



**PHRN** Population  
Health  
Research  
Network



## Post-natal screening for diabetes

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**NCRIS**   
National Research  
Infrastructure for Australia  
An Australian Government Initiative

# The Research

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM), is diagnosed during pregnancy when a woman's body cannot produce enough insulin and this results in high blood glucose levels. Women who have had GDM have an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. Current guidelines recommend that women diagnosed with GDM should be tested for diabetes at least every 2 to 3 years. This study investigated the rates of diabetes screening among women diagnosed with GDM in Far North Queensland in the years following the birth of their baby.

The researchers found that women who were diagnosed with GDM during pregnancy had low rates of screening for diabetes in the years following giving birth.

## HOW DID THE PHRN INFRASTRUCTURE HELP?

The Data Linkage Queensland (DLQ) linked Queensland hospital, midwives and laboratory data collection for the research team to analyse.

## AUTHORS/CONTRIBUTORS

Chamberlain C, McLean A, Oats J, Oldenburg B, Eades S, Sinha A, Wolfe R.

## REFERENCE

Chamberlain C, McLean A, Oats J, Oldenburg B, Eades S, Sinha A, Wolfe R. Low rates of postpartum glucose screening among indigenous and non-indigenous women in Australia with gestational diabetes. *Matern Child Health J.* 2015 Mar;19(3):651-63. Accessed 2 September 2016 <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10995-014-1555-3>

## Privacy and security

Privacy protection and data security lie at the heart of the Population Health Research Network. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information by government agencies and other agencies are bound by strict legislative and regulatory conditions. Researchers wishing to access linked data must also adhere to stringent conditions, including ethics approval, data custodian approval and the development of a detailed data security plan.

Researchers are typically given access to a linked data set put together to meet the specific needs of their project. This de-identified data includes only the minimum information required for the research, such as age rather than date of birth.

Government agencies handle personal information in highly-secure environments. Data is delivered to researchers through a secure remote access facility, ensuring no information is stored on the researcher's personal computer or their institutional network. Researchers cannot export raw data from this system, only their analyses, and these are checked.

Researchers must only use the data for the approved purpose and are not allowed to link any other information. At the conclusion of the project, all data must be destroyed or returned.

Penalties for researchers and government employees can include criminal conviction, jail time or substantial fines. In the more than ten years since the network began, there has never been a breach.

