

Hertfordshire Cohort Study

Abstract

The Hertfordshire Cohort Study (HCS) comprises a nationally unique study of 3,000 men and women born during the period 1931-1939 and still resident in the English county of Hertfordshire during the 1990s. The HCS was initiated, developed and maintained by the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit, University of Southampton.

The principal objective of the study is to evaluate the relationship between early (prenatal and early postnatal) growth, genetic influences, adult lifestyles and the risk of common age-related disorders such as osteoporosis, sarcopenia, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The NHS Central Register at Southport was used to trace men and women whose birth and infant data were recorded. Information available on these individuals includes birth weight (recorded by the attending midwife), weight at age one year (recorded by a health visitor), the method of infant feeding, and details of childhood illnesses up to age five years.

At follow-up, medical and social histories have been ascertained, as well as detailed anthropometry, blood pressure, glucose tolerance, fasting serum cholesterol and triglycerides, bone density and physical performance. DNA on all participants has been collected and is stored in the Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit. Participants are flagged for continuous notification of death on the NHS Central Register.

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Sample

hcs_overall - HCS Overall Universe

HCS Overall Universe

Men and women born in Hertfordshire between 1931 and 1939 who were still resident and registered with a GP in Hertfordshire in the 1990s.

Funding Information

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Study Relationships

Datasets

No specified relationship

Instruments

No specified relationship

Language

No formal relationship - not a factor of grouping

Panel

No specified relationship

Geography

No specified relationship

Time

No specified relationship