TERM PROJECT

Projects are due by electronic submission no later than midnight, Friday May 19, 2006

Goal: The term project will allow you to dig more deeply into multi-level modeling concepts, procedures and interpretations that are covered in class or to address something that we don’t cover.

Project: You are to prepare a written report that clearly communicates the framework for your work, what you have done, what you have found and a discussion (background, methods, results, discussion). Projects can be either applied or methodologic and in each case must go beyond what you might have prepared for other purposes. Applied projects consist of reading some background literature on an application, conducting and reporting data analyses based on MLMs (possibly, comparing conclusions to analyses not based on MLMs). Methodologic projects consist of reading some background literature and conducting a simulation, a mathematical analysis or a combination thereof. Your report must be submitted electronically to my email address (tlouis@jhsph.edu) as a pdf, MSWord or WordPerfect attachment no later than Friday, May 19th at midnight. Hard-copy submissions will not be accepted. I will acknowledge receipt of your report. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours of submitting, resubmit and leave a voicemail at 410-614-7838.

The report: Your report must be fully double-spaced (main body, references, footnotes, appendices), using at least 11 point type with at least one inch margins all around. The text content of your report should be between 10 and 15, double-spaced pages. Taken together, the number of tables and figures should not exceed 8. All tables and figures should have informative captions. Relevant computer output must be annotated and consolidated into the report.

Work alone or in pairs: Projects can be individual or joint between two students. Two (2) is the absolute maximum group size. Both members of a group must agree that each will get the same project grade. Working in pairs does enhance efficiency and understanding and our grading will ensure that those working alone are not at a disadvantage. Projects must be the product of the individual or the pair, however you are encouraged to consult with me, Mike, the TAs and other students.

Pre-approval: Either Mike Griswold or I must pre-approve all projects to ensure that they are relevant and sufficiently small & manageable. Therefore, no later than Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at midnight (and preferably sooner), email me (tlouis@jhsph.edu) a one-page proposal ([application, dataset, questions to be addressed] or [methodologic issue and approach]). In the proposal, state that the work will be different from what you might have prepared for another purpose. Either Mike or I will review your proposal, approve it or suggest modifications or request a meeting.

Datasets
The datasets we have used in the course are available. Use of other datasets is allowed, subject to all of the following conditions:

- If necessary, you must obtain permission to use the dataset.
- The dataset must immediately ready for computer analysis.
- You must be familiar with the application and the dataset.
- All IRB/HIPPA requirements must be met.
- Either Mike Griswold or I must approve use of the dataset.