Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending

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Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending: Implications for crime prevention and the management of mentally ill offenders

ARC Linkage Project (LP100200469)
Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending

Universities
1. Griffith University
2. University of Queensland

Industry Partners
1. Queensland Health
2. Queensland Government Statistician’s Office
3. QLD Department of Premier and Cabinet
4. QLD Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
5. Queensland Police Service
6. Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending

Chief Investigators
- Prof Anna Stewart (lead)
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- Prof Steve Kisely

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- Trisha Johnston (QH)
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- Sandra Smith (QPS)
- Michelle Jackson (DPC)
- Andrew Ede (DPC)
- Travis Anderson-Bond (DJAG)
- Kate Cherry (DCCSDS)
- Leah Hodson (QCS)
Outline

- Project aims
- Impetus for project
- Administrative data sources to be linked
- Progress to date
- Expected outputs
- Broader value of dataset and future directions
Project Aims

1. Investigate dynamic relationship between mental illness and offending:
   - Mental illness ↔ Criminal Justice System
2. Use findings to inform intervention and prevention planning.
Impetus for the project

• Criminal justice system has increasingly had to respond to offenders experiencing mental illness.
• Offender populations experience mental illness at higher rates than the general population.
• Few studies have adopted a longitudinal design and explored how mental illness and offending are related across the life course.
• Control for (or consider) other factors?
• Differences across gender and Indigenous status?
Answer → Population-based longitudinal linked administrative dataset!

• Innovative in criminology!!
• Data from 13 Queensland Government databases for all individuals born in 1983, 1984 or 1990 until young adulthood...
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Project commenced October 2011
4 years in and....
RECORD LINKAGE

Records linked and aggregated at individual level for all individuals born in 1983, 1984 & 1990

- **CHILD MALTREATMENT VICTIMISATION & PERPETRATION**
  All notifications & substantiations

- **BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES**
  All records

- **QUEENSLAND HEALTH**
  Mental health contacts: hospital & mental health services

- **ADULT CORRECTIONS**
  All community based and custodial orders

- **ADULT COURT**
  All finalised matters

- **YOUTH JUSTICE COURT**
  All finalised matters

- **YOUTH CAUTIONING & CONFERENCING**
  All police cautions and police referred conferences
RECORD LINKAGE

Records linked and aggregated at individual level for all individuals born in 1983, 1984 & 1990

CHILD MALTREATMENT
VICTIMISATION & PERPETRATION
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RECORD LINKAGE

Records linked and aggregated at individual level for all individuals born in 1983, 1984 & 1990.
Certainly a marathon effort!!
Final dataset....

• Anticipate ≈ 190,000 individuals
• ≈ 2,000 variables
• System contacts over the life course
  – Identify risks as well as how they unfold over time.
  – Each contact represents not just a data point for analyses, but a potential window for intervention.
  – Identify the links between risks and pathways and the relevant systems for addressing these risks and diverting these pathways.
  – Differences gender, Indigenous status and geographical location
• Early prevention and intervention
But the QLP dataset has broader applicability too…

- Broader value of data- **range of harm**
- Identifies multi-system users
- Patterns of system utilisation across criminal justice, child safety, social services, healthcare and mental health
- How can multiple systems work together to:
  - Improve coordination of planning and implementation
  - Increase the sharing of information
  - Reduce service duplication
  - Intervene to interrupt accumulation of risk over life course
But the QLP dataset has broader applicability too...

• New projects
  – **Who are the perpetrators of child maltreatment?** (Criminology Research Council Grant)
  – **Stopping Child Maltreaters: Risks and Interventions across the Life Course** (ARC Linkage Proposal)
  – **Investigating Precursors to Adult-Onset Offending:** Advancing Theory and Promoting Prevention (Griffith University Postdoctoral Fellowship)
  – **Incarceration: Trigger for Psychosis?** (New researcher grant)
Watch this space!!!

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Papers on our QLD cohorts:


