

MRC National Survey of Health and Development Cohort /1946 Birth Cohort

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/cohort/mrc-national-survey-of-health-and-development-cohort-1946-birth-cohort/>

Cohort Acronym

NSHD/ 1946BC

Cohort type

General population-based cohort

Disease

Dementia (unclassified), Subjective memory complaints (SMC) or subjective cognitive decline (SCD)

Participant type

No diagnosis

Profile

Recruitment Period 1946

Sample size at start or planned sample size if still recruiting 2800

Estimated Current Sample Size 0 to 4,999

Age at Recruitment 0

Gender Male and Female

Abstract

The NSHD has informed UK health care, education and social policy for more than 70 years and is the oldest and longest running of the British birth cohort studies. Today, with study members in their seventies, the NSHD offers a unique opportunity to explore the long-term biological and social processes of ageing and how ageing is affected by factors acting across the whole of life. From an initial maternity survey of 13,687 of all births recorded in England, Scotland and Wales during one week of March, 1946, a socially stratified sample of 5,362 singleton babies born to married parents was selected for follow-up. This sample comprises the NSHD cohort and participants have been studied 24 times throughout their life.

During their childhood, the main aim of the NSHD was to investigate how the environment at home and at school affected physical and mental development and educational attainment. During adulthood, the main aim was to investigate how childhood health and development and lifetime social circumstances affected their adult health and function and how these change with age.

Now, as participants reach retirement, the research team is developing the NSHD into a life course study of ageing. Study members completed a postal questionnaire in 2014 and participated in a home visit in 2015/16, where data on health, lifestyle and life circumstances as well as obtaining repeat physical and cognitive measurements were collected. Over the past two years, a subset of 500 study members were invited to participate in a neuroimaging sub-study and over the next two years they will be recalled for a follow-up. This study will be conducted in collaboration with the Institute of Neurology, UCL.

NSHD is part of CLOSER (Cohort & Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources) which aims to maximise the use, value and impact of the UK's longitudinal studies.

NSHD is part of the Dementias Platform UK (DPUK), a multi-million pound public-private partnership to accelerate progress in dementias research <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/facilities/dementias-platform-uk>

Last update: 19/12/2016

Country United Kingdom

Contact details

Institution name University College, London

Website <http://www.nshd.mrc.ac.uk>

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Funders (Core support) Medical Research Council

Variables Collected

Brain related measures:

Cognitive function, Mental health, Neurological

Functional rating:

Caregiver, Individual physiological, Individual psychological

Anthropometric:

Blood pressure, Height, Hip circumference, Waist circumference, Weight

Physical:

Cardiovascular, Hearing and Vision, Musculoskeletal, Respiratory

Biological samples:

Blood, Other, Saliva, Urine

Genotyping:

Gene screening

Brain imaging:

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Positron emission tomography (PET) - amyloid

Brain banking:

Consent for brain donation

Lifestyle:

Alcohol, Dietary habits, Physical activity, Smoking

Socio-economic:

Education, Ethnic group, Family circumstances, Housing and accommodation, Income and finances, Informal support, Marital status, Occupation and employment, Unpaid care

Health service utilisation:

Formal health and social care service utilisation including private care

