

### 1. What is the Master Linkage File?

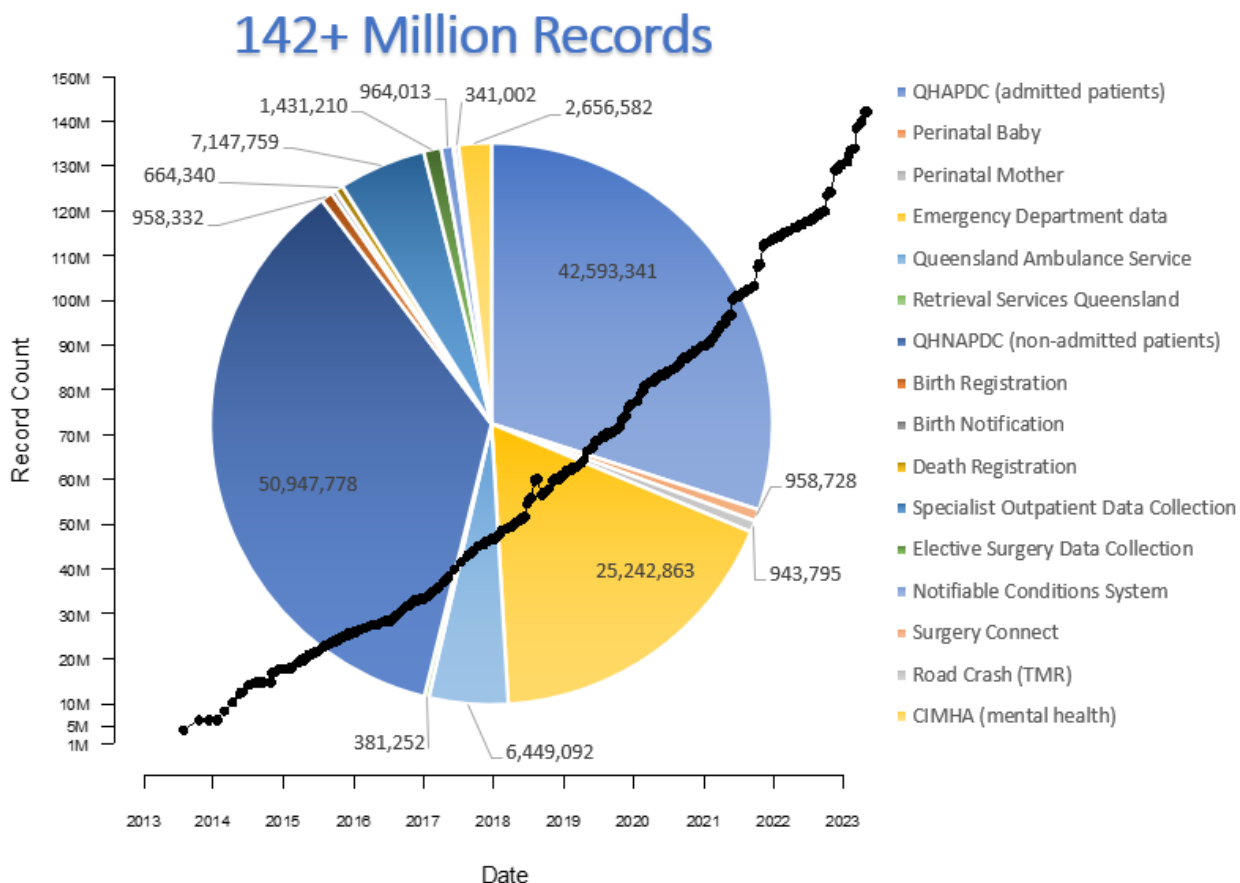
The Queensland Health Master Linkage File (MLF) is an index that provides a map of an individual's journey through the Queensland health system and related services. The MLF is based on machine-learning probabilistic data matching methods to create enduring linkage keys that are updated monthly. The central component is a "mapping" table that contains associations between linkage keys (person identifiers) and unique record identifiers that are used to point to records maintained in source data collections. The linkage key enables analysis of records at person level within and between the source data collections.

The MLF is used as the basis for about 80% of the data linkage requests received by the Statistical Services Branch (SSB) and is used by many areas within Queensland Health to support evidence-based health service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

The MLF enables analysis of records for the same patient within and across different data collections. This means it is possible to answer questions that require information:

- from different service settings such as ambulance, hospital admissions and non-admitted patient services
- relating to an individual over time such as readmissions or deaths after hospital discharge
- across public and private hospital settings
- from different routinely collected sources to enable improved case enumeration or additional details about a cohort.

### 2. How many records?



### 3. What data are included in the MLF?

The [MLF](#) contains 112+ million records across many data collections and continues to grow.

Data collection	Available from	Data Custodian
Birth notification	2017	SSB (Proxy)
Birth registration	2007	SSB (Proxy)
Consumer Integrated Mental Health Application (CIMHA)	2010	Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch
Deaths - Cause of Death Unit Record File from the Australian Coordinating Registry	2000	SSB (Proxy)
Death Registrations from the (Qld) Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages	2000	SSB (Proxy)
Elective Surgery Data Collection (ESDC)	2015	Healthcare Improvement Unit (HIU)
Emergency Data Collection (EDC)	2008	Healthcare Improvement Unit (HIU)
Notifiable Conditions System (NoCS)	2010	Communicable Diseases Branch (CDB)
Perinatal Data Collection (PDC)	2007	SSB
Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC) – Public hospitals	2000	SSB
Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC) – Private hospitals	2007	SSB
Queensland Health Non-Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHNAPDC)	2016	SSB
Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)	2015	Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)
Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ)	2017	Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ)
Road Crash (TMR)	2010	Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
Specialist Outpatient Data Collection (SODC)	2015	Healthcare Improvement Unit (HIU)
Surgery Connect	2007	Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division (HPSP)

### 4. Links

[Data Linkage Framework](#)

[Data linkage training resources](#)

[Data collections available for linkage](#)

[Queensland Health – Data Custodians](#)

### 5. Contact

Statistical Analysis and Linkage Unit – [DLQ@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:DLQ@health.qld.gov.au)

