

Health service utilisation and preventable mortality in justice-involved young people: A national, retrospective data linkage study

This **national youth justice data linkage project** is funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and led by the Justice Health Unit at the University of Melbourne. The goal of this project is to inform policies that will improve the **health and wellbeing** of justice-involved young people in Australia. At a national level, we want to understand the patterns and predictors of healthcare contact, health outcomes, and mortality after contact with the youth justice system. This evidence will help us improve the health of **justice-involved young people**.

Project background



Justice-involved young people in Australia have **multiple, complex, and unmet health needs**. They are at high risk of mortality and other negative and preventable health outcomes.



Despite their vulnerability, **little is known about their health outcomes and engagement with health services** after contact with the youth justice system.



This knowledge is needed to **improve health and social services** for justice-involved young people.

Project overview and aims

We are **linking nationwide youth justice records** from 2000-2019 with data on hospital and emergency department use, GP visits and other Medicare-funded services, prescription drugs, and deaths. All data is de-identified.

The dataset will contain **over 95,000 young people**. Because of the disproportionate use of the criminal justice system against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, approximately **50%** of the young people in this study will identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW



How often justice-involved young people access health care services



What types of health issues they have and how this changes over time



What is their risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortality

Distributed governance model

The PAC will:



Identify priority research questions



Inform interpretations of key findings



Guide approaches to data analysis



Support knowledge translation and dissemination

The NSAN will:



Lead local interpretations of key findings



Form a national network for future collaboration



Advise on, and participate in, local knowledge translation and dissemination

Interested in finding out more?

Please direct inquiries to:

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