

Longitudinal birth cohort and family-based studies of morbidity, mortality and social disadvantage: a consortium application on sharing data, family designs and methods (BIRTHFAM)



Consortium:

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To gain a fuller understanding of the social and genetic determinants of poor health and social disadvantage, our consortium will construct an internationally unique cluster of family cohorts to provide a more comprehensive basis for life-course epidemiology and causal inference. The consortium will develop family cohort data that allow examination of multigenerational persistence of poor health and social disadvantage, heritability and familial clustering of ill health, and changes in the importance of early life circumstances for adult health across time. We will merge and update existing twin and register-based family data sets, adapt new study designs and methods, organize training, and build an international research network for sharing expertise and promoting access to these exceptional data. We build research infrastructure with diversity and flexibility for long-term research needs and innovative ideas yet to surface.