Life Study

An overview for the Health & Wellbeing Board

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Life Study
UCL Institute of Child Health

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http://www.lifestudy.ac.uk/
Vision

Life Study

- aims to become a world-leading research study used to understand and improve the lives of children and their families
- is large in scale and innovative in design
- will follow children through to adult life starting in pregnancy with a strong focus on the first year of life
- will provide insights into pathways leading to life long health and well being and the interplay between biology, behaviour and the broader social, physical and economic environment
- will inform health and social policies in areas of major importance to the lives of UK children now
## UK Birth Cohorts

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<td>5,362</td>
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<td>NCDS</td>
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<td>BCS70</td>
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<td>13,818</td>
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</table>

- **Births recruited (n)**
  - 1946: 5,362
  - 1958: 17,773
  - 1970: 16,135
  - 1991: 14,541
  - 2000-1: 18,819
  - 2007-10: 13,818

- **Pregnancy**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □

- **Birth**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □

- **4 & 8 wks**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □

- **6 & 8 mos**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □

- **9 mos**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □

- **1 year**
  - 1946: □
  - 1958: □
  - 1970: □
  - 1991: □
  - 2000-1: □
  - 2007-10: □
## Life Study – part of a powerful legacy

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<td>1 week</td>
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<td>16 months</td>
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| Births recruited (n) | 5,362 | 17,773 | 16,135 | 14,541 | 18,819 | 13,818 | > 80,000 |

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<th>Period of recruitment</th>
<th>1 week</th>
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<th>43 months</th>
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1birth sample not included in pregnancy visit
Infections, immunity, asthma & allergies: the ‘hygiene hypothesis’

Low iodine may lead to literacy problems

Cognitive development

Disorders of social & emotional communication

Obesity, activity, sedentary behaviours

Pollutants
Who can join Life Study, how many and how?

- More than 60,000 mothers and their partners will take part in Life Study starting during their pregnancy

- Another 20,000 mothers and their partners living across the United Kingdom are being contacted after their baby is born

- We hope to have more than 200,000 people in our study eventually - this will take 4-5 years just to enrol this number

- BHRUT is the first NHS Trust to join Life Study and a special Life Study clinic is opening at King George’s Hospital

- We see babies twice in their first year and will stay in touch as they grow up to learn more about the special early years of life
What kinds of information are we interested in?

Parents
- Identity
- Health
- Lifestyle
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Relationships
- Pregnancy and birth

Infants
- Health
- Growth
- Development
- Sleeping and crying
- Feeding
- Parenting
- Childcare

The environment
- Housing
- Social networks
- Neighbourhoods
- Environmental pollutants
Why King George’s and Queen’s Hospital?

• BHRUT is committed to excellence in women and children’s health, to research and to developing health and social care services for the wider community
• Life Study focuses on many health, social and other issues of concern to the local population
• By working together we can develop Life Study in Barking Havering and Redbridge through childhood and into adolescence
• This will create a valuable resource of information for the local community and for Life Study

Find out more on our website!
Life Study: 
understanding lives now and for the future

Scientific Director: Professor Carol Dezateux

http://www.lifestudy.ac.uk

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