

SDP TOOLKIT

FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE

A GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING DATA ANALYSIS IN EDUCATION AGENCIES

Please mute your computer speakers and phone microphone.



www.gse.harvard.edu/sdp/tools



Transform the use of data in education to improve student achievement.



Manager of Product Development



SDP TOOLKIT

FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE

A GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING DATA
ANALYSIS IN EDUCATION AGENCIES



- 1. Review structure of tasks
- 2. Walk you through one of the five tasks

 $Q_{*_{\Delta}}$

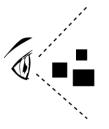
(3)

SDP TOOLKIT

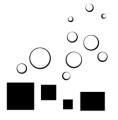
FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE

A GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING DATA ANALYSIS IN EDUCATION AGENCIES

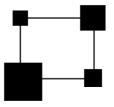




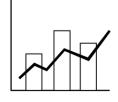
1. Identify essential data elements



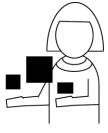
2. Clean, check, and build variables for your datasets



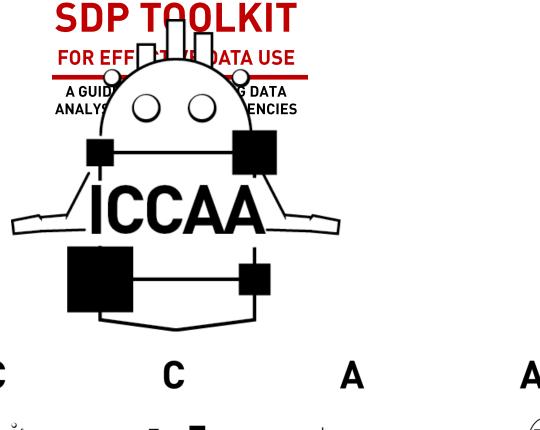
3. Connectrelevant
datasets from
different
sources



4. Analyze your datasets



5. Adoptbest practices
to facilitate
shared and
replicable data
analysis





Identify: Data Specification Guide



Clean: Data Building Tasks



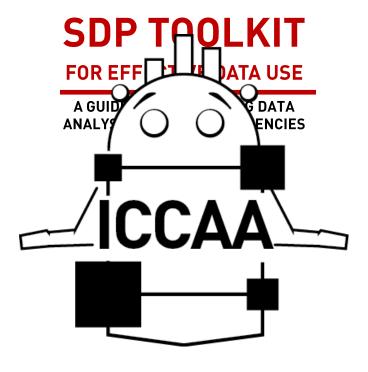
Connect: Data Linking Guide



Analyze: Diagnostic Analyses Guide



Adopt: Coding Style Guide







Identify: Data Specification Guide

C



Clean: Data Building Tasks

C



Connect: Data Linking Guide



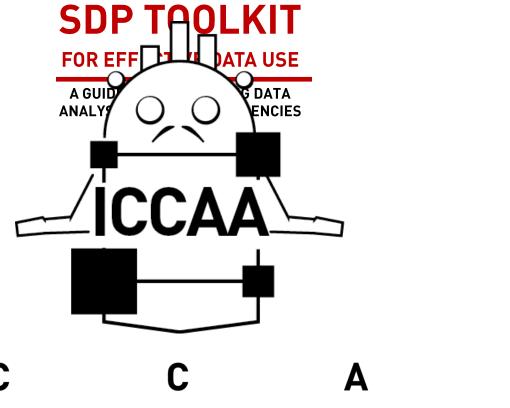


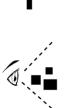
Analyze: Diagnostic Analyses Guide





Adopt: Coding Style Guide





Identify: Data Specification Guide



Clean: Data Building Tasks



Connect: Data Linking Guide



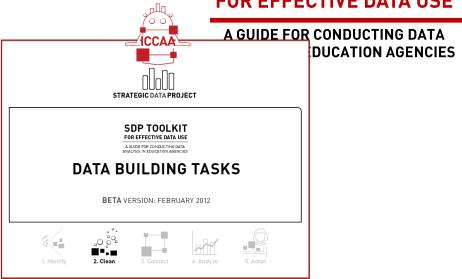
Analyze: Diagnostic Analyses Guide



Adopt: Coding Style Guide

SDP TOOLKIT

FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE







Identify: Data Specification Guide

C



Clean: Data Building Tasks

C



Connect: Data Linking Guide

Δ



Analyze:
Diagnostic
Analyses Guide

Δ



Adopt: Coding Style Guide



2. CleanData Building Tasks

Upon collecting essential data elements, ensure that the data can be reliably used in future analyses.



Research file STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

- Time-invariant variables such as gender, race/ethnicity
- Unique by student



Research file STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

- Time-invariant variables such as gender, race/ethnicity
- Unique by student

student	school_year	race_ethnicity
TK	2004	
TK	2005	
TK	2006	



Research file STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

- Time-invariant variables such as gender, race/ethnicity
- Unique by student

student	school_year	race_ethnicity
TK	2004	
TK	2005	
TK	2006	

Decision Rule?



1. STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

2. STUDENT SCHOOL YEAR

3. IDENTIFYING THE NINTH-GRADE COHORT 4. STUDENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

5. PRIOR ACHIEVEMENT



1. STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

2. STUDENT SCHOOL YEAR

3. IDENTIFYING THE NINTH-GRADE COHORT 4. STUDENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

5. PRIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Clean: SDP Data Building Tasks
 Practice Files: Excel Stata
 Upon collecting essential data element

Upon collecting essential data elements you need to ensure that the data can be reliably used in future

analyses.

Practice file (input dataset)

Practice output file clean + ready for analysis

- Data explored
- Data cleaned
- Key variables defined
- Solutions checked

Your own agency's file

Your own agency's output file clean + ready for analysis



1. STUDENT **ATTRIBUTES**

2. STUDENT **SCHOOL YEAR**

3. IDENTIFYING THE NINTH-GRADE COHORT

4. STUDENT **SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

5. PRIOR **ACHIEVEMENT**

2. Clean: SDP Data Building Tasks

Practice Files: Excel Stata

Upon collecting essential data elements you need to ensure that the data can be reliably used in future

analyses.

Practice file (input dataset) Practice output file ready for analysis

Your own agency's

output file

ready for analysis

- Data explored

Data cleaned

Key variables defined

- Solutions checked

Your own agency's file

Shout out to:

Nicole Wagner SDP Data Fellow in LAUSD

Thursday, February 2, 2012



1. STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

2. STUDENT SCHOOL YEAR

3. IDENTIFYING THE NINTH-GRADE COHORT 4. STUDENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

5. PRIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Purpose – What is the goal / output? What are the core assignments?

How to Start – What is in the input / practice file?

Data Description— What are the data elements in the practice file and what is the desired uniqueness?

Instructions – What steps should I take to produce the output (logical steps, code, and data snapshot exercises)?

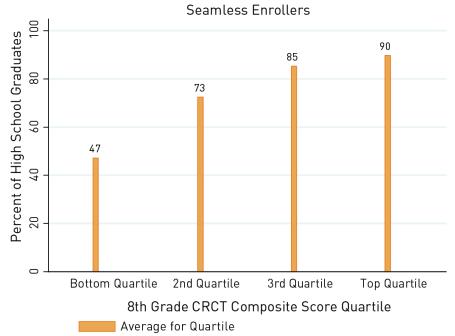
Solutions – Did I do the exercises correctly?





What is the relationship between 8th grade test scores and college enrollment rates?

Distribution of College Enrollment Rates by Prior Student Achievement

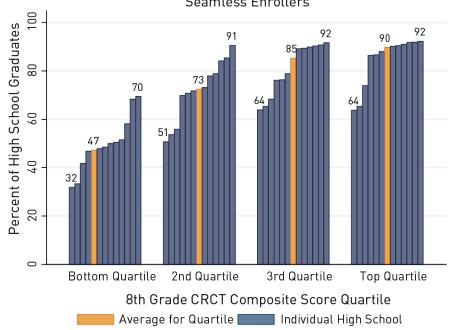






What is the relationship between 8th grade test scores and college enrollment rates?







Prior Achievement

Purpose

Generate a cleaned output file containing students' achievement on state standardized Math and English language arts tests in grade 8.

- 1. Clean raw and scaled eighth grade test scores and resolve instances in which a student is observed to have taken the same test multiple times.
- 2. Standardize test scores to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1.
- 3. Generate a composite math and English language arts test score



Prior Achievement

How to Start

To begin, open the provided Student_Test_Scores practice file in Stata.

This practice file contains data for assessments administered during school years 2000-01 through 2006-07 for all grades. The file is unique by test taking instance—that is, it contains one observation for each time a student takes a given test.



Data Description

Field Name	Values or Data Type	Definition
sid	numeric	Student identifier unique to each student. This identification number is typically assigned to a student upon enrollment in your agency. State agencies may have different identification numbers than district agencies for the same student.
test_subject	1 = math 2 = English language 3 = science 4 = social studies 5 = other	The general subject matter of the course.
school_year	date format (yyyy)	The exact date (in this case the minimum of school year) on which the test was completed. Note that students who re-take tests or are retained in grade may have multiple observations for a single test_subject.
grade_level	-9 = ungraded -1 = any pre-kindergarten 0 = kindergarten 1-12 = grades 1–12 13+ = additional grade levels (i.e. vocational training, special education past year 12)	The numeric grade level of the test.
raw_score	numeric	The student's raw score if available.
scaled_score	numeric	The student's scaled score.



NOT Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

RAW
research file
from Identify

Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

Sid + test_subject + school_year

Instructions

Unique By:
sid

CLEAN
research file
ready for Connect



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





Instructions

1. Examine your Student_Test_Scores raw research file input dataset.

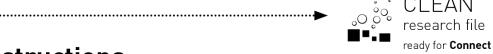
sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	9	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





Instructions

1. Examine your Student_Test_Scores raw research file input dataset.

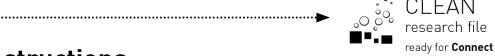
sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	9	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





Instructions

1. Examine your Student_Test_Scores raw research file input dataset.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	9	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371



2. Narrow down the test score data file to include only the relevant tests and grades.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	9	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1	·	371



2. Narrow down the test score data file to include only the relevant tests and grades.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	2	1	264	220
			·		
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1	·	371



3. Clean up raw and scaled test scores.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
9	2005	7	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371



3. Clean up raw and scaled test scores.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
9	2005	7	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371

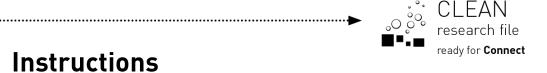
No changes based on decision rule



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





4. Identify same-year repeat test takers.

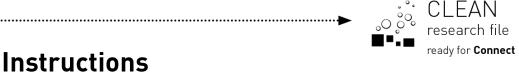
sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
3	2005	7	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1	396	278
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





mstructio

4. Identify same-year repeat test takers.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
9	2005	7	1	264	220
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	0	1	376	276
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





Instructions

4. Identify same-year repeat test takers.

sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





5. Reshape your data.

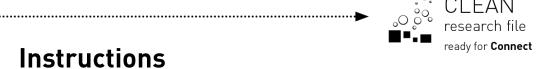
sid	school_year	grade_level	test_subject	raw_score	→> scaled_score
3	2004	8	1	348	258
3	2004	8	2	208	185
4	2001	8	1	480	320
4	2002	8	1		371



Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:

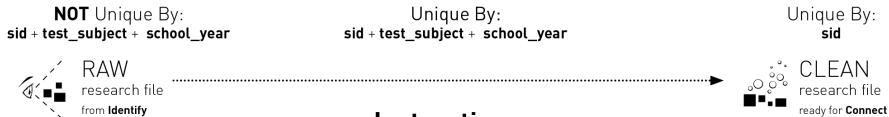




5. Reshape your data.

sid	school_year	grade_level	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_score
3	2004	8	348	258	208	185
4	2001	8	480	320	-	-
4	2002	8	-	371	-	-





6. Create standardized test scores.

sid	school_year	grade_level	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_score	S [·]
3	2004	8	348	258	208	185	
4	2001	8	480	320			
4	2002	8		371			

Let's scooch the data over to add the columns for standardized test scores.

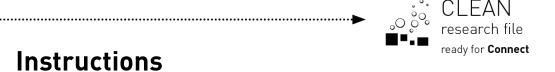


NOT Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By: sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:





6. Create standardized test scores.

el	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_score	std_scaled_math	std_scaled_ela
	348	258	208	185	.36	-1.2
	480	320	·		1.6	
		371			3.20	



NOT Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

RAW

research file

Unique By:
sid

CLEAN
research file

Instructions

7. Identify different year repeat test takers.

sid	school_year	grade_level	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_sc
3	2004	8	348	258	208	185
4	2001	8	480	320		
4	2002	8		371		

from Identify

ready for Connect



NOT Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

PAW
research file
from Identify

Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

Unique By:
sid + test_subject + school_year

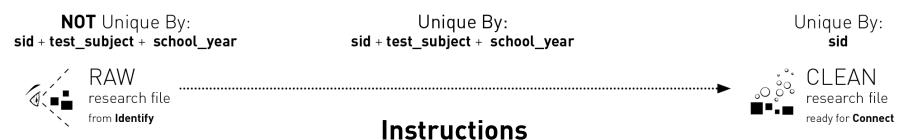
CLEAN
research file
ready for Connect

Instructions

7. Identify different year repeat test takers.

sid	school_year	grade_level	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_s
3	2004	8	348	258	208	185
_						
4	2001	Ö	480	320	·	
4	2002	8		371		



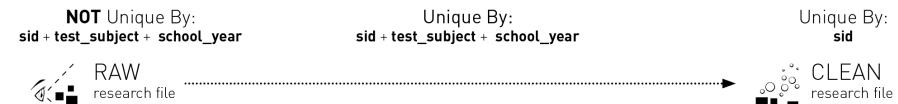


8. Lastly, generate a composite score.

sid	school_year	grade_level	math_raw_score	math_scaled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scal
3	2004	8	348	258	208	1
4	2002	8		371	·	

Let's scooch the data over to add the column for the composite score.





Instructions

8. Lastly, generate a composite score.

caled_score	ela_raw_score	ela_scaled_score	std_scaled_math	std_scaled_ela	composite_scaled_score
258	208	185	.36	-1.2	-0.42
320		·	1.6		

from Identify

ready for Connect

APPENDIX



2. Clean: Data Building Tasks CG

Upon collecting essential data elements, ensure that the data can be reliably used in future analyses.

STATA GLOSSARY

This and other tasks use code that is specific to the statistical program, Stata. If you are unfamiliar with or need to brush up on Stata, please refer to the following STATA GLOSSARY of common commands. Note that the glossary is nowhere near comprehensive but outlines many useful commands pertinent to the data cleaning and exploration process. Examples are provided where appropriate. Commands are NOT listed in alphabetical order.

tab — examines the distribution of values for a variable. This command is essential for checking data.

- A tab with one variable shows frequencies for each value of the variable.
- . A tab with two variables (often called a cross-tab) produces a matrix of frequencies for the values of one variable against the values of another variable.

This is an important tool to use when examining relationships and the distributions of values between variables. The , mi option is often added to include the distribution of missing values in the tabulation.

Example: examining the gender distribution within the data set.

Example: examining which students qualify for free lunch.

. tab gender, mi

gender	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
	1	20.00	20.00
female	2	40.00	60.00
nale	2	40.00	100.00
Total	5	100.00	

. tab sid free lunch

sid	free_lunch O	1	Total
1 2 4 5	0 0 0 1	1 1 1	1 1 1
Total	1	3	4

SDP TOOLKIT FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE | CLEAN: DATA BUILDING TASKS 69

APPENDIX



2. Clean: Data Building Tasks CG

Upon collecting essential data elements, ensure that the data can be reliably used in future analyses.

DECISION RULES GLOSSARY

As noted in the DATA DESCRIPTION for each task, many of the tasks use a partial dataset to help you learn the core methodology for cleaning the raw research files. Some of these excluded variables, however, are essential for later analyses. To guide you through the process of cleaning these additional variables, we provide below a DECISION RULES GLOSSARY that provides further instruction on how to clean these variables.

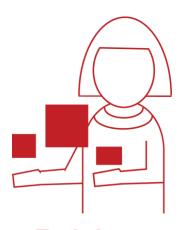
Coupled with the specific instructions you've received from each task, we hope that you will be able to extrapolate your knowledge beyond what is covered directly in the tasks and clean these other variables as well.

SDP TOOLKIT FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE | CLEAN: DATA BUILDING TASKS 77

STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

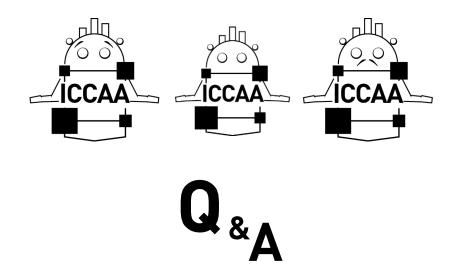
Data Element		Possible Scenario	SDP Decision Rule	Reference in Data Building Tasks	
sld numeric					
male	0 = female 1 = male	For the purposes of the diagnostic, SDP considers race_ethnicity time invariant. However, for some students more than one race/ethnicity may observed.	see Task 1		
race_ethnicity	1 = African American 2 = Asian American 3 = Hispanic 4 = American Indian 5 = White, not Hispanic 6 = Other 7 = Multiple	For the purposes of the diagnostic, SDP considers race_ethnicity time invariant. However, for some students more than one race/ethnicity may observed.	see Task 1		
race	1 = African American 2 = Asian American 3 = American Indian 4 = White 5 = Other 6 = Multiple		in data spec, but not connect phase		
ethnicity	0 = Hispanic 1 = not Hispanic		in data spec, but not connect phase		
birth_date	date format (yyyy-mm-dd)	For the purposes of the diagnostic, SDP considers birth_date time invariant. However, for some students more than one birth date may observed.	In this case, report the modal birth date. If multiple modes, report the most recent birth date recorded. When evaluating modal birth date exclude birth dates the fall outside +/- four years of the expected birth date given grade-level and school year.	see Task 1, cleaning code for race ethnicity variable, or Task 4, code fi defining first and last high schools	
first_9th_school_ year_reported	spring calendar year	This is the school year during which the student was a 9th grader for the first time. Not all systems will record this information.	Report what the system explicitly recorded for first 9th grade school year. If the system does not record this information, leave the information omitted.		
hs_diploma	0 = no high school diploma 1 = has high school diploma				
hs_diploma_type	use local values	For the purposes of the diagnostic, SOP considers hs_diplomas_type to be time invariant. However, for some students more than one diploma type may observed.	If more than one type is observed, report the type associated with the earliest diploma received. For example, Honors diploma, College Prep diploma, or General Education Diploma (GED) diploma.		
zip code	XXXXX OF XXXXX-YVW		in data spec, but not connect phase		

SDP TOOLKIT FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE | CLEAN: DATA BUILDING TASKS 78



5. AdoptCoding Style Guide

To ensure that statistical code is easily shared across a team and is replicable by future users, SDP and the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) recommends that you follow best coding, programming, and data management practices.



SDP TOOLKIT

FOR EFFECTIVE DATA USE

A GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING DATA **ANALYSIS IN EDUCATION AGENCIES**









Identify: Data Specification Guide













Thursday, February 2



Clean: Data Building Tasks





Thursday, February 9



Connect: Data Linking Guide



Thursday, February 16





Analyze: Diagnostic Analyses Guide







Adopt: Coding Style Guide

Thank You



The toolkit is currently in **BETA**.

Please send us your feedback at goo.gl/AAvdF.

Check www.gse.harvard.edu/sdp/tools for the most recent toolkit version.

Please contact us at sdp@gse.harvard.edu if you have any questions about the toolkit.