

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 31

DATA ARCHIVE ON MATERNAL DRUG ABUSE PHASE I

This Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I project developed an archive of two kinds of products: (1) exemplary data sets containing up-to-date information on the incidence, antecedents, and consequences of drug abuse during the pre-, peri- and post-natal periods; and (2) assessment tools used to measure such incidence, antecedents, and consequences for mother and infant. Powerful search and retrieval capabilities accompanied the Archive. Selection of data sets and instruments to include in the collection was guided by a national advisory panel of scientist-experts in the field. The project attempted to meet the following goals:

- advance innovations developed by Sociometrics to facilitate data sharing in the social sciences, extending them to the field of research on maternal drug abuse;
- include a new type of machine-readable product in data archives: measurement instruments;
- stimulate use of the best biomedical and social research data sets on pre- and post-natal drug abuse, thus amortizing generally formidable data collection costs over a greater number of analyses, findings, and insights;
- encourage students exposed to these data sets in the course of their education to consider a career in drug abuse research;
- bring state-of-the-art technology and data into the hands of research departments and individual scientists who could benefit from the collection.

Phase I demonstrated successfully that: 1) The cooperation of a group of recognized experts in prenatal and perinatal drug abuse research could be solicited to serve on a National Advisory Panel; and 2) There are a sufficient number of high quality data sets on pre-, peri- and post-natal drug abuse to form a data archive.

Phase II was subsequently awarded (please see Project 37).

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