



## ***Fall 2008 Research Methodology Series***

***Presented By***

***The Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools***

### ***Data Screening***

**Thursday, November 6, 12:00 PM – 1:00PM, 242 Mabel Lee Hall**

**Kevin Kupzyk, MA, CYFS Methodological Consultant**

Often overlooked in social science research is the importance of quality pre-analysis data entry and manipulation. This presentation will outline the process of getting from paper data to a database and will include creating a database plan, entering data accurately, performing random checks for accuracy, post hoc error finding, and merging files by adding both cases and variables. The importance and utility of a unique identifier variable will be demonstrated, as this is a point where data is often mishandled. Most demonstrations will be carried out using SPSS, although the topics covered will apply equally to other software packages.

### ***Identifying and Dealing with Missing Data***

**Thursday, December 4, 12:00 PM – 1:00PM, 242 Mabel Lee Hall**

**Greg Welch, PhD, CYFS Research Assistant Professor**

Missing data is among the most pervasive issues in applied research. Various methods are available for handling missing data. This presentation will outline the theoretical mechanisms underlying missing data and describe the strengths and weaknesses of the most commonly utilized methods for handling missing data. Specific attention will be placed upon direct estimation (i.e., Full Information Maximum Likelihood) and multiple imputation methods. Examples of how these methods are utilized in applied settings will also be presented.

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**Kevin Kupzyk** received his master's degree in Quantitative Psychology from the University of Kansas in 2005. He is now a methodological consultant for the CYFS SRM Unit and a doctoral student in Quantitative, Qualitative, and Psychometric Methods in Educational Psychology at UNL. His research interests include educational measurement, multilevel modeling, and latent variable growth models.

**Greg Welch** received his Ph.D. in Research Methodology in Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. He is now a Research Assistant Professor for the CYFS SRM Unit. His research interests include structural equation modeling, latent curve analysis, and educational policy.