



Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending

Dr Carleen Thompson
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Griffith Criminology Institute



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)
Dr Troy Allard
Assoc Prof Susan Dennison
Prof Steve Kisely

Research Fellow

Dr Carleen Thompson

Researchers

Assoc Prof Lisa Broidy

APAI

Charlotte Beaumont-Field

Industry Partner Representatives

- Karen Cosgrove (QGSO)
- Trisha Johnston (QH)
- Kristen Breed (QH)
- Brad Pollard (QGSO)
- 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

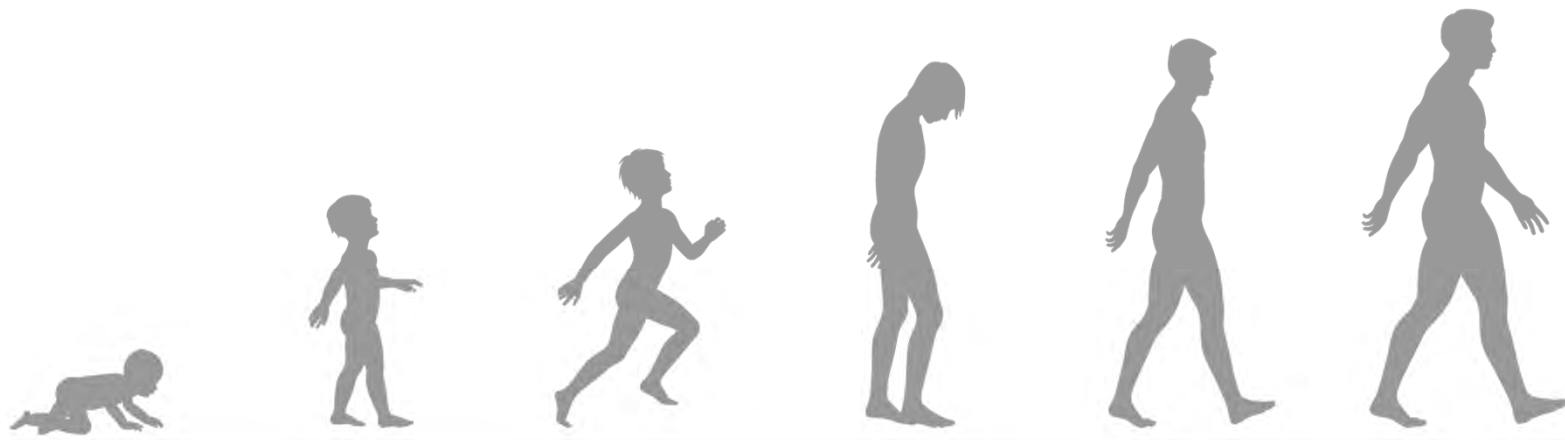
1. Investigate dynamic relationship between mental illness and offending:
 - Mental illness ↔ Criminal Justice System
2. Use findings to inform intervention and prevention planning.

Impetus for the project

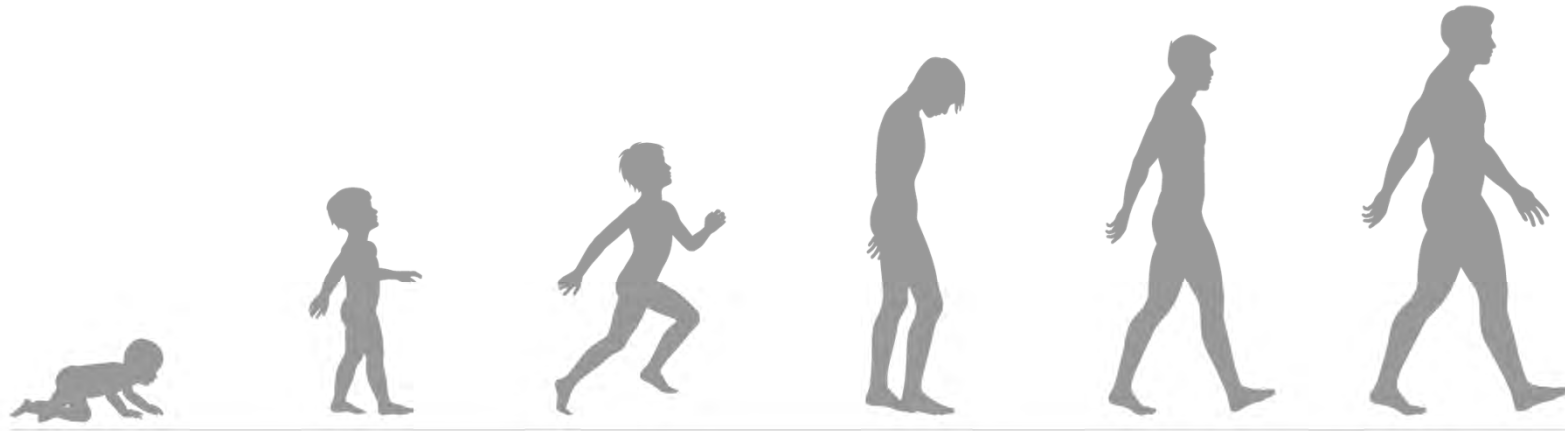
- Criminal justice system has increasingly had to respond to offenders experiencing mental illness.
- Offender populations experience mental illness at higher rates than the general population.
- Few studies have adopted a longitudinal design and explored how mental illness and offending are related 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...

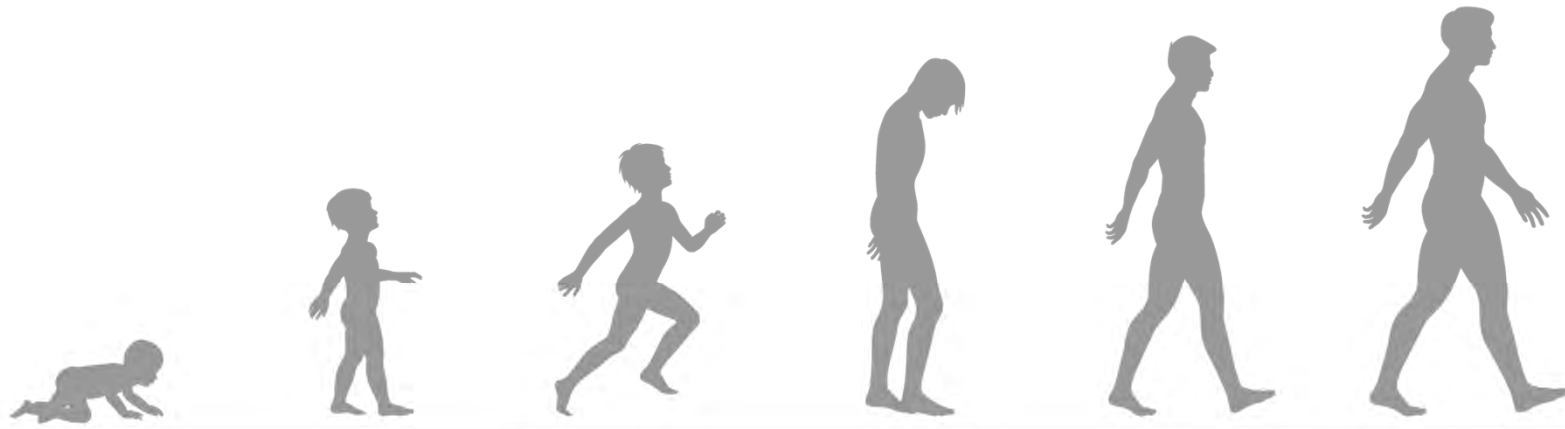


CHILD MALTREATMENT



CHILD MALTREATMENT

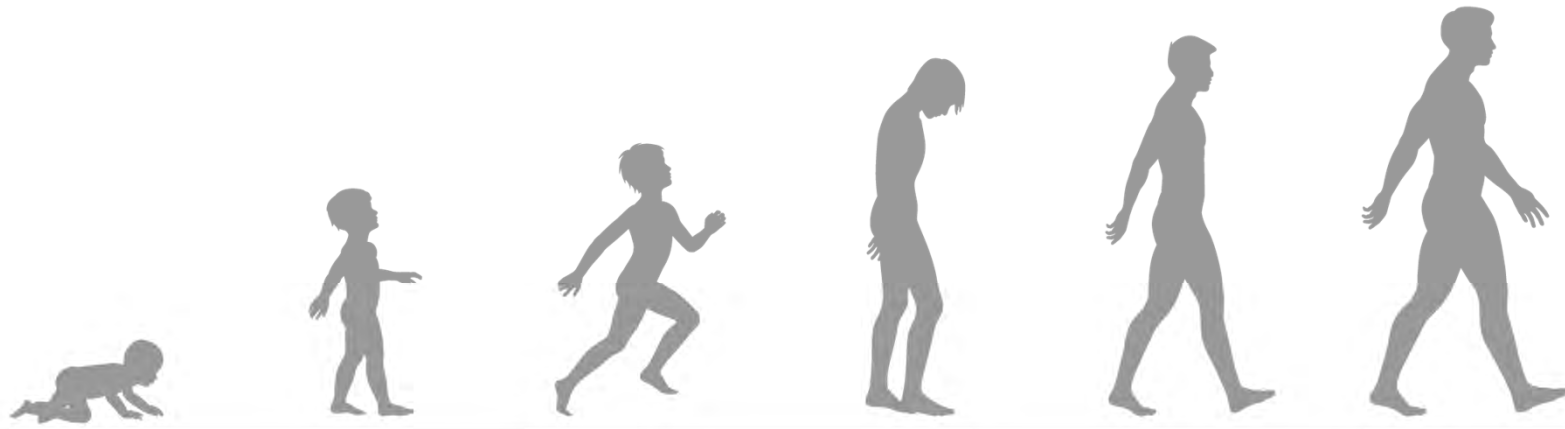
YOUTH OFFENDING



CHILD MALTREATMENT

YOUTH OFFENDING

ADULT OFFENDING & CORRECTIONS

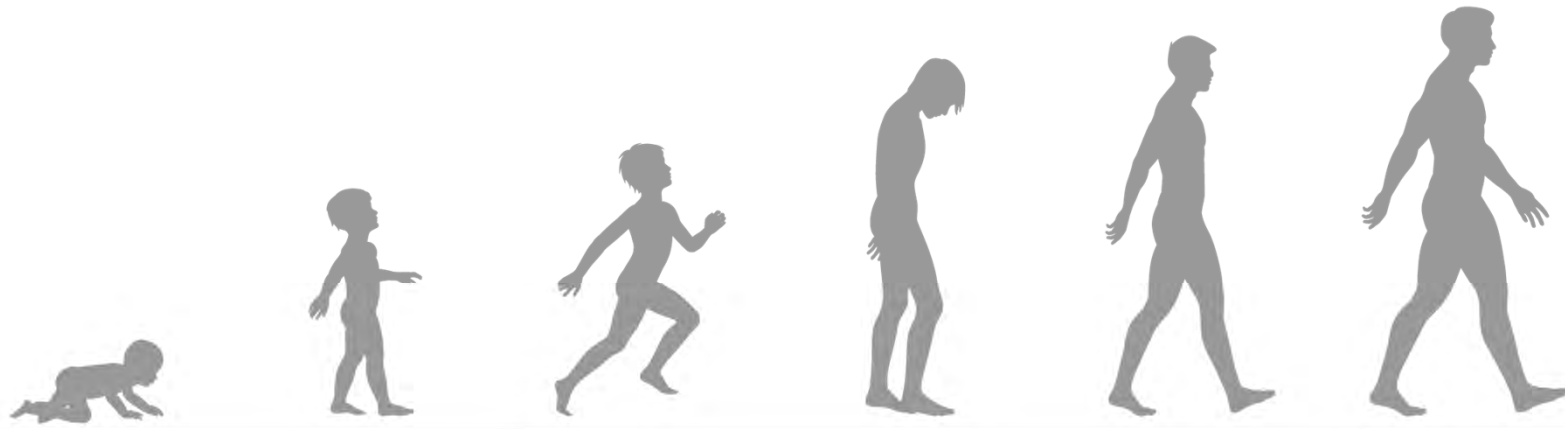


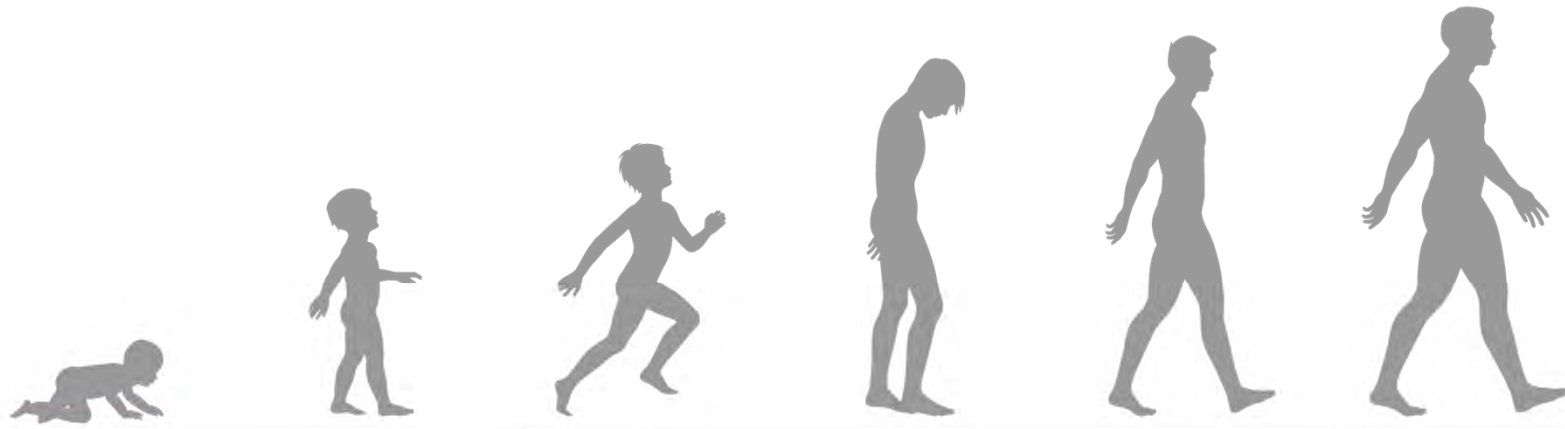
CHILD MALTREATMENT

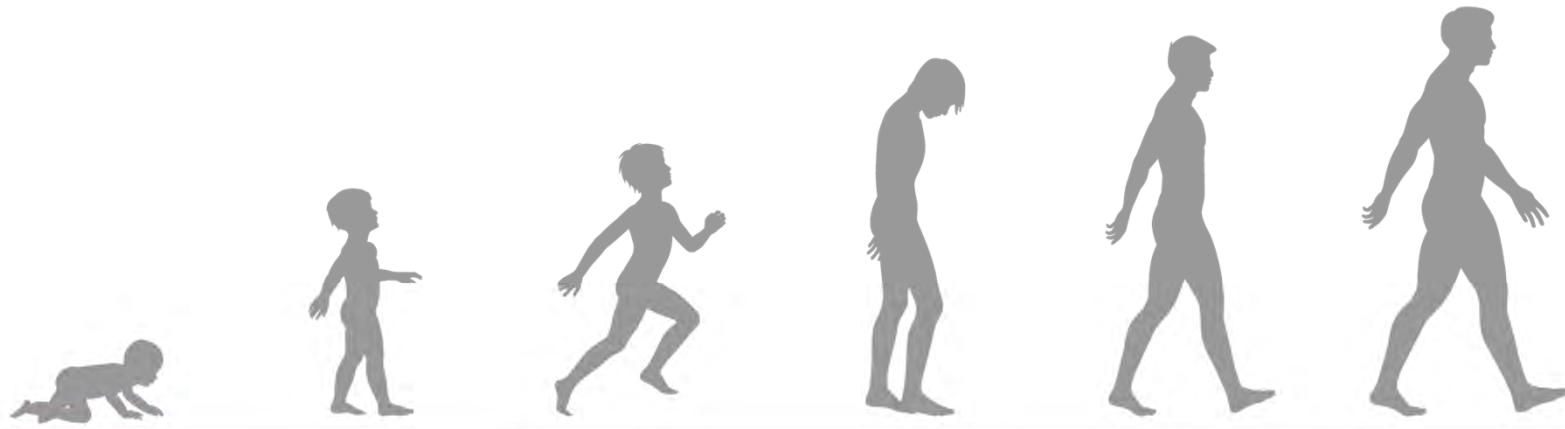
YOUTH OFFENDING

CHILD MALTREATMENT PERPETRATION

ADULT OFFENDING & CORRECTIONS







Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending

Project commenced October 2011

4 years in and....







Certainly a marathon effort!!



Final dataset....

- Anticipate \approx 190,000 individuals
- \approx 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!!!

Dr Carleen Thompson (c.thompson@griffith.edu.au)
Professor Anna Stewart (a.stewart@griffith.edu.au)

Papers on our QLD cohorts:



- Allard, T., Chrzanowski, A., & Stewart, A. (2012). **Targeting crime prevention to reduce offending: Identifying communities that generate chronic and costly offenders.** *Trends & Issues Issues in Crime and Justice, No 445*, Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Allard, T., Stewart, A., Chrzanowski, A. (2015) **Integrating criminal careers and ecological research: The importance of geographic location for targeting interventions towards chronic and costly offenders.** *Crime & Delinquency*.
- Allard, T., Stewart, A., Chrzanowski, A., Ogilvie, J., Birks, D., & Little, S. (2010). **Police diversion of young offenders and Indigenous over-representation.** *Trends & Issues in Crime and Justice*, no. 390, 1-6.
- Allard, T., Stewart, A., Smith, C. Dennison, S., Chrzanowski, A. & Thompson, C. (2014). **The monetary cost of offender trajectories: Findings from Queensland (Australia).** *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 47 (1), 81-101.
- Broidy, L. M., Stewart, A.L., Thompson, C. M., Chrzanowski, A., Allard, T., & Dennison, S.M. (2015). **Life Course Offending Pathways Across Gender and Race/Ethnicity.** *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 1 (2), 118-149.
- Leach, C., Stewart, A. & Smallbone, S. (Forthcoming). **Examining the sexually-abused sexual-abuser hypothesis: A prospective design.** *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*
- Livingston, M., Stewart, A., Allard, T., & Ogilvie, J. (2008). **Understanding juvenile offending trajectories.** *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 41(3), 345-363.
- Stewart, A., Dennison, S., Allard, T., Thompson, C.M., Broidy, L. & Chrzanowski, A. (2015). **Administrative data linkage as a tool for developmental and life-course criminology: The Queensland Linkage Project.** *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. 48: 409-428.
- Stewart, A., Livingston, M., & Dennison, S. (2008). **Transitions and turning points: Examining the links between child maltreatment and juvenile offending.** *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 32, 51-66.
- Thompson, C.M., Stewart, A., Allard, T., Chrzanowski, A., Luker, C. & Svetcic, J. (2014). **Examining Adult-Onset Offending: A Case for Adult Cautioning.** *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 488, 1-8.