

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF RECORD LINKAGE

With apologies to Mel Brooks, and thanks for editorial assistance to Elizabeth Kirby and for their insights to the following Internet contributors:

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The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 10

Thou shalt not taketh the name
of thine software in vain.

The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 9

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's database, yet neither should thou hoardeth thine database.



The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 8

**Know thy purpose
(in doing record linkage).**



The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 7

Thou shalt not merge without by variable(s).

The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage


Number 6

Thou shalt checketh thine statistical software log – before thou proceedeth to thy next step or process.

The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 5


Thou shalt protect the privacy of those whose information is recorded in thy databases, even as thou useth their personal identifiers to conduct thine linkage analyses.



The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 4

Thou shalt not bear false witness against the inconsistent values of variable common to two datasets, nor because thou faileth to evaluate thine linkage results.



The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 3

Know thy data.

The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 2

Thou shalt not **underestimate** the complexity, time commitment, and staffing required to conduct thine record linkage projects, nor shalt thou **overestimate** the time needed to conduct thine analyses.

The Ten Commandments of Record Linkage

Number 1

**Thou shalt show humility to others,
even to those who doubted that the
tasks thou hast accomplished could be
done.**

