



C O M M E N T S

CHRIS
Newsletter

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Linking CHRIS Data

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Children's Registry & Information System (CHRIS) was developed in response to the need for a registry to track children, who prior to school entry, receive services provided by the state under Part C (birth to age 3) or Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CHRIS provides the Florida Department of Education with a means of documenting Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate, and provide necessary services to at-risk children.

Naturally, with regard to the results of Child Find, one might ask questions such as: What happens to those children once they start kindergarten? How do they perform in school? Does early intervention make a difference in their school performance? These are all important questions, which the CHRIS data alone cannot answer.

To fully evaluate the impact and effectiveness of Child Find, the CHRIS data set is being electronically linked with Florida birth records, public school records and other databases. This information is securely stored in the FDLRS/UM data warehouse, supervised by Dr. Keith Scott, the CHRIS Project Principal Investigator. The core of this data warehouse is a data set containing electronically linked Florida Birth and Florida Public School records. Information from this project is used to provide

guidelines to policy makers, educators, and researchers regarding factors that enhance or threaten healthy child development. Specific studies conducted as part of the data linkage project have examined the relationship between Mild Mental Retardation and parental education, the effect of smoking on learning disabilities, and the relationship between marital status and Severe Emotional Disturbance, to name a few.

I am happy to report that currently, out of 114,788 children who were born after December 31, 1986, 47,574 were linked to 1992-1999 Florida Public School records. By integrating the CHRIS data set with the FDLRS/UM data warehouse, we are now able to compare the school performance of children who received early intervention through Child Find to those who did not. For example, using State of Florida birth records, it will be possible to compare children with various risk factors who were not referred to Child Find with similar children who did receive Child Find services. Such analyses may shed light on how Child Find services impact future school performance of at-risk children, and to further enhance the Child Find process.

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CHRIS Information

Site Upgrade Update

We are aware that dialing into a site to upgrade, update or archive can be an inconvenience to the CHRIS users. Our goal is to keep interruptions and downtime to a minimum.

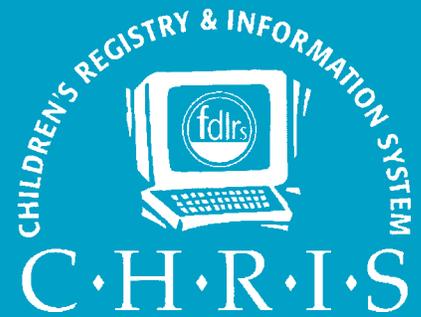
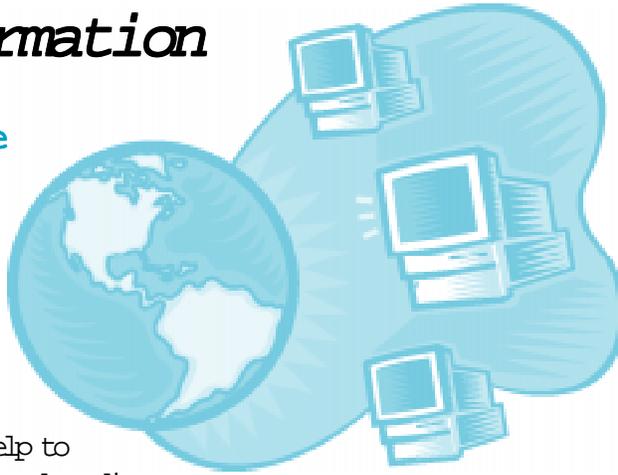
However, we need your help to achieve this. We have started sending DBAs and Satellite DBAs e-mail notices ahead of time requesting that they schedule a date for the update session at the site's convenience. The e-mail will also include relevant information such as: who needs to be present, how long the update will take, and approximately how much time we would need from the individual assisting us. If you have additional recommendations for easing the upgrade process, please e-mail us so that we may be able to incorporate your suggestions.

Quarterly Backups

This year we will be following a quarterly backup schedule. This will be independent of the backup schedule currently running at each site. Instead of transferring your data to us via phone lines, we will now have your CHRIS data sent to us. Each site will receive backup media (tape or zip disks) based on information you provided the CHRIS Help Desk. You will then be asked to run backup to this media on a predetermined set date, and send the media back to the CHRIS Help Desk in the return envelope that will be provided. This year's first quarterly backup was done (July-August 2000) in conjunction with the CHRIS Archive; therefore, it was not on a set date. The next quarterly backups are scheduled for November 2000, February, and May 2001.

Info by E-mail

As you may have noticed, we are now sending out all training and upgrade information via e-mail. If you have not been receiving e-mail from us, or if you recently changed your e-mail, please send us your updated information to **chris.um@miami.edu** so we can update your record.



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Training

UPDATES:

Training Schedule

We are currently scheduling Training By Request at centers based on need. If you have six or more users from your region needing New User Training, please contact the CHRIS Help Desk and we will schedule a training session in your area.

What Else is New with Training?

We are also currently investigating and testing other training ideas including:

- A training script to assist advanced users to train new users
- Video training modules
- A mobile training lab

If you have any training ideas, suggestions, or just want to let us know what are convenient training times for you, please e-mail annie@miami.edu.

On-Line Training

Need a little help? Another training option available to all CHRIS users is on-line training. An on-line training session can be scheduled if you need assistance in solving a CHRIS issue, or if you would like help in generating a report. To schedule an on-line session, e-mail annie@miami.edu a summary of what you would like the session on. For example, if it is a report you need help with, the summary will include a detail of the type of report you are trying to generate and design information. Once receiving this, the CHRIS Help Desk will call to schedule your on-line session.



New User Training and Advanced Users in Miami



Calendar for 2000-2001

August 8, 2000

October 6, 2000

December 1, 2000 (Advisory Board)

February 2, 2001

April 6, 2001

June 1, 2001 (Advisory Board)

If you have any questions, requests, or issues for TAWG, please send them one week before the TAWG meeting to chris.um@miami.edu or fax it to 305-284-1632.



*TAWG Advisory Board Meeting
June 2, 2000*

Newsletter Schedule for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

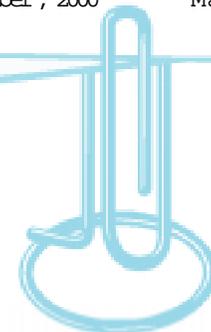
We have adjusted the newsletter schedule to correspond with the readers' availability. This year the distribution schedule will be as follows:

August, 2000

February, 2001

November, 2000

May, 2001





Very

Coming ^Soon to You

As mentioned in CHRIS Comments Spring 2000, we will be conducting a CHRIS Survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather input on CHRIS use and CHRIS user needs. This input will be used in the design of the next version of CHRIS. By now you have probably received Part I of the CHRIS Survey. The distribution list included:

- ESE Directors
- FDLRS Managers
- Child Find Support Staff
- PK Contacts
- Child Find Specialists

If you would like to participate and did not receive a survey, please contact the Help Desk immediately, and a survey will be sent to you.

There are three parts to the CHRIS Survey. They will be sent out as follows:

Survey Distribution Week

August 14, 2000

August 28, 2000

September 11, 2000

Return Due Date

August 25, 2000

September 8, 2000

September 22, 2000

On the week of October 16, 2000, a summary of results and last chance for input will be sent out. Any additional input will be due back by October 31, 2000.

A Child Find meeting is being planned in conjunction with the survey. The tentative dates and location are set for November 28-30, 2000 in Tampa. Among other Child Find issues to be addressed, survey participants will be afforded an opportunity to reach consensus on the changes that should be made in the next CHRIS update based on the survey results.

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