Northern California Training Academy
Research Evidence Use Practicum

Selecting a sample for case record review

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Case record review

Case record review is method that you can use to answer a question:

- Do reunifying teens have different behavioral issues than reunifying toddlers?

- Does County X provide more intensive after care services than County Y?

- How is casework with children exiting to reunification different from casework with children exiting to relatives?

- Why would children with short durations in care be more likely to reenter than children with longer durations?

Just as in quantitative data analysis: **Know your question. Write it down.**
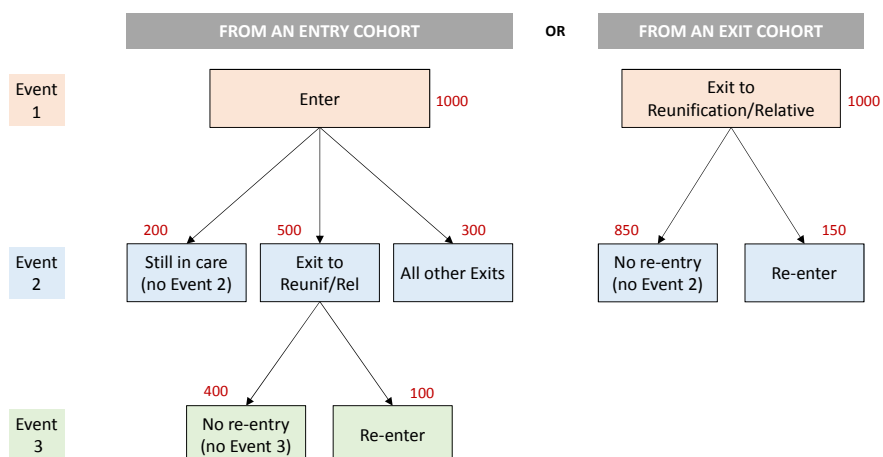
2

Selecting a case record review sample

Which cases should I sample?

- As in quantitative analysis, the population from which you sample has to match your question. Your population is your **sampling frame**.

- The sampling frame must include all those who were "at risk" of achieving the outcome of interest.

    - For example, if you wanted to learn about why infants re-enter care and you only reviewed cases of infants who re-entered, you will only be reviewing the "failures."

    - To learn about what differentiates re-entering infants from non-re-entering infants, you'll want to sample from all exiting infants, and then compare re-enterers to non-re-enterers.

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How do I find my sampling frame?

| | FROM AN ENTRY COHORT | | | OR | FROM AN EXIT COHORT | |

Event 1

| Enter | 1000 |

Exit to Reunification/Relative | 1000

200 | 500 | 300 | 850 | 150

Event 2

Still in care (no Event 2) | Exit to Reunif/Rel | All other Exits | No re-entry (no Event 2) | Re-enter

400 | 100

Event 3

No re-entry (no Event 3) | Re-enter
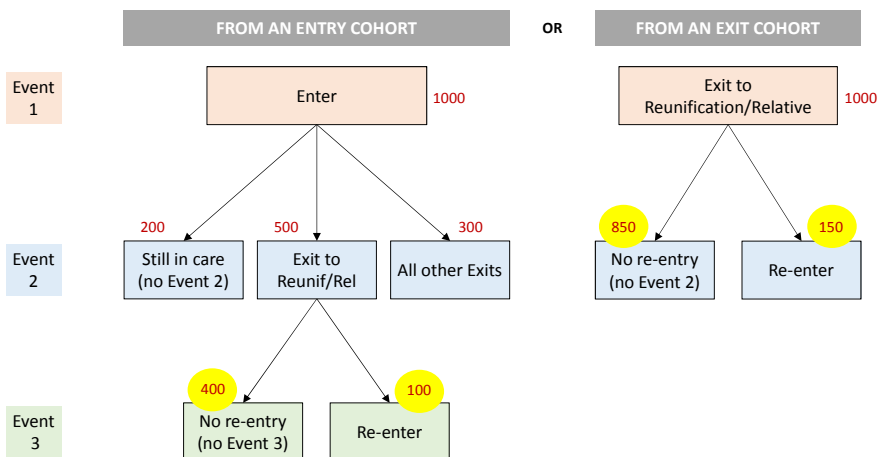
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Do children who re-enter experience less oversight during trial home visit than children who don't re-enter?

	FROM AN ENTRY COHORT	OR	FROM AN EXIT COHORT

Event 1

Enter — 1000

Exit to Reunification/Relative — 1000

Event 2

200 — Still in care (no Event 2)

500 — Exit to Reunif/Rel

300 — All other Exits

850 — No re-entry (no Event 2)

150 — Re-enter

Event 3

400 — No re-entry (no Event 3)

100 — Re-enter

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Selecting a case record review sample

All Spells: FCDA web tool https://fcda.chapinhall.org

Example: All children who exited to reunification or relative in Sacramento in 2014.

County
(multiple selections allowed)
Orange
Placer
Plumas
Riverside
Sacramento

Discharges
Exit destination
(multiple selections allowed)
Completed Adoption
Reunite with Family
Other Guardianship
Kin Guardianship

Exit date:
From: 01-01-2014
To: 12-31-2014

List records
Choose columns to return for selected spells.
(multiple selections allowed)
All
Child ID
State
County
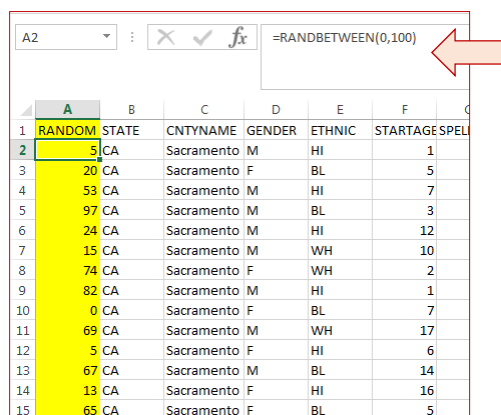Level of Urbanicity
Gender

Download data to a .csv file

(List records) (Download Data)

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Selecting a case record review sample

Assign a random variable to each spell using the **RANDBETWEEN** formula.
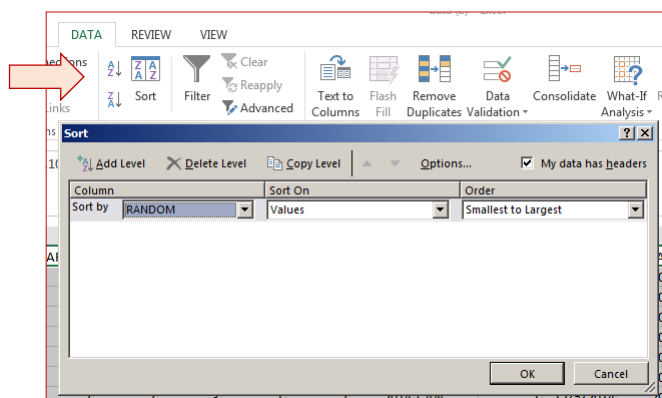(Copy new column and paste values.)

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Selecting a case record review sample

Sort spells by the random variable.

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Selecting a case record review sample

Starting from the top, select the first ## cases. Because this is a random sample, it should, by definition, give you a representative sample of trajectories (for example, children who re-entered and children who didn't).

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If you want to be sure to have the same number of cases per category – for instance, 5 cases of children who re-entered and 5 children who did not – sort by the random variable, find the criterion variable of interest (in this case REENTER), and pick the first 5 NOs followed by the first 5 YESses.

Need to qualify re-entry to "re-entry within one year: Y/N"? Create a new variable and select based on that criterion.

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Finding your sampling frame inside a pivot table…

Of all children who reunified in 2014, what percent re-entered care within one year?

STOP YR	2014						
EXIT	XRF						
Count of RECAT	Column Labels						
Row Labels	< 1 month	1 to < 3 months	3 to < 6 months	6 to < 12 months	12 to < 18 months	18 to < 36 months	Grand Total
no reentry					1113	1052	2165
reentry	42	81	94	120	38	5	380
Grand Total	42	81	94	120	1151	1057	2545

STOP YR	2014						
EXIT	XRF						
Count of RECAT	Column Labels						
Row Labels	< 1 month	1 to < 3 months	3 to < 6 months	6 to < 12 months	12 to < 18 months	18 to < 36 months	Grand Total
no reentry	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	41%	85%
reentry	2%	3%	4%	5%	1%	0%	15%
Grand Total	2%	3%	4%	5%	45%	42%	100%

Of children who reunified in 2014, 14% re-entered care within one year. A small number of those children (42) came back within one month.

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Case review: Who are the 42 children who reunified in 2014 and re-entered within one month?

STOP YR	2014						
EXIT	XRF						
Count of RECAT	Column Labels						
Row Labels	< 1 month	1 to < 3 months	3 to < 6 months	6 to < 12 months	12 to < 18 months	18 to < 36 months	Grand Total
no reentry					1113	1052	2165
reentry	42	81	94	120	38	5	380
Grand Total	42	81	94	120	1151	1057	2545

Double click…

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	I	K	L	M	N	
1	CHILDID	STATE	CNTYNAME	REGION	GENDER	ETHNIC	SPELLAGE	AGECAT4	INYEAR	SPELL	SP_START	SP_START_YEAR	SP_
2	1000001	NJ	Mercer		1 F	HI	14	4	2013	2	2/20/2014	2014	3/
3	1000002	NJ	Ocean		1 F	BL	0	1	2014	1	11/20/2014	2014	12/
4	1000003	NJ	Essex		2 M	BL	0	1	2014	1	8/29/2014	2014	12
5	1000004	NJ	Camden		1 F	BL	0	1	2014	1	6/18/2014	2014	7/
6	1000005	NJ	Ocean		1 M	UK	1	2	2014	1	9/16/2014	2014	11/
7	1000006	NJ	Hudson		1 F	HI	0	1	2014	1	5/29/2014	2014	6/
8	1000007	NJ	Camden		1 M	HI	10	3	2014	1	5/22/2014	2014	5/2
9	1000008	NJ	Union		1 F	HI	1	2	2014	1	3/12/2014	2014	5/2
10	1000009	NJ	Union		1 F	HI	1	2	2014	1	3/12/2014	2014	5/
11	1000010	NJ	Bergen		1 M	HI	0	1	2013	1	11/6/2013	2013	1/
12	1000011	NJ	Gloucester		1 M	WH	0	1	2014	1	5/21/2014	2014	5/29
13	1000012	NJ	Monmouth		1 M	WH	4	2	2014	1	10/29/2014	2014	11
14	1000013	NJ	Essex		2 F	BL	3	2	2014	1	8/29/2014	2014	12

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