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Linking WIC Program Data to Medicaid and Vital Records Data

Phase II Report, Data Development Initiatives for Research on Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs— Final Report

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Abstract

This report is a followup to a proposal to create a national database that links State data from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) with Medicaid and vital records data. The linked information would create new opportunities for Federal and State program administrators, as well as independent researchers, to examine a number of factors related to program participation and dynamics. The report provides an implementation plan for creating a national database, including potential costs, benefits, and alternatives. The initiative is one of three that have the potential to improve the usefulness and cost-effectiveness of research on Federal food assistance and nutrition programs. The other initiatives are addressed in the reports, *Linking the Current Population Survey to State Food Stamp Program Administrative Data* (E-FAN-04-005-1) and *Establishing a Web-Based Data Collection System for National School Lunch and National School Breakfast Program Data* (E-FAN-04-005-3).

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The opinions expressed and conclusions drawn in this report are the responsibility of the author, and do not represent the official views of Economic Research Service other government agencies, Health Systems Research, Inc. or The Urban Institute, which acted as the prime contractor for this effort with ERS.

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