

Ben Harrap

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Qualifications

2018 - Master of Biostatistics, University of Melbourne

2015 - Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Western Australia

2014 - Bachelor of Arts, University of Western Australia

Employment

Mar 2020 - Present, PhD Candidate, Indigenous Health and Epidemiology Group, University of Melbourne

In my PhD I am using linked administrative data to examine trends in contacts with the child protection system for Aboriginal children born in Western Australia. My research is focused on how the risk of contact varies, such as within families and across geographic regions, and the timing of contacts across childhood. I am also investigating the relationship between contacts with child protective services and the health of children using hospital records and other sources of health data. By using R and RMarkdown I have created a reproducible pipeline from data cleaning through to the finished write-ups.

Oct 2023 - Present, Quantitative Social Scientist, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

My work as a research fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research involves analysing many and varied datasets to answer a whole range of policy-relevant questions for First Nations organisations and government departments alike. I'm mindful to keep the context of the data in mind and avoid contributing BADDR data analyses.

Aug 2022 - Oct 2023, Biostatistician, Deakin University

I provided study design and statistical oversight for a randomised trial investigating the effectiveness of a low-intensity mental health support service in reducing diabetes distress. This includes sample size calculation, developing a statistical analysis plan and randomisation scheme, advising on technical challenges arising over the course of the trial, and analysing research data.

Sep 2021 - Present, Biostatistician, Grampians Health

I consult with clinicians engaged in research to support their study design and statistical analyses. This ranges from helping develop research questions and writing protocols to performing statistical analysis and interpreting results. I also developed educational materials and delivered seminars for clinicians on the topic of good research practices.

Sep 2019 - Jan 2023, Research Assistant, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity

As part of the International and Immigrant Health Group I provided statistical support to the research team. Major achievements include a systematic review of type 2 diabetes in resettled refugee and asylum seeker populations, and the development of a REDCap database and provision of on-site research training for local staff for a randomised pragmatic trial a dietary and lifestyle intervention in the Galiwin'ku community in the Northern Territory.

Apr 2018 - Jan 2022, Research Assistant, Centre for Health Policy, University of Melbourne

My role supported Emeritus Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne in the examination of skilled migration to Australia. Much of my work revolved around sourcing data, understanding its complexities, and summarising it to capture quantitative trends in skilled migration to Australia. Several ABS data products, including the census, were used, as well as administrative data from the Department of Home Affairs, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and the Occupational English Test. We also collaborated with Canadian colleagues to produce a comparison between Australia and Canada's migration programmes.

May 2019 - Feb 2020, Research Assistant, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne

In this short-term role I prepared the final wave of the Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life survey for release. This involved data cleaning, consistency checking, and updating the user manual to reflect changes to the survey, a process which was technical and required great attention to detail. I also worked as a data custodian, managing the secure transfer of data for research purposes. This role was challenging as I inherited a great deal of code with minimal documentation, however I spent the time to understand how it worked, added the necessary updates, and wrote my own documentation for future reference.

Grants

Scholarships

Jan 2022 - Science Meets Parliament 2022 registration - Statistical Society of Australia

Travel grants

Jul 2023 - Funding to attend ATSIMA2023 - Statistical Society of Australia

Sep 2022 - Funding to attend IPDLN2022 - International Population Data Linkage Network

Sep 2022 - Funding to attend IPDLN2022 - Melbourne Conference Scholarship

Professional Development

Workshops

Nov 2021 - A Crash Course in SQL

Jul 2021 - AMSI Winter School for Statistical Data Science

Dec 2020 - Data wrangling with R

Nov 2020 - Data visualisation with R

Oct 2020 - Semiparametric regression in R

Conferences

Oct 2023 - Attendee - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance Confernece

Sep 2022 - Presenter - International Population Data Linkage Network Conference

Dec 2021 - Attendee - 9th SNAICC Annual Conference

Jul 2021 - Presenter - The Early Career and Student Statisticians Conference

Nov 2020 - Attendee - International Population Data Linkage Network Conference

Oct 2018 - Presenter - International Metropolis Conference

Aug 2018 - Attendee - Joint International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and Australian Statistical Conference

Jul 2018 - Attendee - useR! Conference Brisbane

Research supervision

Mar 2023 - Present

Co-supervision of fourth-year psychology honours research: Madeley, B. *Intentions and preferences of adults with diabetes toward seeking psychological support.*

Mar 2023 - Present

Co-supervision of fourth-year psychology honours research: Chhatia, A. *Differences in coping self-efficacy between adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes and the association with emotional-well-being.*

Jul 2021 - Nov 2021

Co-supervision of medical student one-semester research project: Haussegger, Z. *Sleep and Mental Health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People: A retrospective data analysis.*

Jul 2021 - Nov 2021

Co-supervision of a medical student one-semester research project: Moffroid, H. *'Next Generation Youth Well-being Study: The importance of cultural connectedness for Aboriginal adolescent health and wellbeing.*

Awards

Aug 2022 - President's Award for Leadership in Statistics - Statistical Society of Australia

Feb 2021 - Winner, T-shirt design competition - Statistical Society of Australia

Memberships and Accreditations

2020 - Present, Member, International Population Data Linkage Network

2018 - 2026, Accredited Graduate Statistician, Statistical Society of Australia

2017 - Present, Member, Statistical Society of Australia

Volunteering

Dec 2018 - Present, Various Roles, Statistical Society of Australia

I have worn many hats in my time volunteering for the SSA. Currently I am the President of the Victorian and Tasmanian branch, which involves coordinating our strategic planning, managing a team, and maintaining relationships with external organisations. Other notable contributions to the Society include helping organise the Early Career and Student Statistician Conference 2021, conducting a survey and writing a report on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in statistics, writing an EDI recommendations document for the Society, and administration of a community Slack channel.

Publications

Journal articles

- Darvall, JN, Wang, A, Nazeem, MN, Harrison, CL, Clarke, L, Mendoza, C, Parker, A, Harrap, B, Teale, G, Story, D, & Hessian, E 2020, 'A Pedometer-Guided Physical Activity Intervention for Obese Pregnant Women (the Fit MUM Study): Randomized Feasibility Study' *JMIR mHealth and uHealth*, vol. 8, no. 5, p. e15112, doi: 10.2196/15112.
- Dissanayake, H, Tynan, J, Braat, S, Guruwiwi, G, Hanieh, S, Harrap, B, Ganggulkpuy, J, Hayman, T, Clark, B, Brimblecombe, J, Armstrong, E, Spencer, M, Christie, M, Tonkin, E, Harrison, L, Wentworth, J, & Biggs, B-A In publication, 'Study protocol for a single arm trial to evaluate a Community-led Lifestyle and Nutrition program in a remote Aboriginal Australian community in NE Arnhem Land (CLAN)' *BMC Public Health*.
- Eaton, S, Harrap, B, Downey, L, Thien, K, Bowtell, M, Bardell-Williams, M, Ratheesh, A, McGorry, P, & O'Donoghue, B 2019, 'Incidence of treated first episode psychosis from an Australian early intervention service and its association with neighbourhood characteristics' *Schizophrenia Research*, vol. 209, pp. 206–211, doi: 10.1016/j.schres.2019.04.017.
- Harrap, B, Gibberd, A, O'Donnell, M, Simons, K, Jones, J, Lima, F, McAullay, D, Falster, K, Banks, E, & Eades, S 2023, 'Cumulative incidence of child protection system contacts among a cohort of western australian aboriginal children born 2000 to 2013' *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 143, p. 106297, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106297>.
- Harrap, B, Hawthorne, L, Holland, M, McDonald, JT, & Scott, A 2021, 'Australia's superior skilled migration outcomes compared with Canada's' *International Migration*, doi: 10.1111/imig.12940.
- Harrap, TAR, Benjamin AND Taylor 2023, 'A randomised controlled trial of email versus mailed invitation letter in a national longitudinal survey of physicians' *PLOS ONE*, vol. 18, no. 8, pp. 1–13, doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0289628.
- Holloway, EE, Gray, S, Mihalopoulos, C, Versace, VL, Gautier, RL, Chatterton, ML, Hagger, V, Halliday, J, Henshaw, K, Harrap, B, Manallack, S, Black, T, Bruggen, NV, Hines, C, O'Neil, A, Skinner, TC, Speight, J, & Hendrieckx, C In publication, 'Low Intensity mental health Support via a Telehealth Enabled Network for adults with diabetes (LISTEN): Protocol for a hybrid type 1 effectiveness implementation trial' *Trials*.

Other

- Harrap, B, Kasza, J, De La Mata, N, Scurrah, K, Lamb, K, Spittal, M, van Burgel, M, Wijesuriya, R 2022, 'The Statistical Society of Australia Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Survey Report 2022', *Statistical Society of Australia*, Canberra, <https://statsoc.org.au/resources/Documents/Governance/SSA-2021-EDI-Survey-Report.pdf>
- Szawlowski, S, Harrap, B, Leahy, A, Scott, A 2019. 'MABEL User Manual: Wave 11 Release', *Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne*, https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0006/3347430/MABEL-User-Manual-Wave-11.pdf

Presentations

Conferences

- Harrap, B., Gibberd, A., O'Donnell, M., Simons, K., Eades, S. 2022. Reflections as a settler person doing research in collaboration with Indigenous peoples. *International Journal of Population Data Science*. 2022 Aug 25;7(3):1969. doi: 10.23889/ijpds.v7i3.1969. PMID: PMC9645033.
- Harrap, B., Gibberd, A., O'Donnell, M., Simons, K., Eades, S. 2022. Trends in the removal of Aboriginal children in Western Australia.. *International Journal of Population Data Science*. 2022 Aug 25;7(3):1970.

doi: 10.23889/ijpds.v7i3.1970. PMCID: PMC9644928.

Harrap, B. 2021. What I didn't learn at university. In Early Career & Student Statisticians Conference Proceedings 2021. *7th Conference of the Early Career & Student Statisticians Network (Australia)*, (pp. 26). Statistical Society of Australia. URL: <https://statsoc.org.au/ECSSC>

Hawthorne, L., Harrap, B 2019. Health Workforce Migration to Australia - Trends and Issues 2008-2019, *International Metropolis Conference 2019*

Hawthorne, L., Short, S., Sampford, C., Breakey, H., Diocera, D., Marcus, K., Ransome, W., Harrap, B 2018. Australia compared to Canada's level of reliance on skilled health worker migration - the latest policy developments, *International Metropolis Conference 2018*

Seminars

Harrap, B. 2021. Research from a statistician's perspective. *BHS Symposium: Research 'On the Run' 2021*. Ballarat Health Services

Harrap, B. 2021, The health of Aboriginal children in Western Australia and its intersection with the child protection system, *LifeCourse Data Linkage Interest Group*

References

Dr Alison Gibberd - Research Fellow, Melbourne University E: alison.gibberd@unimelb.edu.au T: 0404 665 256

Professor Sandra Eades - Associate Dean (Indigenous), Professor, Melbourne University E: sandra.eades@unimelb.edu.au T: 0402 653 107