Working in a single bureau makes it easier to lessen the priority level of "linked" data

Questions