

Analyzing Real World Data: Methods for Linking Records Across Disparate Data Sources

Toan Ong, PhD; Jenna Reno, PhD

Learning Objectives

1. Define opportunities to use record linkage methods for healthcare research
2. Understand and describe steps to perform data linkage in healthcare
3. Identify barriers and challenges to conducting record linkage

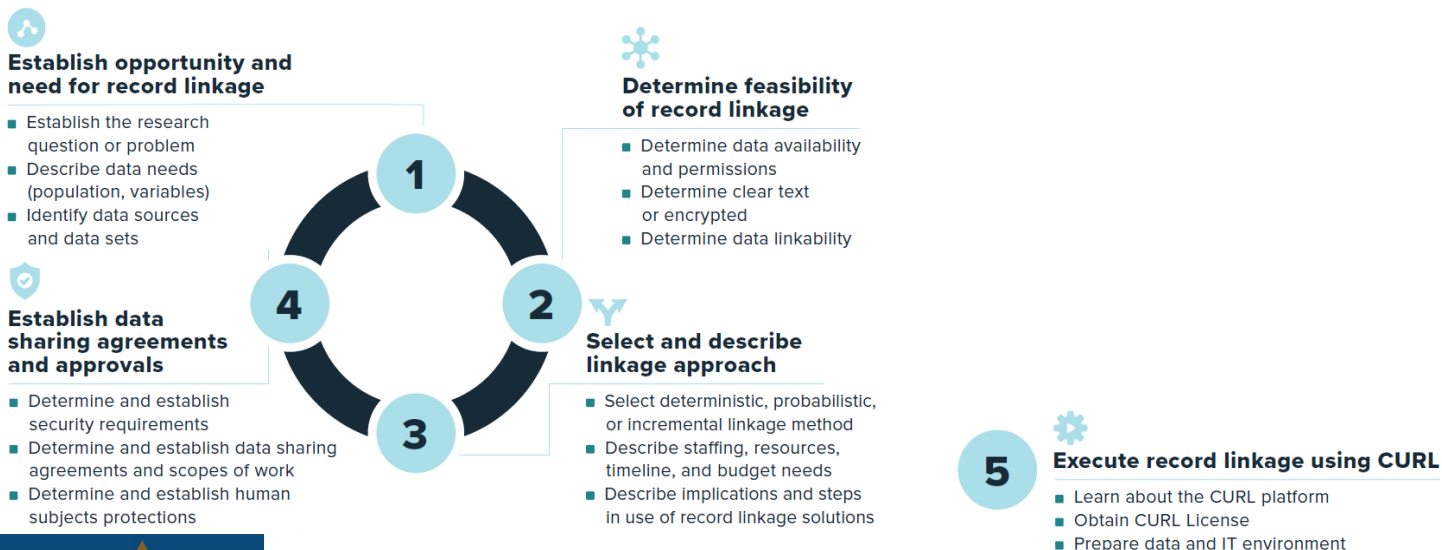
Record linkage: a process to determine if two or more records belong to the same entity.

Getting Started

When planning a research study that uses record linkage, start by answering the following questions:
See workbook for more info

- 1a. What is the research question?
- 1b. What data are needed to answer the question?
- 1c. What are sources of these data?
- 1d. What data sets or variables do you want to link (i.e., the type and scope of the data) and can they be linked together?
- 1e. For what purpose might data sets be linked (deduplication, data enrichment, cohort identification)?
- 1f. Describe the limitations of a single data source or data set that can be addressed by linking across populations, settings, or data types.

CU Record Linkage Planning Workbook for Investigators



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