Annual Report
2014
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1 Introduction from the Chief Investigators

The past twelve months have been a challenging but productive time for the Ten to Men team. Wave 1 data collection is nearing its conclusion and the development of the study infrastructure has progressed considerably.

One of the major tasks of the past twelve months was making major decisions about the data collection methodology for the study and re-scoping the cohort size as a result. A lengthy process of consultation was undertaken involving the study's Steering Committee and External Scientific Advisory Group, collaborators and the Department of Health in addition to detailed analysis of implications of a reduction in cohort size for analysis power and addressing key research questions. The result of this process was the decision to adopt a household recruitment method. Household recruitment is much more resource intensive than the mail-out method originally planned and therefore adoption of this method resulted in a revised cohort target of approximately 20,000 males. While this represents a considerable reduction from the original target of 58,000 it remains a substantial and unique cohort and extensive power analysis have demonstrated that with a cohort this size a wide range of relevant research questions can be investigated.

In terms of continuing development of the study infrastructure to support the long-term aims and success of the study, a great deal has been achieved in the past twelve months. Approval for linkage with Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data has been obtained, and approval for linkage with National Death Index is pending. Ten to Men is leading a consortium of national longitudinal studies in a proposal for developing a national geo-spatial data resource for linkage under the auspices of the AURIN II project. The data management infrastructure development is well underway, with key policies and procedures for the storage and security of study data in place, and policies and procedures for data access for external researchers, data preservation and digitisation are in development. After considerable research and consultation, a system has been chosen for the Respondent Management System – a key piece of data infrastructure for a longitudinal study – and the Ten to Men team are currently working with the developers to build the system. In addition the first implementation of cohort maintenance and tracking has been conducted – following up the men and boys who joined the pilot studies.

The past year has seen Ten to Men increasing its visibility among the male health community through presentations at conferences and the annual workshop. In addition the profile of the study in the wider community has been enhanced by the launch of the study’s social media presence and an upgrade of the study website. A targeted local media campaign in support of Wave 1 recruitment was conducted with a number of print and radio interviews taking place, including in the national media. The Ten to Men Community Reference Group had its inaugural meeting in October 2013 providing valuable linkages between the study and the broader male health community. Interest in and support for the study are very strong and we hope to continue to build on this to establish the study as a key contributor to male health and wellbeing in Australia.
As Wave 1 data collection enters its final stages, our attention shifts to how to make best use of this valuable resource both through maximising the use and productiveness of the Wave 1 data and in planning for Wave 2 in order to enrich and extend the dataset. The real contribution of the study will come from knowledge gained over its longitudinal course. The considerable investment of resources, time, effort, and goodwill by all stakeholders in Ten to Men has supported the work of the study team in establishing a firm foundation for gathering the data to enable the study to meet its aim of strengthening the knowledge base on male health as a resource for the development of programs and policies to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian males.

Professor Dallas English

Professor Jane Pirkis
2 Study Personnel & Committees

2.1 Study Team

The Ten to Men study team from left to right: Dr Marisa Schlichthorst (Research Fellow), Mr Wayne Davidson (Communications/Administration Officer), Ms Rachel Koelmeyer (Research Fellow), Professor Dallas English (Co-Chief Investigator), Professor Jane Pirkis (Co-Chief Investigator), Dr Dianne Currier (Study Coordinator), and Mr Robert Lukins (Administration Officer)

Wayne Davidson joined the team in May 2013. Wayne has a background in project and administration work in a media context and works on the study’s social media, website and traditional media activities as well as providing administrative support.

2.2 Steering Committee

The Study Steering Committee met several times to contribute their knowledge and experience in crucial areas of study design and operational issues. Over the past year the steering committee has played a major role in reviewing and decision making on the study methods.

Membership of the Steering Committee comprises: Professor Jane Pirkis, Professor Dallas English, Professor Anne Kavanagh, Professor John Hopper, Professor Shyamali Dharmage, Professor Billie Giles-Corti, A/Professor Lena Sanci, Professor David Studdert, Professor Jane Gunn, Professor John Carlin, A/Professor Jane Hocking, Professor George Patton, Professor Louisa Degenhardt, Dr Jo Williams, Dr Matt Spittal and Dr Belinda Lloyd.
Mr Paul White has left the committee as he has left the University research sector. Professor David Studdert has relocated to Stanford University in the USA, but retains a joint appointment with The University of Melbourne and remains an active member of the committee.

2.3 Technical Advisory Group

This group contributed to the finalising of methods and data collection protocols for Wave 1. Members of this group were also involved in evaluating tenders for provision of services for data collection for Wave 1 data collection.

Membership of the External Scientific Advisory Group comprises: Professor Jane Pirkis, Professor Dallas English, Professor Anne Kavanagh, Professor John Hopper, Professor Shyamali Dharmage, Professor Billie Giles-Corti, A/Professor Lena Sanci, Professor David Studdert, Professor Tony Scott, Professor Nick Crofts, Professor Robin Room, Professor Jane Gunn, Professor Christopher Fairley, Professor John Carlin, Professor Margaret Kelaher, A/Professor Jane Hocking, Professor Tony LaMontagne, Dr Louise Keogh, Professor George Patton, Professor Louisa Degenhardt, Professor David Ames, Dr Jo Williams, Dr Matt Spittal, Dr Belinda Lloyd, Dr Noel Faux has joined the committee as a data management specialist.

2.4 External Scientific Advisory Group

The External Scientific Advisory Group has met on several occasions in the past 12 months. The main focus of the meetings was discussing the implications and offering advice on the question of data collection method and sample size for the study.

Sally Goodspeed (Department of Health), Ben Edwards (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), Melissa Wake (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), Emily Banks (45 & Up), Rob Moodie (Nossal Institute for Global Health), John McDonald (Men’s Information & Resource Centre, University of Western Sydney), Annette Dobson (Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health), Osvaldo Almeida (Centre for Medical Research, University of Western Australia), and John Glover (Public Health Information Development Unit, University of Adelaide).

2.5 Data Linkage Steering Committee

The Data Linkage Steering Committee has met in the past twelve months. Members of the committee provided feedback and advice to the study during the process of seeking DoHA and DHS approval for linkage with MBS and PBS data. The committee is reviewing the proposed Data Access for External Researchers policy and procedures.

Membership of the Data Linkage Steering Group comprises: Louisa Jorm (University of Western Sydney), Dallas English (Ten to Men), Jane Pirkis (Ten to Men), Dianne Currier (Ten to Men), Ian McLean (Department of Health), Phil Anderson (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare), Di Rosman (WA Department of Health), and Martin Butler (Department of Health). Additional representation from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has been included on an informal basis.
2.6 **Community Reference Group**

The first round of recruitment for Ten to Men Community reference group was successfully conducted, and the CRG held its inaugural meeting in Brisbane on 21 October 2013. At that meeting analysis priorities for Wave 1 data, priority areas to consider for Wave 2, avenues for broader engagement with the male health community and with males in the community in general, and recruiting additional members to the CRG were discussed.

Current membership of the Community Reference Group comprises: Jonathan Bedloe (Australasian Men’s Health Forum), Greg Millan (Men’s Health Services), Shaun Staunton (National LGBTI Health Alliance), Aram Hosie (Inspire Foundation), Tass Mousaferiadis (*beyondblue* Men’s Program Leader), Peter Kelly (Male Health Victoria), Gary Green (Australian Men's Shed Association), Gary Misan (National Rural Health Alliance).

3 **Key Activities and Outcomes**

3.1 **Wave 1 revision and re-scoping**

Analysis of response from the mail-out Dress Rehearsal conducted in late 2012 made it clear that the response rate that could be expected from a mail-out methodology was much lower than expected. In early 2013 a second pilot study using a household recruitment methodology was undertaken and generated improved response rates. Given the more resource intensive nature of household recruiting, adopting this method had implications for the size of the cohort. An extensive process of consultation with the External Scientific Advisory Board, the Study Steering and Technical Committees, and the Department of Health, including the production of detailed power analyses and discussion papers resulted in a decision to adopt the household recruitment method. Following that decision a revised sampling plan and new data collection protocols were developed, and approvals sought from the University Human Research Ethics Committee for amendments to the approved protocols.

3.2 **Appointment of a data collection sub-contractor**

In March 2013, a Request for Tender for Wave 1 data collection was issued. In accordance with the University of Melbourne’s procurement procedures, tenders were received, evaluated, a preferred supplier selected, and the selection approved by the Major Tender Board. On 4 June 2013 Roy Morgan Research was commissioned to provide of Wave 1 data collection and processing services.

3.3 **Wave 1 pre-field work**

From early June to mid-September 2013 an intensive period of pre-field preparation was undertaken. The Ten to Men study team worked closely with Roy Morgan Research project staff on preparation of the study documentation, formatting the questionnaires, developing the data dictionaries and data processing conventions, refining details of in-field recruitment
protocols, providing input to training materials and attending briefings of field interviewers, testing the computer aided personal interview for the 10-14-year-old participants, scheduling clinical support and so on.

### 3.4 Wave 1 data collection

Wave 1 data collection was divided into two periods – Period 1 from 8 September 2013 until 8 December 2013 and Period 2 commencing on 2 January 2014 scheduled to conclude mid-2014. The pre-field period was compressed due to the necessity of revising the study design and consequent delay in initiating the tender process. Therefore a soft launch was implemented in period one in order to identify operational issues before scaling up to full recruitment. This proved invaluable as a range of issues were identified in: project management by Roy Morgan Research, interviewer performance, data processing and delivery and so on. Moreover, as the pilot for the Household recruitment method had been small, Period 1 data collection provided additional insight into expected response rates.

An intensive period of refinement was undertaken early in 2014 to address issues which had become apparent in Period 1 data collection. Project staffing was boosted, additional interviewers briefed and deployed, protocols adjusted to maximise recruitment and minimise data loss through invalid consent or non-returned questionnaires. Improvements in key recruitment metrics including the number of households contacted and number of questionnaires returned have been seen in period two as a result. Period 2 data collection is currently underway.

### 3.5 Data management and analysis

A comprehensive data dictionary was produced for the four questionnaires. These dictionaries performed well in the pilot studies and only minor adjustments were made for the main data collection. An additional data dictionary was developed for the household form, which is used by field interviewers to record the numbers, relationships and agreement or refusal to participate of in-scope males in every household contacted. A full set of data cleaning, verification and coding rules were developed in collaboration with the Roy Morgan Research data team.

Substantial progress has been made in establishing the ongoing data management infrastructure and procedures for the study. Decisions regarding storage and security of electronic and hard-copy records, digitisation procedures, and data access protocols have been made. After a process of research, consultation and evaluation a system was chosen for the study Respondent Management System, a key piece of study infrastructure. A web-based digital asset management system (Mediaflux) was chosen, and development of the system is currently well underway.

### 3.6 Ethics

Approval was granted to modify the data collection method to household recruitment in June 2013.
3.7 Sampling

Following the shift to a household recruitment method, the sampling plan was amended to use census areas SA1s as the primary sampling unit rather than postcodes as had been the intention for the mail-out method. The original framework of the sample design was retained including oversampling regional areas, clustering, not stratifying by state, and random selection of sampling units (SA1s) proportional to size. A list of SA1s was drawn, stratified by region and the agreed number of SA1s (517) were selected sequentially from the list. All states and territories have some representation in the sample.

3.8 Data Linkage

Approval was obtained in May 2013 from Department of Health Ethics Committee custodians of the data, and in August 2013 from the Department of Human Services, administrators of the data, for linkage of Ten to Men primary survey data with data from the Medicare Benefits Schedule and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has given informal agreement to act as the Integrating Authority when the study is ready to conduct the first linkage.

In November 2013, an application for linkage with the National Death Index was made to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Ethics Committee. That application was approved in April 2014.

3.9 Annual Workshop

In October 2013 the second Ten to Men Annual Workshop was held in Brisbane as a pre-conference event at the 2013 Australasian Men’s Health Gathering. Attendance was improved over the previous year, and included representatives from male health organisations including the Men’s Health Information and Resource Centre, NSW Men’s Health Forum, Wheatbelt Men’s Health, Men Alive Australia, Foundation 49, Male Health Victoria, Australian Men’s Health Forum, Australian Institute of Men’s Health Studies, universities including the University of Western Sydney, the University of Newcastle, Leeds Metropolitan University, Queensland University of Technology, the University of Queensland, and the University of South Australia, and other interested organisations including the Sustainable Minerals Institute, the Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases and beyondblue.

The first hour of the session was a presentation by Co-chief investigator Jane Pirkis followed by an hour of discussion.

Attendees were enthusiastic at the prospect of the wealth of data and new knowledge the study will generate, supportive of the University of Melbourne’s efforts in implementing the study, and unanimously agreed that this is an extremely important undertaking that will have long term benefits for Australian males and the country as a whole. For the Study Team the workshop provided useful feedback on the study design and implementation to date, a valuable opportunity to make contact with other researchers in the area, and a number of interesting suggestions to be considered in the planning for Wave 2.
In 2014, contingent on ongoing funding of the study, the Annual Workshop will present preliminary data from Wave 1 and will focus on informing external researchers on how to access and use the data.

### 3.10 Other conferences & presentations & information dissemination activities

1. Presentation: Hunting and Gathering. Finding and following Australian males to investigate their health.
   Jane Pirkis
   Ministers Male Health Reference Group
   19 April 2013
   Melbourne.

   Marisa Schlichthorst & Dallas English
   Australasian Men’s Health Gathering
   24 October 2013
   Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

   Jane Pirkis & Dianne Currier
   21 October 2013
   Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.
   (Satellite event to the Australasian Men’s Health Gathering)

4. Presentation: Ten to Men: Now and Then. Where we’re at with the Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health and how we got there.
   Dallas English & Jane Pirkis
   School of Population & Global Health Seminar
   6 November 2013
   University of Melbourne

In September 2013 and January 2014 press releases were sent to local news outlets in the areas where recruitment would be occurring to raise the profile of the study to support recruitment. This resulted in a number of reports, including print and radio interviews with the Chief-Investigators and Study Coordinator, including one report in a national newspaper (The Australian).

### 3.11 Study Website

Phase one of the study website went live in 2012. It is located at [www.tentomen.org.au](http://www.tentomen.org.au). Work is currently underway on phase two which is building a dedicated participant area, where participants will be able to update personal information and access participant specific information. Phase 3 development will occur later in 2013 and involves the researcher area including requests for access to study data, provision the Wave 1 data books, a Wave 1 Data User Manual, copies of the questionnaires and so on.
4 Timelines

As is to be expected with such a large and logistically complex study, timelines have been revised in response to unanticipated changes on the ground. Re-scoping the study and changing methodology introduced delay into the procurement process, and responding to the initial results from the field in period one likewise shifted estimated completion times. Wave 1 data collection is on track to be completed in June 2014. Should the opportunity for proposed additional recruitment be realised, recruitment will be complete by early August 2014.