National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre

Background

- Maternal substance use may harm child health and development through exposure during gestation and impacts on parenting, family functioning, and the home environment during early life.1 - 3
- To plan prevention responses for mothers and children, data on the burden of maternal substance use at the population - level are needed.

- Quantify the prevalence of maternal substance use from conception to the child's second birthday (first 1000 days of life), using six linked mother and child data sources.
- Profile the socioeconomic and health profile of children with a record of maternal substance use, compared to those without.

- This study used birth registrations and the Perinatal Data Collection (PDC) to identify all children born in NSW 2008-2017. We analysed six population - level administrative data collections including hospital inpatient; opioid treatment register; cause of death; emergency department presentations; publicly funded mental health outpatients, and child protection (CP) data. [a]
- Outcome: Maternal substance use, including substance use related conditions and treatment recorded in ≥1 of the six data sources during the first 1000 days, prenatal period (conception to until 27 days of age), and early - life (28 days to 2 years of age).
- We calculated the number and percent of children with outcomes recorded in: each data source; any data source; any health/death data source (Fig 1); and the 34 most common data source combinations (Fig 2).

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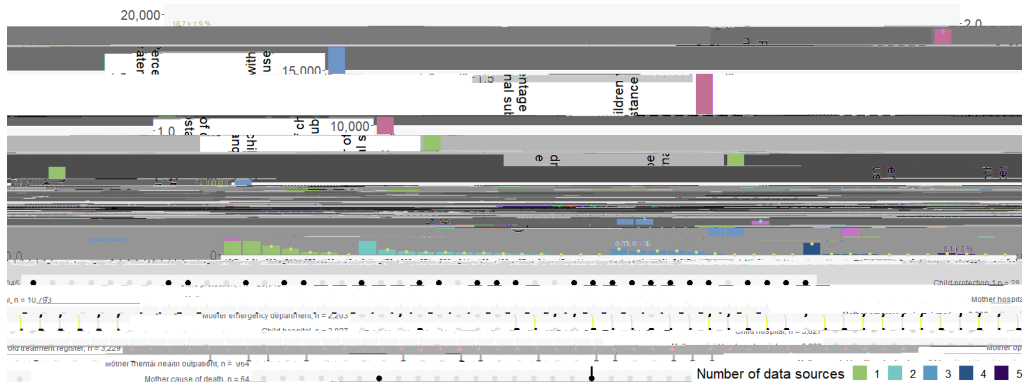
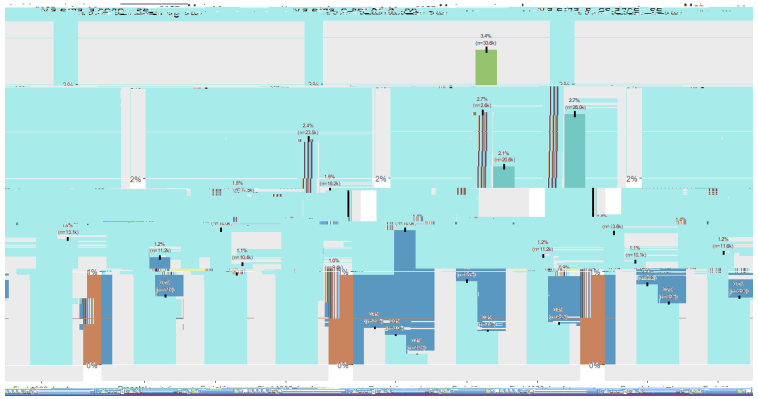
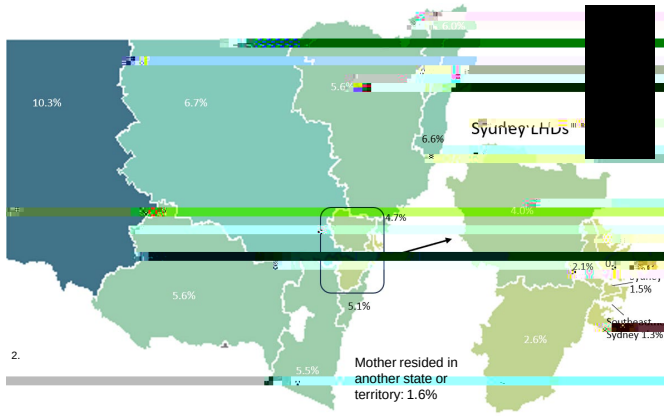
- 18,672 children had records of maternal/carer [a] substance use from child protection data alone (Fig 2). The next highest numbers of children with maternal substance use were ascertained from mother (3,283) , then child hospital records (3,057).







Maternal [a] substance use was more common in regional/remote LHDs (4.7-10.3%) than metropolitan LHDs (0.85- 5.1%) (Fig 3).

Health and social disadvantage at birth was more common among children with records of maternal/carer [a] substance use, compared with other children (
15%; younger mothers: 15% vs 2%; living in disadvantaged areas: 38% vs 21%).