



# WA Data Linkage Branch

## Midwives notifications: 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 first started linking midwives notifications (MNS) data in 2001. The midwives notifications data set is updated and linked monthly. As a core data set, MNS is routinely linked to other data sets. This means that MNS is continuously subject to standard linkage quality checks.

### Midwives notifications (mothers)

#### Linkage quality metrics:

Baby's date of birth range	January 1980 – previous month
Total number of unique records	1,004,918
Total linkage proportion	99.99%
Linkage proportion of records with reasonable demographic information*	99.99%

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

## Midwives notifications (babies)

### Linkage quality metrics:

Baby's date of birth range	January 1980 – previous month
Total number of unique records	1,004,918
Total linkage proportion	99.95%
Linkage proportion of records with reasonable demographic information*	99.95%

\* 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:

- Nil.
- For the mother, demographic information and obstetric information for the period from conception to 24 hours following the birth, death, discharge or transfer from the birth site (whichever is soonest) is recorded.
- For the infant, no demographic information is reported, but clinical information for the period from time of birth to time of discharge or transfer from the birth site (whichever is soonest) is recorded. As there are no demographics for the infant it is often easier to link the mothers' records.
- The MNS is a high-quality data set that adheres to strict quality assurance processes to ensure data completeness, validity, and reporting compliance.
- There is a long lag-time for availability of MNS data as validation of the data can take more than twelve months. This means that while it can be expected that all MNS records will have a corresponding Birth Registration, the linkage between these records may not occur until years after the event, when the validated records have made available for linkage.
- The routine linkage process includes linking the current batch of notifications to the previous three or four years of birth registrations to catch older records that have only now been validated.
- As a core data set, MNS data is routinely linked to other data sets. This means MNS data is continuously subject to standard linkage checks as part of the routine linkage process.

## Contact

For more information contact the Manager, Data Linkage Systems:

Tom Eitelhuber

E: [tom.eitelhuber@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:tom.eitelhuber@health.wa.gov.au)

T: (08) 9222 2371

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