EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title:

Psychological Distress and Acute Health Service Use: A Linked Data Study

Project Summary:

This project will investigate whether psychological distress, measured by the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10), predicts subsequent emergency department visits and hospitalisations in Western Australia. Drawing on HWSS data linked with administrative health records, the study will use time-to-event analyses to examine associations between elevated distress and acute care use, adjusting for demographic and health-related covariates. Subgroup analyses will explore variation by age, sex, and region to inform targeted mental health service planning. The findings will contribute to mental health demand forecasting and support policy development in integrated mental and physical health care.

Preferred Applicant Skillset:

Applicants should have training in epidemiology, biostatistics, or public health, with an interest in mental health or health services research. Experience with longitudinal or survival analysis and familiarity with R, Stata, or SAS is desirable but not essential. The candidate should have strong quantitative skills, an understanding of population health principles, and a willingness to work with linked administrative datasets under approved protocols. Training in WA data linkage systems and secure data handling will be provided.

Internship opportunity:

Yes – There is opportunity for collaboration with health policy partners for a suitable candidate.

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