Multiple Overlapping Waves - Challenges in Supporting Blaise Instruments Simultaneously for Four Waves of Data Collections

Lilia Filippenko, Mai Wickelgren, Venkat Yetukuri, Sridevi Sattaluri, Preethi Jayaram

RTI International

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) formed the Work, Family, and Health Network (WFHN) to address a critical gap in the knowledge base supporting work versus family life policies. The Work, Family and Health Study (WFHS) is a longitudinal study collecting data from individuals in the workplace and in the home at baseline and at 6, 12, and 18 months post-baseline using both in-person and telephone computer-assisted interviews, basic health measures (height, weight, and blood pressure), blood collection, saliva collection, and Actigraphy (measuring sleep quality). Spouses or partners and selected children (between the ages of 9 and 17) of participating employees were recruited into the study during the baseline period. Interviews in the workplace are conducted on a rolling schedule; at one point 20 Blaise interviews were in production.

To deal with so many instruments, we developed an application in .Net that uses the Blaise Component Pack (BCP) to maintain Microsoft SQL Server tables for a subset of fields from the Blaise databases. The application utilizes SQL Server stored procedures to create up-to-date preload information for follow-up Blaise interviews, set statuses in a web-based Control System for monitoring purposes, and populate reportable statuses of blood collection, saliva collection, and Actigraphy. The clients are able to view reports, download encrypted files, and to record blood spot counts, saliva receipts and tracking statuses through a secure web based portal.

In addition to standard reports, about one hundred custom reports were developed to monitor data collection. A web-based Integrated Field Management System and Control System were modified to allow reports to be viewed by wave.

The paper will describe how new and existing applications developed at RTI International help make data collection for WFHS efficient and accurate.