



# WA Data Linkage Branch

## Mental Health Information System: linkage quality statement

### Overview

The WA Data Linkage Branch (DLB) receives data for linkage from a wide variety of data collections. The quality of DLB's linkages is dependent on the quality and completeness of the data received. DLB's Data Quality Statements provide information about linkage quality, as well as the data attributes affecting that quality.

DLB started routinely linking Mental Health Information System (MHIS) data in 2015, however previous iterations of mental health data have been linked since 1996. The MHIS data set is updated and linked monthly, and is continuously subject to standard linkage quality checks.

### Mental Health Information System

#### Linkage quality metrics:

Event date range	01 August 1966 to previous month
Total number of unique records	18,614,311
Total linkage proportion	99.92%
Linkage proportion of records with reasonable demographic information*	99.97%

\* For the purpose of linkage, "reasonable demographic information" means complete demographic fields of given names, surnames, date of birth, and address.

#### Factors affecting linkage and/or use of data:

- 77% of the unlinked records have no address data.
- The difference in the total linkage proportion and linkage proportion of records with reasonable demographic information is not surprising as records with missing or inadequate data may link well to each other where the pattern of missing or inadequate data is the same, but these clusters may not (or may take longer) to link to the correct chain. There is a real risk of creating false positive links if links are made between clusters of records with missing or inadequate data, and chains with good demographic information.

## Contact

For more information contact the Manager, Data Linkage Systems:

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