OAG Office of the Auditor General
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The inherent value of raw data to auditing health services

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The below links to our 2019 audits provide access to the report content in an online format.

[Access to State-Managed Adult Mental Health Services](#)

This audit assessed whether people can access adult State-managed mental health services efficiently and effectively. The audit identified gaps in service delivery that left adult mental health sufferers often reliant on less suitable and higher cost care.

[An Analysis of the Department of Health's Data Relating to State-Managed Adult Mental Health Services from 2013 to 2017](#)

The audit involved an extensive data analytics exercise that provided a proof of concept to WA Health. It linked instances of care from in-patient, Emergency Department, and community treatment services to create anonymised patient journeys for 212,000 individuals accessing these services. These episodes allowed us to follow people's pathways across the State's mental health services over a 5-year period.

The report generated substantial engagement from the audited entities, members of Parliament, and the media. Most significant was the feedback from WA Health. The Department said it saw 'enormous value' in our data set and recognised the benefits an enduring linked data set would provide in better identifying patient needs and planning the most appropriate mix of services.

The WA Department of Health is now working to ensure the audit has an enduring impact on service delivery:

Enduring impact of audit

Department of Health has established an enduring Mental Health Linked Data Repository (MH LDR) to support more detailed clinical planning and analysis

MH LDR now available to metropolitan and regional Health Service Providers to assist with local planning and analysis

Department of Health has commenced detailed analytics to support enhanced system-wide mental health planning