

Statistically Speaking Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Biostatistics Collaboration Center

Seeing RED: Designing REDCap Databases to Avoid Common Pitfalls

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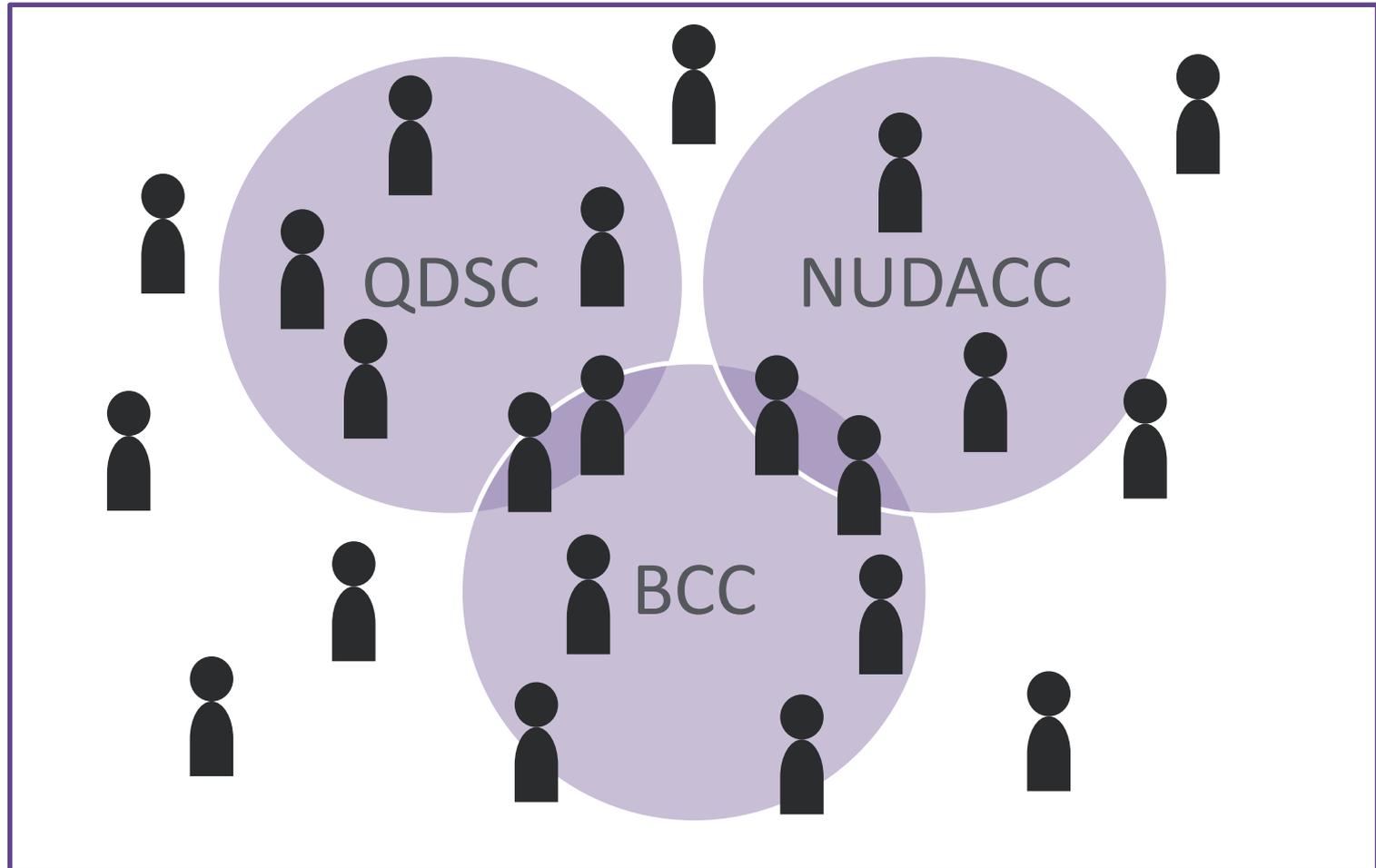
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Biostatistics at NU

Overview

Division of Biostatistics (Chief: Denise Scholtens),
Department of Preventive Medicine (Chair: Mercedes Carnethon)



Biostatistics Centers and Cores

Overview



Biostatistics Collaboration Center (BCC)

- Supports **non-cancer** research at NU
- Initial 1-2 hour consultation subsidized by FSM Research Office
- Grant, Hourly
- <https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/bcc/>

Quantitative Data Sciences Core (QDSC)

- Supports **cancer-related** research at NU
- Free to Lurie Cancer Center (LCC) members
- Grant
- <https://www.cancer.northwestern.edu/research/shared-resources/quantitative-data-sciences.html>

Northwestern University Data Analysis and Coordinating Center (NUDACC)

- Prospective, large **multicenter research**
- Comprehensive support (e.g., clinical monitoring, data analysis, project management)
- Grant
- <https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/nudacc/>



Outline

1. Free text
2. Longitudinal data collection
3. Surveys
4. Questions/Discussion

Free Text

Free Text

Date of Birth



Free Text

Date of Birth



2/24/26

2/24/2026

02/24/2026

2-24-26

Feb 24 2026

Feb 24th 2026

2026-24-02

2026 24 2

Etc...

Free Text

Date of Birth



mm/dd/yyyy

2/24/26

2/24/2026

02/24/2026

2-24-26

Feb 24 2026

Feb 24th 2026

2026-24-02

2026 24 2

Etc...

Free Text

Date of Birth

 Today M-D-Y

Edit Field

You may add a new project field to this data collection instrument by completing the fields below and clicking the Save button at the bottom. When you add a new field, it will be added to the form on this page. For an overview of the different field types available, you may view the [Field Types video](#).

Field Type:

[Codebook](#)

Question Number (optional)

Field Label Use the Rich Text Editor ?

Date of Birth

Action Tags / Field Annotation (optional)

Learn about [@ Action Tags](#) or [using Field Annotation](#)

Variable Name (utilized in logic, calcs, and exports)

Enable auto naming of variable based upon its Field Label?

ONLY letters, numbers, and underscores

How to use [Smart Variables](#) [Piping](#) [Field Embedding](#)

Validation? (optional)

Minimum:

Maximum:

Tip for min/max limits: You may pipe a value from another field to set dynamic range limits - e.g., `[visit_date]` or `[event_1_arm_1][age]`. You may also use the word `today` or `now` (not wrapped in quotes) for date/time fields.

-- OR --

Required?* No Yes

* Prompt if field is blank

Identifier? No Yes

Does the field contain identifying information (e.g., name, SSN, address)?

Custom Alignment

Align the position of the field on the page

Field Note (optional)

Small reminder text displayed underneath field

Free Text

Date of Birth  Today M-D-Y

Date of Birth  Today M-D-Y

Form Status

Complete?

Feb 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

If you try to enter the wrong format:

Date of Birth  Today M-D-Y

Free Text

Date of Birth  Today M-D-Y

Date of Birth  Today M-D-Y

Form Status

Complete?

Feb 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

If you try to enter the wrong format:

Date of Birth

Alert 

The value you provided could not be validated because it does not follow the expected format. Please try again.

Required format: Date (M-D-Y)

Free Text

	A	B	C
1	record_id	dob_free_text	dob_validated
2	1	Feb 24 2026	2/24/26
3	2	6/10/95	6/10/95
4	3	10/3/84	10/3/84
5	4	3/21/73	3/21/73
6	5	may 10 2001	5/10/01
7			

Free Text

	A	B
1	record_id	years_of_education
2	1	12
3	2	High School
4	3	hs
5	4	some college
6	5	14
7	6	none
8	7	8th grade
9	8	masters
10	9	16
11	10	13
12		

Free Text

Years of education



8th grade

Free Text

Years of education



8th grade

Years of education



8th grade

Free Text

Years of education



8th grade

Alert



Years of education

This value you provided is not a number. Please try again.

Close

Free Text

Years of education



8th grade

Alert



Years of education

This value you provided is not a number. Please try again.

Close

Years of education



Free Text

Years of education



8th grade

Alert



Years of education

This value you provided is not a number. Please try again.

Close

Years of education



- ✓
- None
- Some elementary school
- Elementary school
- Some middle school
- Middle school
- Some high school
- High school
- Some college
- College
- Graduate school

Free Text

	A	B	C
1	record_id	years_of_education	years_of_education_drop
2	1	12	High school
3	2	High School	High school
4	3	hs	High school
5	4	some college	Some college
6	5	14	Some college
7	6	none	None
8	7	8th grade	Middle school
9	8	masters	Graduate School
10	9	16	College
11	10	13	Some college

Longitudinal Data Collection

Longitudinal Data

- Way the computer understands longitudinal data and the way we understand it are not the same
- Intuitive for us:

record_id	date_	sys_bp	dia_bp	date_2	sys_bp_2	dia_bp_2	date_3	sys_bp_3	dia_bp_3
1	1/10/26	121	80	1/30/26	125	82	2/16/26	122	75
2	11/7/25	115	72	1/2/26	112	77	2/4/26	114	80
3	8/1/25	140	91	9/2/25	142	92	12/20/25	150	95

- Interpretable by a computer:

record_id	date	sys_bp	dia_bp
1	1/10/26	121	80
1	1/30/26	125	82
1	2/16/26	122	75
2	11/7/25	115	72
2	1/2/26	112	77
2	2/4/26	114	80
3	8/1/25	140	91
3	9/2/25	142	92
3	12/20/25	150	95

- Want to create database that exports in computer format

Longitudinal Data: Method 1

Data Collection Instruments

Create a new instrument from scratch

Import a new instrument from the official [REDCap Instrument Library](#)

Upload instrument ZIP file from another project/user or [external libraries](#)

Form options:

PDF Snapshots

Form Display Logic ▾

PDF (all instruments)

Descriptive Popups

Survey options:

e-Consent
Survey Queue ▾
Auto Invitation options ▾

Survey Login
Survey Notifications

Instrument name	Fields	PDF	Enabled as survey	Instrument actions	Survey related options
Baseline ●	7		Enable	Choose action ▾	
Study Visit 1	3		Enable	Choose action ▾	
Study Visit 2	3		Enable	Choose action ▾	
Study Visit 3	3		Enable	Choose action ▾	

Longitudinal Data: Method 1

Current instrument: **Study Visit 1**

Form name: `study_visit_1`

Add custom CSS styling ?

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `date`

Date

* must provide value

 Today M-D-Y

Validation type: Date (M-D-Y)

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `sys_bp`

Systolic BP

* must provide value

Validation type: Integer

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `dia_bp`

Diastolic BP

* must provide value

Validation type: Integer

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Longitudinal Data: Method 1

Current instrument: **Study Visit 2**

Form name: `study_visit_2`

Add custom CSS styling



[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `date_2`

Date

* must provide value  [Today](#) M-D-Y

Validation type: Date (M-D-Y)

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `sys_bp_2`

Systolic BP

* must provide value

Validation type: Integer

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Field Name: `dia_bp_2`

Diastolic BP

* must provide value

Validation type: Integer

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

Longitudinal Data: Method 1

- REDCap treats each unique variable name as a distinct column in data export

record_id	date_	sys_bp	dia_bp
1	1/10/26	121	80
2	11/7/25	115	72
3	8/1/25	140	91

record_id	date_	sys_bp	dia_bp	date_2	sys_bp_2	dia_bp_2
1	1/10/26	121	80	1/30/26	125	82
2	11/7/25	115	72	1/2/26	112	77
3	8/1/25	140	91	9/2/25	142	92

record_id	date_	sys_bp	dia_bp	date_2	sys_bp_2	dia_bp_2	date_3	sys_bp_3	dia_bp_3
1	1/10/26	121	80	1/30/26	125	82	2/16/26	122	75
2	11/7/25	115	72	1/2/26	112	77	2/4/26	114	80
3	8/1/25	140	91	9/2/25	142	92	12/20/25	150	95

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

- Use REDCap events!

Statistically Speaking Database PID 607

[Project Home](#) [Project Setup](#) [Other Functionality](#) [Project Revision History](#)

Project status: Development Completed steps 0 of 7

Main project settings

 **Not started**

Use surveys in this project? [?](#) [VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey](#)

Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? [?](#)

Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app? [Learn more about MyCap](#)

Design your data collection instruments

 **Not started**

Add or edit fields on your data collection instruments. This may be done by either using the Online Designer (online method) or by uploading a Data Dictionary (offline method). Quick links: [Download PDF of all instruments](#) OR [Download the current Data Dictionary](#)

Go to or Explore the

Have you checked the [Check For Identifiers](#) page to ensure all identifier fields have been tagged?

Learn how to use

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database PID 607

Project Home | **Project Setup** | **Other Functionality** | **Project Revision History**

Project status: Development Completed steps **0** of **8**

 **Not started**

Main project settings

Use surveys in this project? [?](#) [VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey](#)

Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? [?](#)

Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app? [Learn more about MyCap](#)

 **Not started**

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Go to or Explore the

Have you checked the [Check For Identifiers](#) page to ensure all identifier fields have been tagged?

Learn how to use

 **In progress**

Define your events and designate instruments for them

Create events for re-using data collection instruments and/or set up scheduling.

Go to or

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Arm 1: **Arm 1**

+Add New Arm

Arm name: **Arm 1**

[Rename Arm 1](#)

	Event # [event-number]	Event Label [event-label]	Custom Event Label  (optional)	Unique event name  (auto-generated) [event-name]	Event ID (auto-generated, unchangeable) [event-id]
	1	Event 1		event_1_arm_1	1862
Add new event		<input type="text"/> Descriptive name for this event	<input type="text"/> Custom Event Label (optional) Example: [visit_date], [weight] kg		

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Arm 1: **Arm 1**

+Add New Arm

Arm name: **Arm 1**

[Rename Arm 1](#)

		Event # [event-number]	Event Label [event-label]	Custom Event Label  (optional)	Unique event name (auto-generated)  [event-name]	Event ID (auto-generated, unchangeable) [event-id]
 		1	Event 1		event_1_arm_1	1862
 		2	Visit 1		visit_1_arm_1	2063
 		3	Visit 2		visit_2_arm_1	2064
 		4	Visit 3		visit_3_arm_1	2065
<input type="button" value="Add new event"/>		<input type="text"/> <p>Descriptive name for this event</p>		<input type="text"/> <p>Custom Event Label (optional) Example: [visit_date], [weight] kg</p>		

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Project Home

Project Setup

Other Functionality

Project Revision History

Project status: Development

Completed steps 0 of 8



Not started

I'm done!

Main project settings

Enable

Use surveys in this project? [?](#)

[VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey](#)

Disable

Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? [?](#)

Enable

Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app?

[Learn more about MyCap](#)

Modify project title, purpose, etc.



Not started

I'm done!

Design your data collection instruments

Add or edit fields on your data collection instruments. This may be done by either using the Online Designer (online method) or by uploading a Data Dictionary (offline method). Quick links: [Download PDF of all instruments](#) OR [Download the current Data Dictionary](#)

Go to

Online Designer

or

Data Dictionary

Explore the

REDCap Instrument Library

Have you checked the [Check For Identifiers](#) page to ensure all identifier fields have been tagged?

Learn how to use

[Smart Variables](#)

[Piping](#)

[@ Action Tags](#)

[Field Embedding](#)

[Special Functions](#)



In progress

I'm done!

Define your events and designate instruments for them

Create events for re-using data collection instruments and/or set up scheduling.

Go to

Define My Events

or

Designate Instruments for My Events

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

[VIDEO: How to designate instruments \(3 min\)](#)

Project Setup

Define My Events

Designate Instruments for My Events

Since you have defined multiple events on the [Define My Events](#) page, you may now select which data collection instruments that you wish to utilize for each event by using the table below. This allows you to enter data on any data collection form multiple times for any given project record. Any and all data collection instruments can thus be used for any event defined.

Click the *Begin Editing* button to change the relationships below by designating which forms you wish to utilize for which events. When you are finished making changes, click the *Save* button to finalize your changes.

 Upload or download instrument mappings ▾

Begin Editing

Save

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline (1)	Visit 1 (2)	Visit 2 (3)	Visit 3 (4)
Baseline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Study Visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

[VIDEO: How to designate instruments \(3 min\)](#)

Project Setup

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Designate Instruments for My Events

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 Upload or download instrument mappings ▾

Begin Editing

Save

Select All | Deselect All

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline (1)	Visit 1 (2)	Visit 2 (3)	Visit 3 (4)
Baseline	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study Visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

[VIDEO: How to designate instruments \(3 min\)](#)

Project Setup

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 Upload or download instrument mappings ▾

Begin Editing

Save

Select All | Deselect All

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline (1)	Visit 1 (2)	Visit 2 (3)	Visit 3 (4)
Baseline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study Visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

[VIDEO: How to designate instruments \(3 min\)](#)

Project Setup

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Designate Instruments for My Events

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Click the *Begin Editing* button to change the relationships below by designating which forms you wish to utilize for which events. When you are finished making changes, click the *Save* button to finalize your changes.

 Upload or download instrument mappings ▾

Begin Editing

Save

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline (1)	Visit 1 (2)	Visit 2 (3)	Visit 3 (4)
Baseline	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Study Visit		✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Record Home Page

The grid below displays the form-by-form progress of data entered for the currently selected record. You may click on the colored status icons to access that form/event. If you wish, you may modify the events below by navigating to the [Define My Events](#) page.

Choose action for record ▾

Legend for status icons:

-  Incomplete  Incomplete (no data saved) 
-  Unverified    Many statuses (all same)
-  Complete  Many statuses (mixed)

NOTICE: This project is for practice/testing purposes only. **Real data should NOT be entered.**

Record ID 1

 Data Collection Instrument	Baseline	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3
Baseline	 			
Study Visit				

Longitudinal Data: Method 2

record_id	date	sys_bp	dia_bp
1	1/10/26	121	80

record_id	date	sys_bp	dia_bp
1	1/10/26	121	80
1	1/30/26	125	82
1	2/16/26	122	75

record_id	date	sys_bp	dia_bp
1	1/10/26	121	80
1	1/30/26	125	82
1	2/16/26	122	75
2	11/7/25	115	72
2	1/2/26	112	77
2	2/4/26	114	80
3	8/1/25	140	91
3	9/2/25	142	92
3	12/20/25	150	95

Surveys

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

[VIDEO: How to designate instruments \(3 min\)](#)

Project Setup

Define My Events

Designate Instruments for My Events

Since you have defined multiple events on the [Define My Events](#) page, you may now select which data collection instruments that you wish to utilize for each event by using the table below. This allows you to enter data on any data collection form multiple times for any given project record. Any and all data collection instruments can thus be used for any event defined.

Click the *Begin Editing* button to change the relationships below by designating which forms you wish to utilize for which events. When you are finished making changes, click the *Save* button to finalize your changes.

 Upload or download instrument mappings ▾

Begin Editing

Save

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline (1)	Visit 1 (2)	Visit 2 (3)	Visit 3 (4)
Baseline	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Study Visit		✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Actions:

 Modify instrument

 Download PDF of instrument(s) ▾

 [Video: Basic data entry](#)

NOTICE: This project is for practice/testing purposes only. **Real data should NOT be entered.**

Baseline

Current instance: #1 |

[+ Add new](#)

 Editing existing Record ID 1. (Instance #1)

Event: **Baseline**

Record ID

1

Date of Birth



Today

M-D-Y

Years of education



Form Status

Complete?



Incomplete ▾

Save & Exit Form

Save & ... ▾

- Cancel -

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Project Home

Project Setup

Other Functionality

Project Revision History

Project status:  Development

Completed steps 0 of 8



Not started

I'm done!

Main project settings

Enable

Use surveys in this project? 

 [VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey](#)

Disable

Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? 

Enable

Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app?  [Learn more about MyCap](#)

Modify project title, purpose, etc.

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

 Project Home

 Project Setup

 Other Functionality

 Project Revision History

Project status:  Development

Completed steps **0** of **8**



Not
started

I'm done!

Main project settings

Disable

Use surveys in this project? 

 [VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey.](#)

Disable

Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? 

Enable

Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app?  [Learn more about MyCap](#)

Modify project title, purpose, etc.

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

- Project Home
- Project Setup
- Online Designer
- Data Dictionary
- Codebook

VIDEO: [How to use this page](#)

Create snapshot of instruments

Last snapshot: never ?

The Online Designer will allow you to make project modifications to fields and data collection instruments very easily using only your web browser.
NOTE: While in development status, all field changes will take effect immediately in real time.

Data Collection Instruments

[+ Create](#) a new instrument from scratch

[Import](#) a new instrument from the official [REDCap Instrument Library](#)

[Upload](#) instrument ZIP file from another project/user or [external libraries](#)

Form options:

- [PDF Snapshots](#)
- [Form Display Logic](#)
- [PDF \(all instruments\)](#)
- [Descriptive Popups](#)

Survey options:

- [e-Consent](#)
- [Survey Queue](#)
- [Auto Invitation options](#)
- [Survey Login](#)
- [Survey Notifications](#)

Instrument name	Fields	PDF	Enabled as survey	Instrument actions	Survey related options
Baseline	7		Enable	Choose action	
Study Visit	3		Enable	Choose action	

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Project Home

Project Setup

Online Designer

Set Up My Survey

You may utilize any data collection instrument as a survey by enabling the instrument on this page. Data may still be collected on the instrument via normal data entry on the form, but enabling it as a survey allows for the additional option of collecting data via survey by respondents.

+ Set up my survey for data collection instrument "Baseline" Save Changes Cancel

Survey Status ✓ Survey Active ↓ If offline, respondents will not be able take the survey.
Custom text to display on survey page when offline: Add offline message

Basic Survey Options:

Survey Title Baseline
Title to be displayed to participants at the top of the survey page

Survey Instructions
(Displayed at top of survey after title)

Open Sans Paragraph 10pt **B** *I* U ~~S~~ A

Please complete the survey below.
Thank you!

[How to use Piping here](#)

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

Actions: [Modify instrument](#)

[Download PDF of instrument\(s\)](#)

[Video: Basic data entry](#)

NOTICE: This project is for practice/testing purposes only. **Real data should NOT be entered.**

Baseline

Current instance: #1 | [+ Add new](#)

Invitation status: [✉](#)

[📄 Survey options](#)

[🔗](#) Editing existing Record ID 1. (Instance #1)

Event: **Baseline**

Record ID

1

Date of Birth

[H](#) [📅](#) Today M-D-Y

Years of education

[H](#)

Form Status

Complete?

[H](#)

[Save & Exit Form](#)

[Save & ...](#)

[- Cancel -](#)

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database PID 607

Actions: [Modify instrument](#) [Download PDF of instrument\(s\)](#) [Video: Basic data entry](#)

NOTICE: This project is for practice/testing purposes only. **Real data should NOT be entered.**

Baseline

Current instance: #1 | [+ Add new](#) Invitation status: [Survey options](#)

[Editing existing Record ID 1. \(Instance #1\)](#)

Event: **Baseline**

Record ID	1
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/> Today
Years of education	<input type="text"/>
Form Status	
Complete?	Incomplete

[Save & Exit Form](#) [Save & ...](#)

[- Cancel -](#)

- Open survey
- Log out + Open survey
- Compose survey invitation
- Survey Access Code + QR Code

Surveys

Send Survey Invitation to Participant "1" ✕

Info
Survey title: Baseline
Event: Baseline

When should this email be sent?
 Immediately
 At specified time: M-D-Y H:M
The time must be for the time zone US/Central, in which the current time is 02-19-2026 15:02.

Enable reminders
 Re-send invitation as a reminder if participant has not responded by a specified time?

Compose message

From:

(select any project user to be the 'Sender')

To:

(NOTE: Any email address manually entered above will be used only this one time when sending an survey invitation. Any other invitations sent out at other times will instead go to the email address found in the Participant List for this participant.)

Subject:

[Send test email](#)

Open Sans Paragraph 10pt **B** *I* U ~~S~~ **A**

Please take this survey.

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:
[survey-link]

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:
[survey-url]

Surveys

NOTICE: This project is for practice/testing purposes only. **Real data should NOT be entered.**

Baseline

AAA
+ -

Please complete the survey below.

Thank you!

Date of Birth

  Today M-D-Y

Years of education

Submit

Powered by REDCap - Cookie policy

Surveys

- May want to send survey based on condition being met
- E.g. a questionnaire for participants who respond “None” for years of education
- Possible to automate survey sending using logical conditions (basically the same as branching logic)

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database PID 607

- [Project Home](#)
- [Project Setup](#)
- [Online Designer](#)
- [Data Dictionary](#)
- [Codebook](#)

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[Create snapshot of instruments](#) Last snapshot: never [?](#)

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- [PDF \(all instruments\)](#)
- [Descriptive Popups](#)

Survey options:

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- [Survey Queue](#)
- [Auto Invitation options](#)
- [Survey Login](#)
- [Survey Notifications](#)

Instrument name	Fields	PDF	Enabled as survey	Instrument actions	Survey related options
Baseline ↗	7			Choose action	Survey settings + Automated Invitations
Study Visit	3		Enable	Choose action	
Questionnaire	3			Choose action	Survey settings + Automated Invitations

Surveys

Define Conditions for Automated Survey Invitations (ASI)

In this pop-up you may define your conditions for automated survey invitations that will be sent out for the survey (and event, if a longitudinal project) listed in the Info box below. [Tell me more](#)

Activate automated invitations for this survey?

Survey title: "Questionnaire"

Event: Baseline

"Active" must be selected in order for automated survey invitations to be triggered and sent using the conditions specified in this popup. You may make it Not Active (and vice versa) at any point in the future. [?](#)

Active Not Active

STEP 1: Compose message

From:
 (select any project user to be the 'Sender')

To: **[All participants who meet the conditions defined]**

Subject:

[Send test email](#)

Open Sans Paragraph 10pt B I U S A

Please take this survey.

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:
 [survey-link]

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:
 [survey-url]

This link is unique to you and should not be forwarded to others.

NOTE: You may modify or remove any text you wish in the Compose Message text box above. Make sure you include either [survey-link] or [survey-url] in the text or else the participant will not have a way to take the survey.

[How to use Piping in the survey invitation](#)

Reminder: Never pipe private info (e.g., PII, PHI) into emails.

STEP 2: Conditions

Specify conditions for sending invitations:

When the following survey is completed:

AND

When the following logic becomes true:

(e.g., [enrollment_arm_1][age] > 30 and [enrollment_arm_1][sex] = "1")

[How do I use special functions?](#)

Test logic with a record:

Ensure logic is still true before sending invitation? [?](#)

[How to use "stop logic" to disable an automated invite](#)

STEP 3: When to send invitations AFTER conditions are met

Send immediately

Send on next at time H:M

Send the invitation days hours minutes

the exact time that the automated invitation was triggered [?](#)

Send at exact date/time: M-D-Y H:M

OPTIONAL: Enable reminders

Re-send invitation as a reminder if participant has not responded by a specified time?

Save

Save & Copy to...

Cancel

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STEP 3: When to send invitations AFTER conditions are met

Send immediately

Send on next at time H:M

Send the invitation days hours minutes

the exact time that the automated invitation was triggered [?](#)

Send at exact date/time: M-D-Y H:M

OPTIONAL: Enable reminders

Re-send invitation as a reminder if participant has not responded by a specified time? (Times below refer to AFTER original invitation time.)

Send every at time H:M

Send every days hours minutes

Send at exact date/time: M-D-Y H:M

- AND -

Recurrence:

Save

Save & Copy to...

Cancel

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

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VIDEO: [How to use this page](#)

Create snapshot of instruments

Last snapshot: never ?

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- Survey Queue
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Instrument name	Fields	PDF	Enabled as survey	Instrument actions	Survey related options
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- [Survey Login](#)
- [Survey Notifications](#)

Designate an email field for survey communications

If you are not planning to manually enter participant email addresses into the Participant List directly, **you should designate an email field for survey communications** in this project. This can be specified on the **Project Setup** page (*Designate an email field for communications*) or on the **Survey Settings** page (*Survey-specific email invitation field*). Currently, neither option has been set, which means that automated survey invitations may result in a "failed" error when attempting to send the email. **Note: An email field should be designated prior to enabling your ASIs.**

Instrument name
Baseline
Study Visit
Questionnaire

Close

Surveys

Statistically Speaking Database

PID 607

 Project Home

 Project Setup

 Online Designer

 Data Dictionary

 Codebook

 [VIDEO: How to use this page](#)

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Last snapshot: never 

This page allows you to build and customize your data collection instruments one field at a time. You may add new fields or edit existing ones. New fields may be added by clicking the Add Field buttons. You can begin editing an existing field by clicking on the  **Edit** icon. If you decide that you do not want to keep a field, you can simply delete it by clicking on the  **Delete** icon. To reorder the fields, simply use the  icon to **drag and drop** a field to a different position within the form below (you may also click this icon to see extended move options). Checking the checkbox in the right upper corner of each field will add the field to the multi-field selection, allowing you to quickly modify several fields at once. **NOTE:** While in development status, all field changes will take effect immediately in real time.

 [Return to list of instruments](#)

[<< Previous instrument](#) [Next instrument >>](#)

Current instrument: **Contact Information**

Form name: `contact_information`

 [Add custom CSS styling](#) 

[Add Field](#)[Add Matrix of Fields](#)[Import from Field Bank](#)



Field Name: `email`

Email address

Validation type: `Email`

[Add Field](#)[Add Matrix of Fields](#)[Import from Field Bank](#)

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[Add custom CSS styling](#) [?](#)

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

     *Field Name:* `email`

Email address

Validation type: **Email**

[Add Field](#) [Add Matrix of Fields](#) [Import from Field Bank](#)

- Project Home
- Project Setup
- Other Functionality
- Project Revision History

Project status: Development

Completed steps 0 of 8



Not started

Main project settings

Disable Use surveys in this project? [?](#)

Disable Use longitudinal data collection with defined events? [?](#)

Enable Use the MyCap participant-facing mobile app? [Learn more about MyCap](#)

[VIDEO: How to create and manage a survey](#)



Not started

Design your data collection instruments & enable your surveys

Add or edit fields on your data collection instruments (survey and forms). This may be done by either using the Online Designer (online method) or by uploading a Data Dictionary (offline method). You may then enable your instruments to be used as surveys in the Online Designer. Quick links: [Download PDF of all instruments](#) OR [Download the current Data Dictionary](#).

Go to or Explore the

Have you checked the [Check For Identifiers](#) page to ensure all identifier fields have been tagged?

Learn how to use



In progress

Define your events and designate instruments for them

Create events for re-using data collection instruments and/or set up scheduling.

Go to or



Optional

Enable optional modules and customizations

Modify Repeating instruments and events [?](#)

Disable Auto-numbering for records [?](#)

Enable Scheduling module (longitudinal only) [?](#)

Enable Randomization module [?](#)

Enable Designate an email field for communications (including survey invitations and alerts) [?](#)

Enable Mosio SMS services for surveys and alerts [?](#)

Enable SendGrid Template email services for Alerts & Notifications [?](#)

[Learn about Data Collection Strategies for Repeating Surveys](#)

- Project Home
- Project Setup
- Other Functionality
- Project Revision History

Project status: Development

Designate an email field for communications (including survey invitations and alerts) ✕

Main project settings

Not started

I'm done!

Disable Use surveys in...

Disable Use longitudina...

Enable Use the MyCap...

Modify project title, purpos...

Choose an email field to use for invitations to survey participants:

-- select a field --

Contact Information

email "Email address"

...in direct specific email communications to the email address provided. & Notifications. If a field is designated for that purpose, then any records in your project that have an email address captured for that particular field will have that email address show up as the participant's email address in the Participant List (unless an email address has already been entered for that participant in the Participant List directly).

Design your data colle

Not started

I'm done!

Add or edit fields on your da... Online Designer (online met... instruments to be used as su... [Download the current Data I](#)

Go to Online Designer

Have you checked the [Check Fc](#)

Learn how to use Smart V

Using the designated email address field can be especially valuable when your first data collection instrument is not enabled as a survey while one or more other instruments have been enabled as surveys. Since email addresses can only be entered into the Participant List directly for the first data collection instrument, the designated email field provides another opportunity to capture the email address of survey participants.

Please be aware that designating an email field means that survey responses can NEVER BE ANONYMOUS because of the fact that the participant's email address can be viewed on a data entry form, which means it is easy to identify the record/response to which the email address belongs.

Define your events an

In progress

I'm done!

Create events for re-using da...

Go to o

NOTE: If the participant's email address has already been captured directly in the Participant List, then that email address will supersede the value of the email field here when survey invitations are sent to the participant. Also, if the email invitation field exists on multiple longitudinal events, on a repeating instrument, or on a repeating event, the field's value will be synchronized across all instances/events so that changing it in one location will change the value across all events/instances where the field appears.

Enable optional modu

Optional

I'm done!

Modify Repeating instr...

Disable Auto-numberin...

Enable Scheduling mo...

Enable Randomization

Enable Designate an el...

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Additional customizations

Survey-specific email invitation field: While the email invitation field discussed here is a project-level setting, it is helpful to know that there also exists a survey-level email invitation field option that can be utilized for particular surveys in the project (whereas the project-level field would be applied to ALL surveys). A survey-specific email invitation field can be enabled for any given survey, in which you can designate any email field in your project to use for sending survey invitations for that particular survey. Thus, you can collect several email addresses (e.g., for a student, a parent, and a teacher) and utilize each email for a different survey in the project. Then you can send each person an invitation to their own survey, after which all the survey responses get stored as one single record in the project. See the 'Survey Settings' page in the Online Designer for this survey-level setting.

Save Cancel



[Project Home](#)
[Project Setup](#)
[Other Functionality](#)
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Field currently designated: **email** ("Email address")

Mosio SMS services for surveys and alerts [?](#)

SendGrid Template email services for Alerts & Notifications [?](#)

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Thank you!

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Biostatistics Collaboration Center

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Expertise in biostatistics, statistical programming and data management

Since 2004, the Biostatistics Collaboration Center (BCC) has partnered with Northwestern investigators at every level – from residents and postdoctoral fellows to junior faculty and well-established senior investigators.



Meet Our Team

Our faculty and staff have collaborated with basic science, clinical, and health services investigators in over 60 Northwestern units across Chicago and Evanston campuses, and with all of NU's clinical partners. Meet our team and learn more about our expertise and recent publications.

OUR PEOPLE

OUR PUBLICATIONS