1. **Health Data Linkage: enhancing the use of record linkage for health research.**

Record linkage of health service data for research is one of the top priorities of the Australian Government. The WA Data Linkage Project was established in 1995 and remains one of the few record linkage systems that contains population-based data from over 40 population-based health datasets including all hospital morbidity data, birth and death records, mental health services data, cancer registrations and midwives’ notifications. Recent extensions of the record linkage project include data from the State Electoral Roll, and Commonwealth data sets such as Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Aged Care. The WA data linkage system is a comprehensive dataset of the total West Australian population (3.7 million individuals over three decades of data collection) available for research into all major diseases, risk factors, and health outcomes. So far, over 700 studies with some 900 scientific papers have been published to support public health surveillance, aetiological and primary prevention research, and studies of the utilisation, adverse effects and patient outcomes of health and mental health care services.

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**Recent publications:**


