1810 articles identified under search terms

621 full articles reviewed

33 articles included in the review

- 473 excluded based on title and abstract not relating to data linkage (e.g. e-health, electronic medical records)

- 385 articles excluded for being letters/commentaries

- 331 excluded based on title and abstract not indicating that the study reported results (e.g. study design, methodological articles)

- 547 excluded due to use of data linkage project without evaluation between matched and unmatched cases

- 32 excluded due to describing a linkage method without evaluation of the quality

- 9 duplicate reports