

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Background

SA NT DataLink is a multi agency and multi disciplinary venture designed to more fully utilise routinely collected administrative data on demography and service provision at state, territory and jurisdictional level. The intention is to use this information for evaluation of reach, process and outcomes of programs in different population groups. SA NT DataLink has the potential to inform policy and practice, and contribute to better understanding of the interactions between these and other determinants of health and welfare in the population, including over the life course.

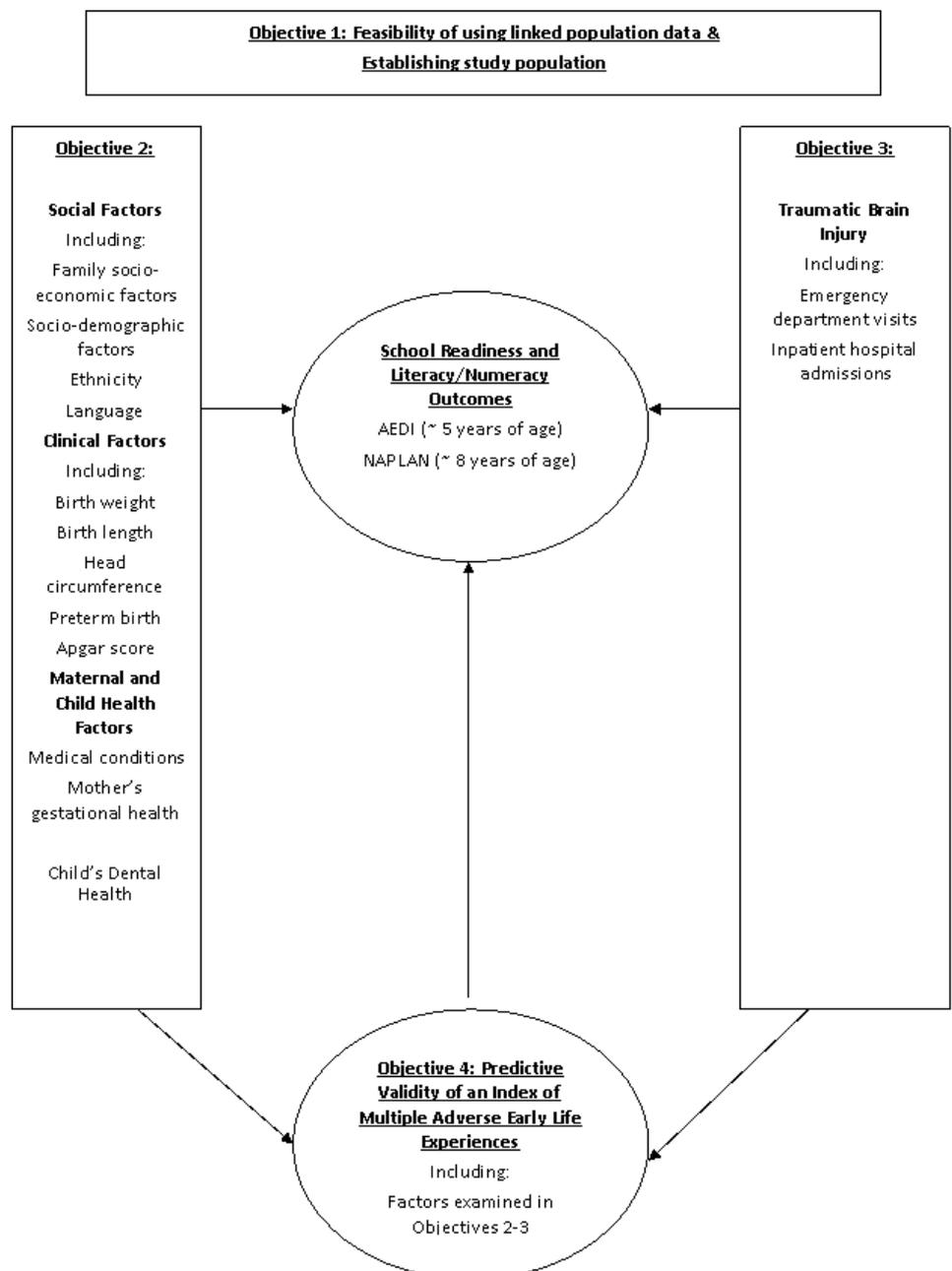
In the process of building South Australia's data linkage capacity, the SA NT Data Linkage Consortium agreed to undertake two demonstration projects. One relates to cancer being led by the Cancer Council and the other demonstration project is dealing with early childhood development.

Purpose

The overarching goal of the demonstration project is to highlight the potential for using administrative data to provide information about population learning and development outcomes and to build sustainable capacity for ongoing policy relevant research.

The specific aims of the early childhood development demonstration project are to investigate adverse early life risks for healthy development.

The project covers areas of social, clinical, maternal, oral health and head injury and how they relate to children's development as they enter school at age 5 and standardised literacy and numeracy tests in school at age 8.



Data Sources

The Government administrative datasets proposed to be used in the early childhood demonstration project include:

- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Children, Youth and Women's Health Service: Child Health Record (0-4 years);
- SA Health: Integrated South Australian Activity Collection (ISAAC), Emergency Department Data Collection (EDDC), Perinatal Data Collection;
- Department of Education and Children Services (DECS): School Enrolment Census, NAPLAN, AEDI;

Researchers

Researchers from Government (DECS, Health and Australian Bureau of Statistics) and the three South Australian Universities (University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, and Flinders University) will be undertaking the early childhood development demonstration project.

The research team includes:

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University of Adelaide
Prof. John Lynch (CI), Angela Gialamas, Dr. Murthy Mittinty, Dr Loc Do, Prof. Michael Sawyer, Assoc. Professor Michael Davies
Flinders University
Dr Clare Bradley, Professor James Harrison
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DECS
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HEALTH
Heather Petty, Ann-Marie Hayes
ABS
Julie Watkinson

Progress:

- SA Health Ethics Committee has approved the creation of the linked data resource for a period of 5 years.
- Specific approval for projects under Objectives 1-4 above are in process
- In-depth discussions with all data custodians have been proceeding
- Approvals to access agreed-upon data have been received from Births, Deaths and Marriages; Children, Youth and Women's Health Service; Integrated South Australian Activity Collection (ISAAC), Emergency Department Data Collection (EDDC), Perinatal Data Collection, SA Dental Service; and Department of Education and Children Services (DECS)

Further Information

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