



Examining sex differences in the CPS-CJS link across adolescence and early adulthood: Implications for gender-informed approaches

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Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith University acknowledges the people who are the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Examining sex differences in the CPS-CJS link across adolescence and early adulthood: Implications for gender-informed approaches

Presenter: Carleen Thompson

**Team: Emily Hurren, James Ogilvie, Lisa Broidy,
Diksha Sapkota, Susan Dennison**

Disclaimer & Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions and support of the Queensland Government Statistician's Office; Queensland Police Service; Queensland Department of Justice; Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety; Queensland Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support; the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Statistical Analysis and Linkage Unit of the Statistical Services Branch (SSB), Queensland Health; Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Queensland Health; Queensland Health; Queensland Department of Premier & Cabinet; Queensland Corrective Services; and the Griffith University Social Analytics Lab. The opinions discussed within this presentation are those of the authors and do not represent the opinions of the above Departments.

Please note that the results provided in this presentation are preliminary.

Background

Extensive evidence childhood maltreatment and offending are linked
(e.g., Baidawi et al., 2024; Font & Kennedy, 2022, Malvaso et al., 2018).

May be important gender differences in pathways to offending for maltreated boys and girls

Nature of such moderation is still unclear (Baidawi et al., 2021; Broidy & Thompson, 2018).

Effective prevention and intervention relies upon improved understanding of the nature of this link

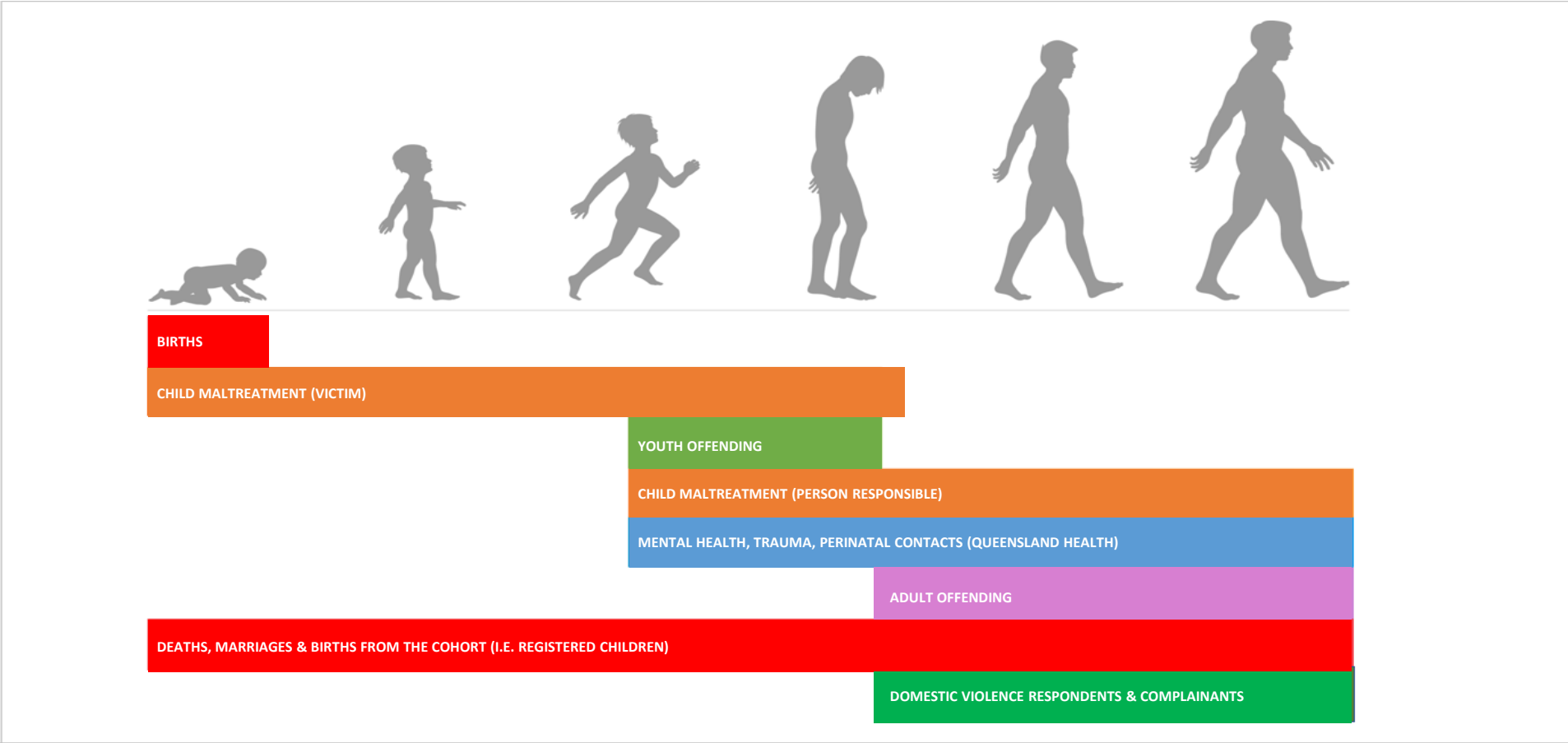
Gaps

- Representative, counterfactual
- Followed into young adulthood
- Complexities of CJS contacts
 - Heterogeneous timings, types, seriousness
- Role of mental health along these pathways

Research Questions

1. Does the link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts vary across sex?
2. Do these links vary when accounting for mental health system contact?

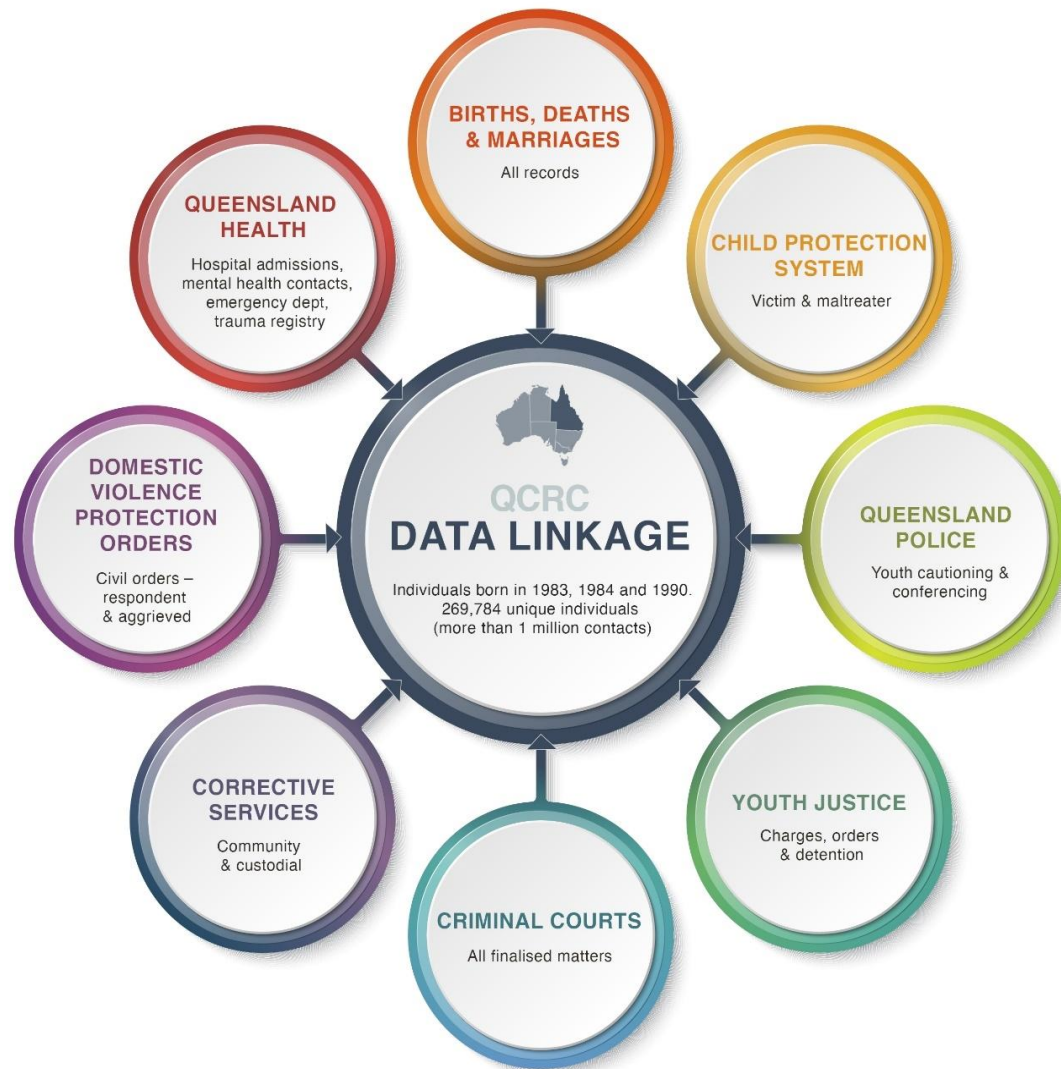
Queensland Cross-sector Research Collaboration (QCRC)



QCRC Cohorts: Longitudinal linked administrative data over the life-course to age \approx 31 years old (1983 cohort), 30 years old (1984 cohort) and 24 years old (1990 cohort). *Note: Exact periods of life-course vary based on dataset and cohort.*

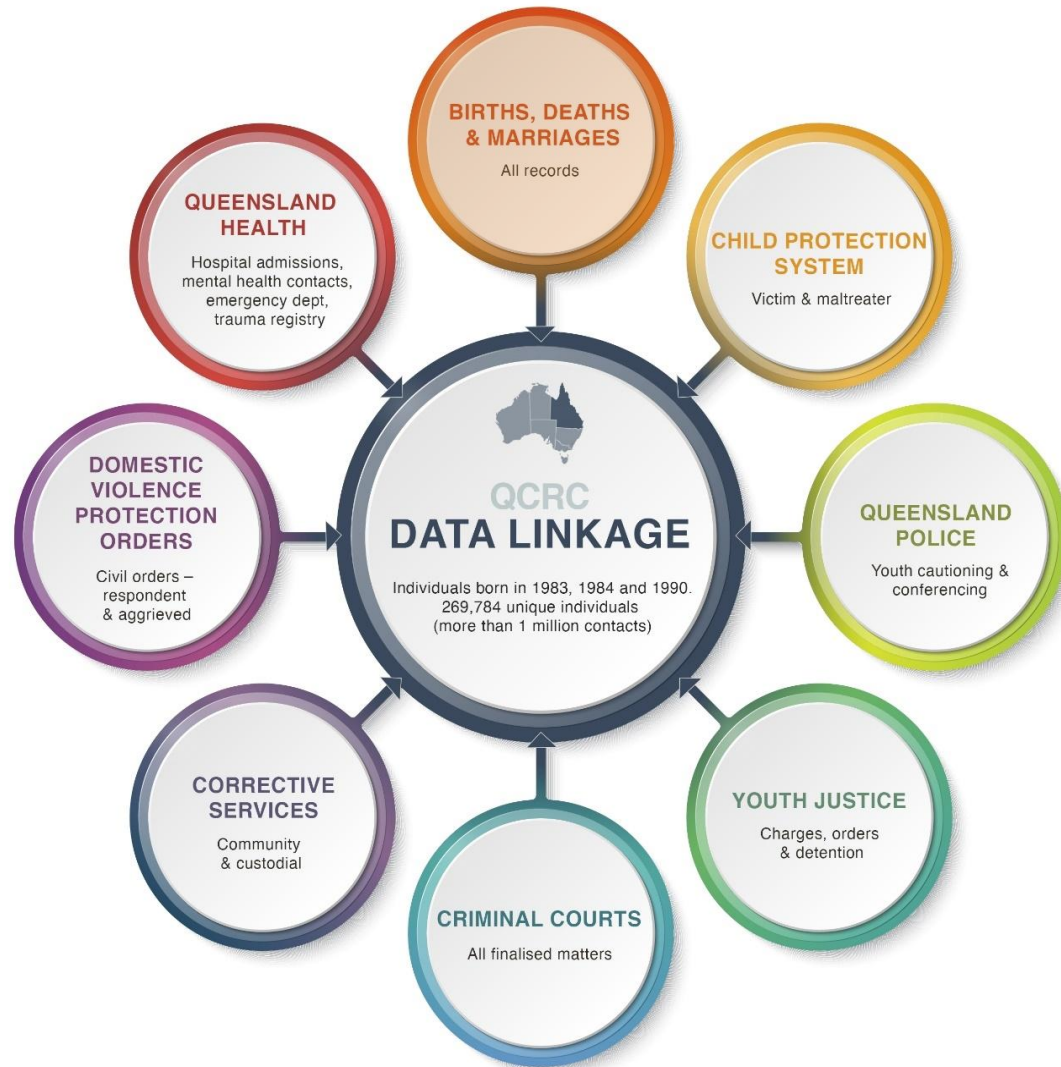
See: Thompson, C., & Allard, T. (2021). Queensland Cross-Sector Research Collaboration (QCRC). Griffith Criminology Institute, Griffith University.

QCRC: Cohort for this Study



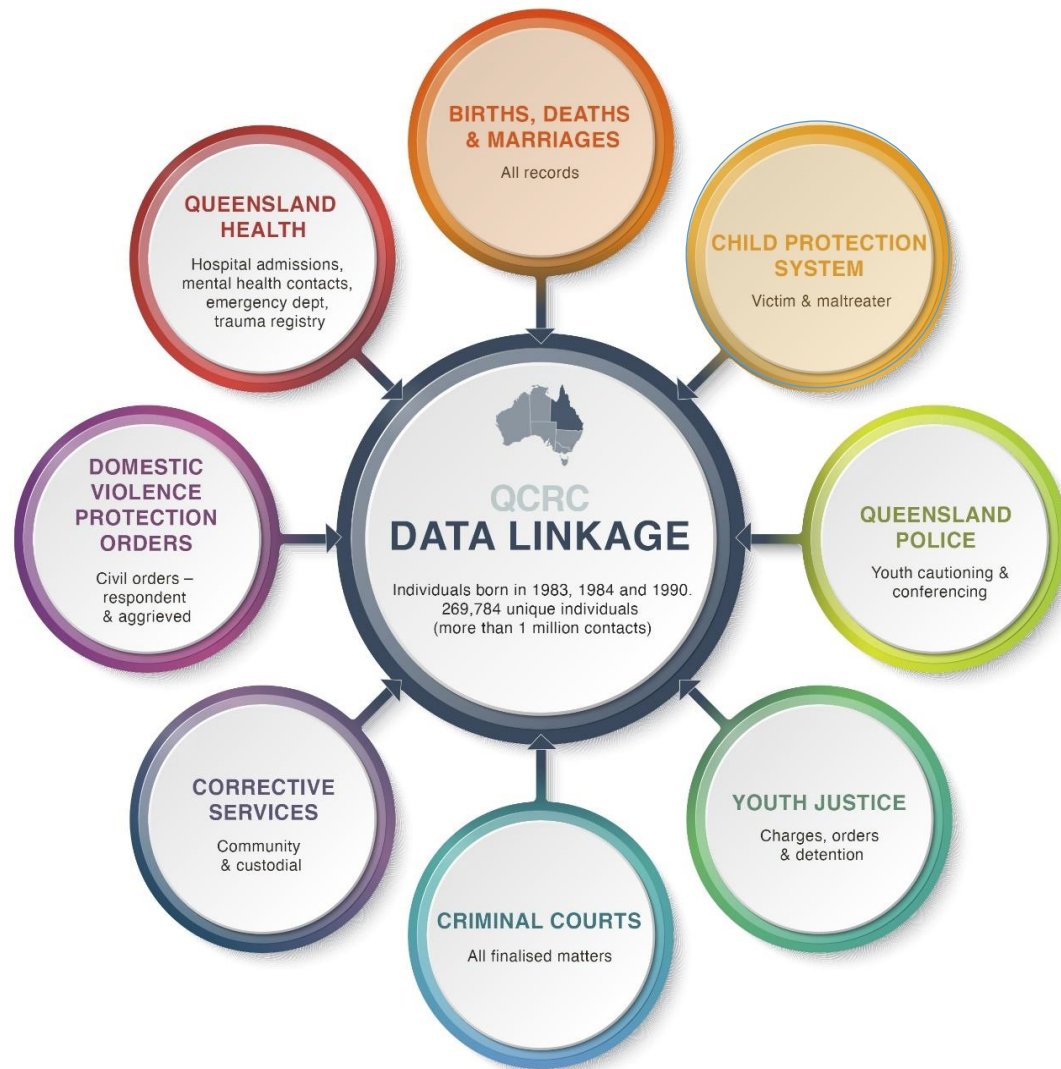
- **1990 Birth cohort (registered)**
 - 45,153 individuals
 - 48.6% female
 - 6.3% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

QCRC: Cohort for this Study



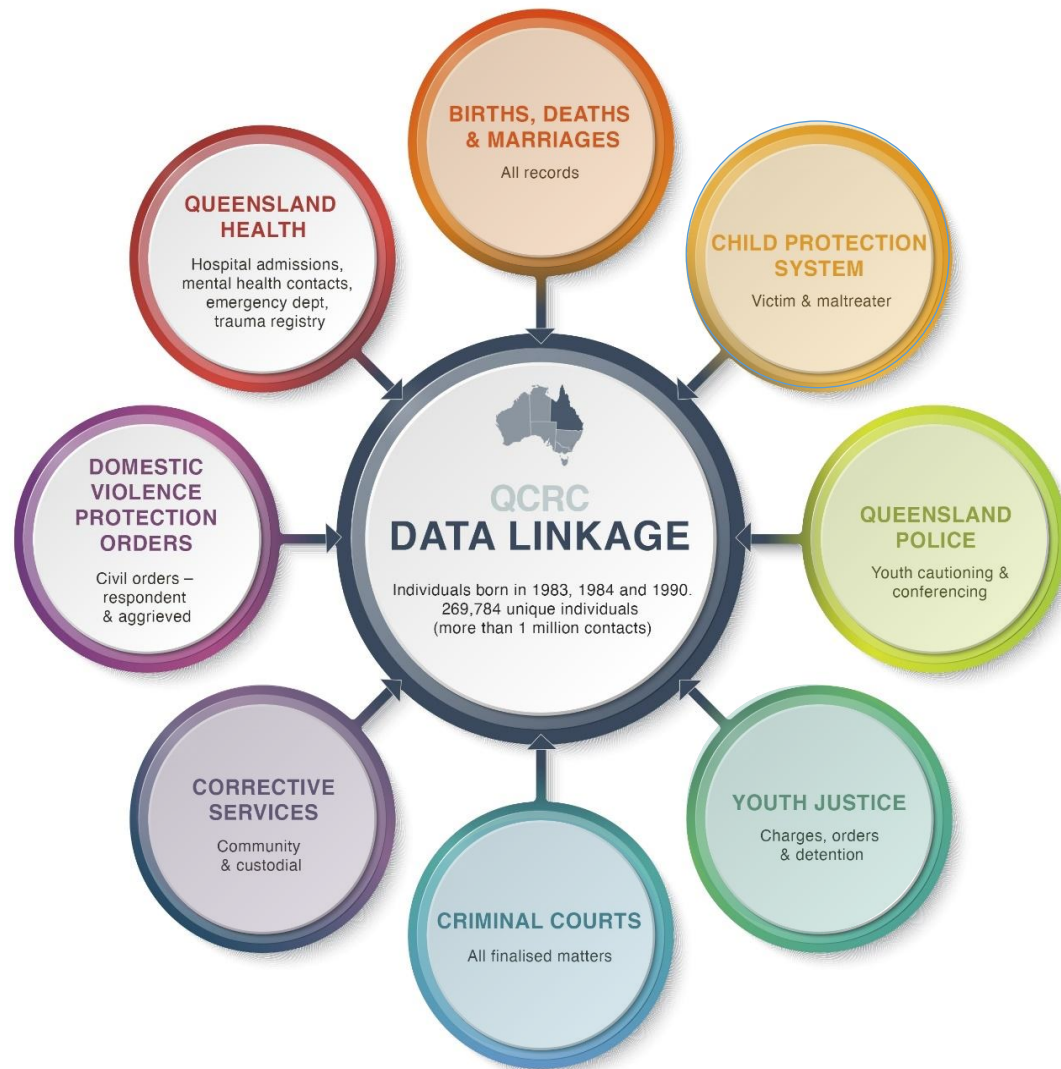
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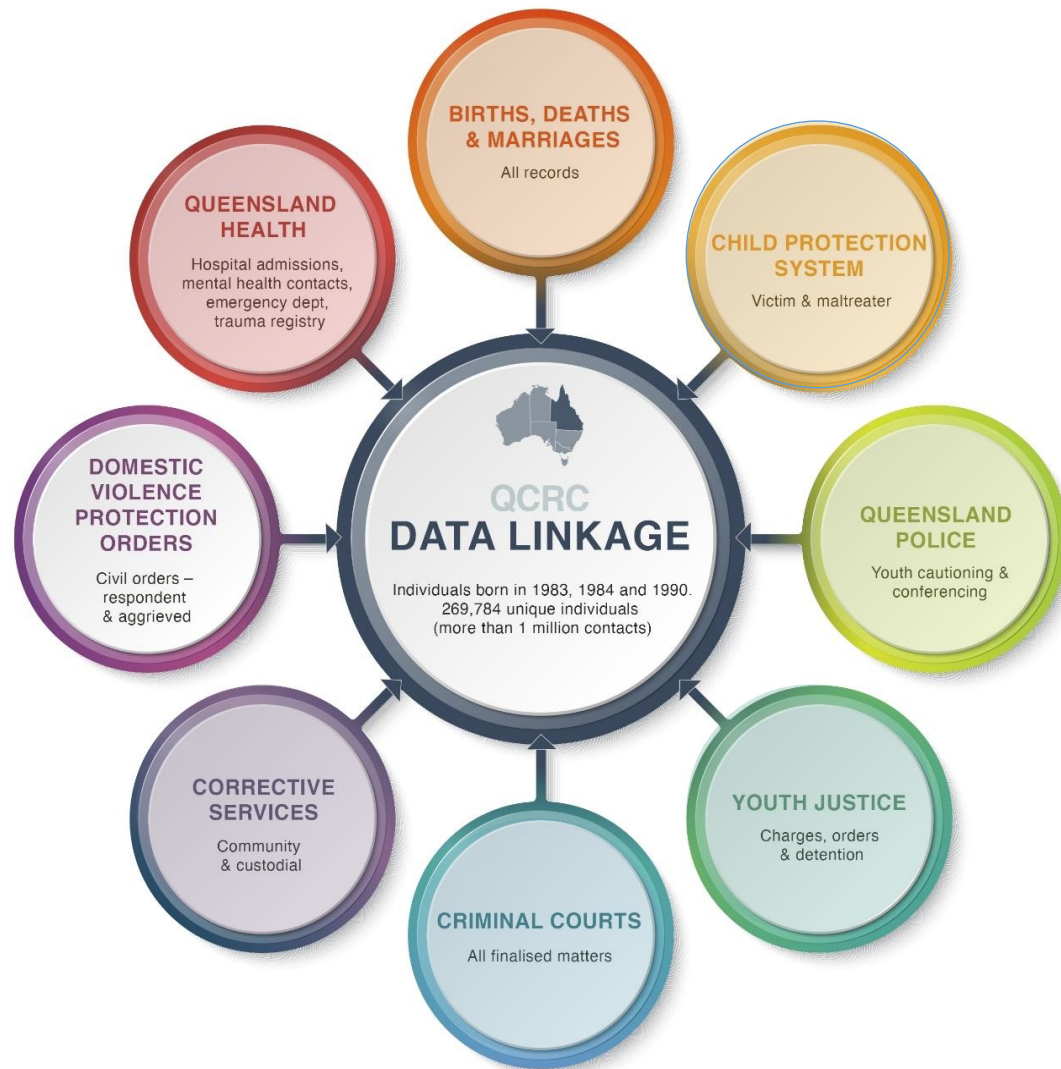
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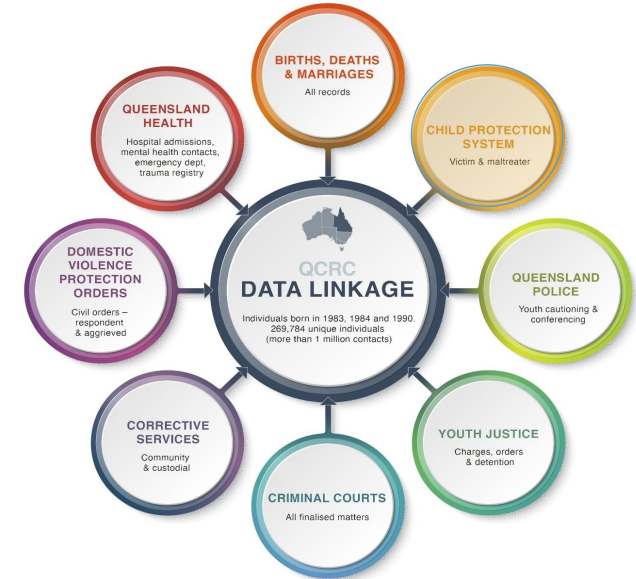
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Child Maltreatment

CPS notification of harm and/or risk of harm

- *Maltreatment type*
- *Multi-type maltreatment*
- *Timing*
 - Childhood-only (before 10 years only)
 - Adolescence-only (only ≥ 10 years)
 - Persistent (both before and ≥ 10 years of age)
- *OOHC*

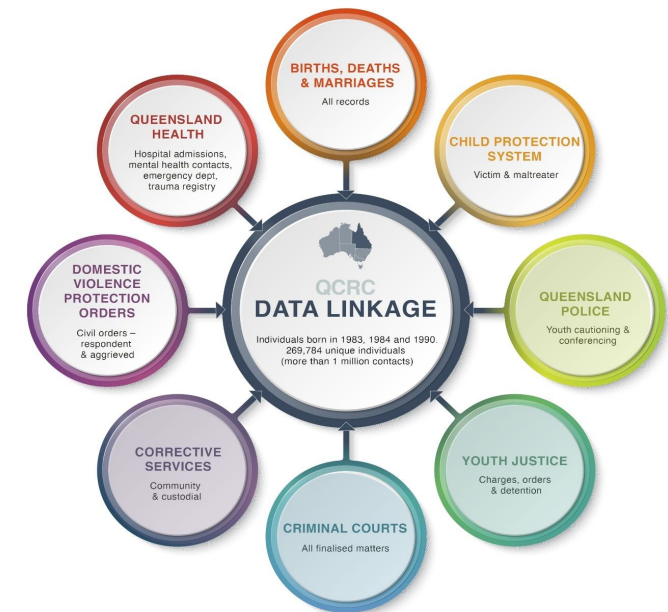
CPS notification (ever/never)



Criminal Justice

CJS contacts: Police, courts, youth justice, corrections

- *Any CJS Contact* (ever/never)
- *Age of onset*
 - adolescence=onset (before age 18)
 - adult-onset (≥ 18 years of age)
- *Chronicity of offending* (0, 1-4 or 5+)
- *Ever detained/incarcerated* (ever/never)

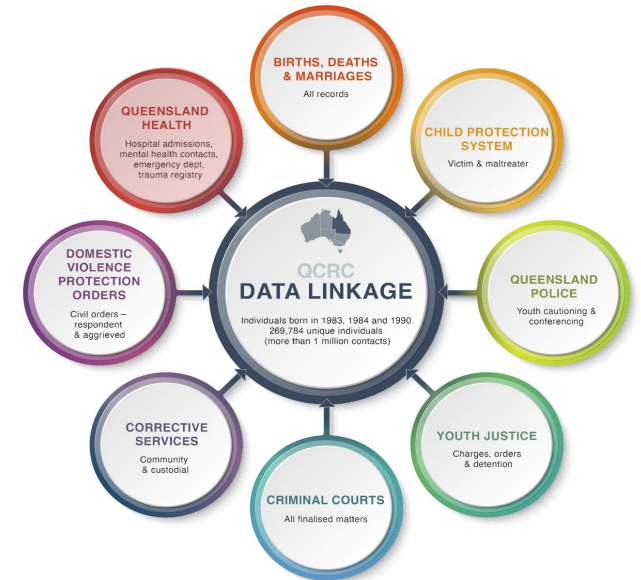


Mental health

Queensland Health

- *Consumer Integrated Mental Health and Addiction (CIMHA)*
 - Contacts with outpatient community mental health services
- Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC)
 - Hospital admissions involving mental illness diagnosis

MH Contact (ever/never)



Results: Prevalence of CPS contacts

10.6% females v. **9.2% males** at least one CPS notification

14.5% females v. **19.4% males** with CPS notifications experienced OOHC

Results: Nature of CPS contacts

Timing:

Persistent maltreatment: Males (28.7%) and females (28.0%)

Males more childhood-only maltreatment (37.1%) (females = 31.0%)

Females more adolescence-only maltreatment (41.0%) (males = 34.2%)

Results: Nature of CPS contacts

Timing:

Persistent maltreatment: Males (28.7%) and females (28.0%)

Males more childhood-only maltreatment (37.1%) (females = 31.0%)

Females more adolescence-only maltreatment (41.0%) (males = 34.2%)

Type:

Males more notifications for **neglect** (62.5% v. 57.3%) and **physical abuse** (66.2% v. 60.2%)

Females more sexual abuse (37.0% v. 20.1%)

Emotional abuse similar across sex (females = 64.6%; males = 63.3%)

Females were more likely all 4 types of maltreatment (12.7% v. 9.0%)

Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females v. Males
 17.4% 37.8%

Females v. Males
 0.4% 2.5%

<i>Entire Sample (N = 45,153)</i>			Any CJS contact	CJS Onset Period		Chronicity of Offending		Ever detained/incarcerated		
			% (N)	Youth-Onset	Adult-Onset	1-4 Offences	5+ Offences	% (N)		
Females	Any CPS notification	No	14.1%	6.7%	7.4%	11.3%	2.9%	0.1%		
		Yes	45.4%	.25***	30.8%	14.6%	.27***	24.1%	21.4%	.29***
Males	Any CPS notification	No	34.8%	15.2%	19.6%	21.4%	13.4%	1.3%		
		Yes	67.7%	.19***	50.0%	17.7%	.26***	20.7%	47.1%	.26***

Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females
14.1% v. 45.4%

Males
34.8% v. 67.7%

			Any CJS contact	CJS Onset Period			Chronicity of Offending		Ever detained/incarcerated	
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Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females
6.7% v. 30.8%

Males
15.2% v. 50.0%

			Any CJS contact	CJS Onset Period				Chronicity of Offending		Ever detained/incarcerated
<i>Entire Sample (N = 45,153)</i>			% (N)		Youth-Onset	Adult-Onset		1-4 Offences	5+ Offences	% (N)
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Males	Any CPS notification	No	34.8%		15.2%	19.6%		21.4%	13.4%	1.3%
		Yes	67.7%	.19***	50.0%	17.7%	.26***	20.7%	47.1%	14.2% .23***

Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females
2.9% v. 21.4%

Males
13.4% v. 47.1%

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Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females 0.1% v. 3.1% Males 1.3% v. 14.2%

			Any CJS contact	CJS Onset Period		Chronicity of Offending		Ever detained/incarcerated		
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Females 0.1% v. 3.1% Males 1.3% v. 14.2%

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52.3% incarcerated for males
76.0% incarcerated for females

Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females
7.4% v. 14.6%

Males
19.6% v. 17.7%

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Results: Link between CPS notifications and CJS contacts

Females
11.3% v. 24.1%

Males
21.4% v. 20.7%

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Results: MH, CPS, and CJS contacts

Females

42.5% CPS Notification v. **11.1%** No CPS Notification at least one MH Contact

Males

43.5% CPS Notification v. **11.5%** No CPS Notification at least one MH Contact

Results: MH, CPS, and CJS contacts

Females with CPS Notifications Only (N = 2,322)

Maltreatment Dimensions		Any CJS contact		Youth-Onset	Adult-Onset		1-4 Offences	5+ Offences		Ever detained/incarcerated
MH Contact	No	35.9%		23.2%	12.6%		22.4%	13.5%		0.9%
	Yes	58.4%	.22***	41.1%	17.3%	.23***	26.4%	32.0%	.25***	6.2%

Males with CPS Notifications Only (N = 2,136)

Maltreatment Dimensions		Any CJS contact		Youth-Onset	Adult-Onset		1-4 Offences	5+ Offences		Ever detained/incarcerated
MH Contact	No	58.8%		39.1%	19.7%		24.0%	34.8%		5.8%
	Yes	79.4%	.22***	64.1%	15.3%	.26***	16.5%	62.9%	.28***	25.1%

Results: MH, CPS, and CJS contacts

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Results: Link between CPS Contact and CJS Contact, accounting for MH Contact

Relationship between CPS and CJS contact controlling for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and MH

	Any CJS contact OR	CJS Onset Period OR		Chronicity of Offending OR		Ever detained/ incarcerated OR
		Early-Onset ^a	Adult-Onset ^a	1-4 Offences ^a	5+ Offences ^a	
Females (N = 21,947)						
CPS notification	2.91***	3.95***	1.93***	2.28***	5.14***	6.95***
Mental health contact	2.90***	3.29***	2.51***	2.42***	4.82***	10.34***
Males (N = 23,206)						
CPS notification	2.41***	3.66***	1.40***	1.60***	3.65***	4.16***
Mental health contact	2.83***	3.88***	2.05***	1.82***	4.71***	5.87***

Results: Link between CPS Contact and CJS Contact, accounting for MH Contact

Relationship between CPS and CJS contact controlling for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and MH

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		Early-Onset ^a	Adult-Onset ^a	1-4 Offences ^a	5+ Offences ^a	
Females (N = 21,947)						
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Males (N = 23,206)						
CPS notification	2.41***	3.66***	1.40***	1.60***	3.65***	4.16***
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Females (N = 21,947)						
CPS notification	2.91***	3.95***	1.93***	2.28***	5.14***	6.95***
Mental health contact	2.90***	3.29***	2.51***	2.42***	4.82***	10.34***
Males (N = 23,206)						
CPS notification	2.41***	3.66***	1.40***	1.60***	3.65***	4.16***
Mental health contact	2.83***	3.88***	2.05***	1.82***	4.71***	5.87***

Key Findings

- CPS notifications slightly higher for females:
 - Around 9% v. 11%
 - Some differences in nature of maltreatment
- Regardless of sex:
 - CPS notifications had significantly more – and more serious – CJS contacts
 - Patterns differ for different CJS outcomes
- Comorbid CPS and MH contact
 - Significantly more – and more serious – CJS contacts

Implications

- Trauma-informed responses within detention and correctional practices
 - 52.3% incarcerated for males
 - 76.0% incarcerated for females
- Cross-sector holistic care for maltreated individuals
 - Rates of MH contact equally high for both males and females
- Better understanding the strengths, resilience, and other protective factors experienced by those young people with no/less serious contacts, as well as their families

Limitations

- Only official contacts – does not capture all maltreatment, offending or mental health problems
- Underlying mechanisms
- Contact with one system may make more visible with another
- Quality and scope of data (1990 onwards) and 'period' effects (e.g., policy changes)
- Did not consider CPS dimensions

Thank you!

Dr Carleen Thompson

c.thompson@griffith.edu.au

QCRC work more broadly:

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-institute/our-research/major-research-projects/qld-linkage-project>

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Sage Journals

Article



Criminal justice system involvement across adolescence and early adulthood: Elucidating the high-risk features of child protection and mental health system contacts and characteristics

Carleen Thompson ^{1,2}, Emily Hurren ^{1,2}, James Ogilvie ^{1,2}, Lisa Broidy ^{2,3}, Diksha Sapkota ^{1,2}, Troy Allard ^{1,2}, Jaana Haaja ², Belinda Crissman ^{1,2}, Simon Little ², April Chrzanowski ², and Susan Dennison ^{1,2}

Abstract

This study fills existing knowledge gaps by examining the links between Child Protection System (CPS) notifications and Criminal Justice System (CJS) contacts into young adulthood, with consideration of both lifetime Mental Health (MH) system contacts and the characteristics of CPS contacts (including Out-Of-Home Care [OOHC]). We utilised state-wide longitudinal linked administrative data for all individuals registered as born in Queensland, Australia in 1990 ($N = 45,153$; 48.6% female). Data include all CPS notifications (including maltreatment types) and periods of OOHC (0–17 years, inclusive), all official offending contacts from age 10 to 24 years (police cautions, proven offences in court, detention/incarceration), and MH contacts between ages 4/5 to 23/24 years. Findings extend understanding of the complexity of CPS–CJS links. While many CPS-involved individuals remain free of CJS involvement, findings elucidate especially high-risk features of child maltreatment experiences, namely adolescent and persistent maltreatment, neglect, OOHC experienced ≥ 10 years of age, and comorbid CPS and MH contact. Though the CPS–CJS link was especially pronounced for