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Design of the **ELSPAC** Longitudinal Cohort Study

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Overview

- ELSPAC International
- ELSPAC Czech Republic
- Current status and plans for the future



ELSPAC International



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Background information

- **ELSPAC** = The European Longitudinal Study of Pregnancy and Childhood
- **WHO initiated study** (Regional office for Europe in Copenhagen)
- Pilot phase **initiated in the late 1980's**
- **Data collection** started in early 1990's



Study Aims

- **Studied factors**

- **Biological** (e.g. breast feeding vs. formula feeding)
- **Environmental** (e.g. mothers medication during pregnancy, exposure to weed killers)
- **Social** (e.g. parental education)
- **Psychological** (e.g. family relationships)
- **Economic factors** (e.g. income)

- **Studied outcomes**

- **Pregnancy** (e.g. preterm pregnancy)
- **Birth outcomes** (SC vs. vaginal deliveries, APGAR)
- **Subsequent child development** (psychomotor development, health in general)



Study Design

- **Prospective**
- **Longitudinal** (starting in early 1990's)
- **Observational** character (minimal intervention)
- Study covered a **whole defined geographical areas**
- Mothers were **enrolled as early as possible**
- **Live-births as well as fetal deaths** were followed up
- Planned to **follow up children** until the **age of 15**



Data Collection

- All information deemed **highly confidential**
- **Self completion questionnaires** filled in by mothers, partners and later by children
- Linkage to **obtainable health records**
- **Collected data**
 - Groups of questions **same for all teams**
 - Country / culture **specific questions**



Involved Countries

- **UK** – County of Avon
- **Czech Republic** – Brno and Znojmo region
- **Greece** – Athens
- **Isle of Man** – centre - city of Douglas
- **Russia** – city of Yaroslavl
- **Slovakia** – Bratislava region
- **Ukraine** – 5 major cities

- **In total enrolled 40 000 children**



ELSPAC Czech Republic



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ELSPAC in the Czech Republic



Specifics of the design in the Czech Republic

- **7 500** study participating **families**
- **Enrolment** 1991–1992
- Currently under the auspice of **Masaryk University, Brno**

- **Data collected**
 - Self completion questionnaires
 - Medical records
 - Obstetric records
 - Hospital admissions
 - Pediatric records
 - F2F antropometric assessments
 - **Dental health assessments**
 - **Psychological assessments of the sub-cohort**



Data Collection Process

- Ethics committee approval
- Informed consent form
- Communication with the participants
 - Mail
 - invitation letters for each phase
 - Questionnaires
 - Reminders
 - Phone (reminders)
 - F2F visits (assessments, reminders)



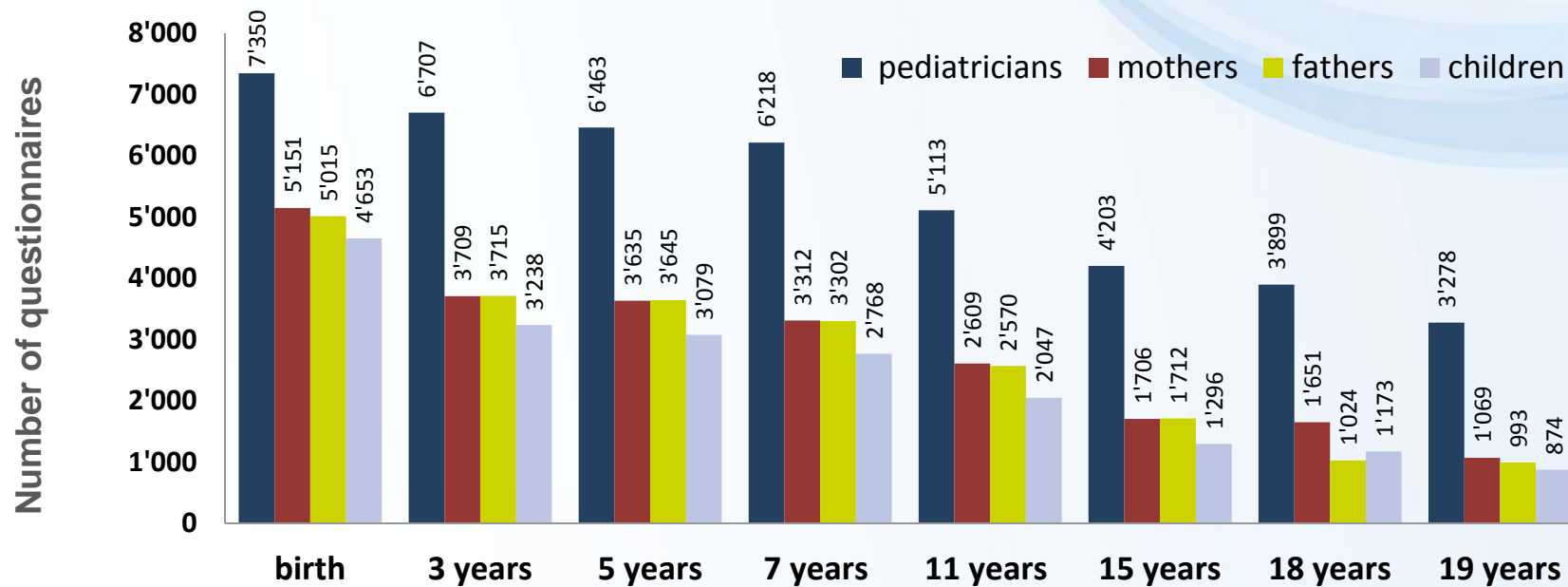
Current status and plans for the future



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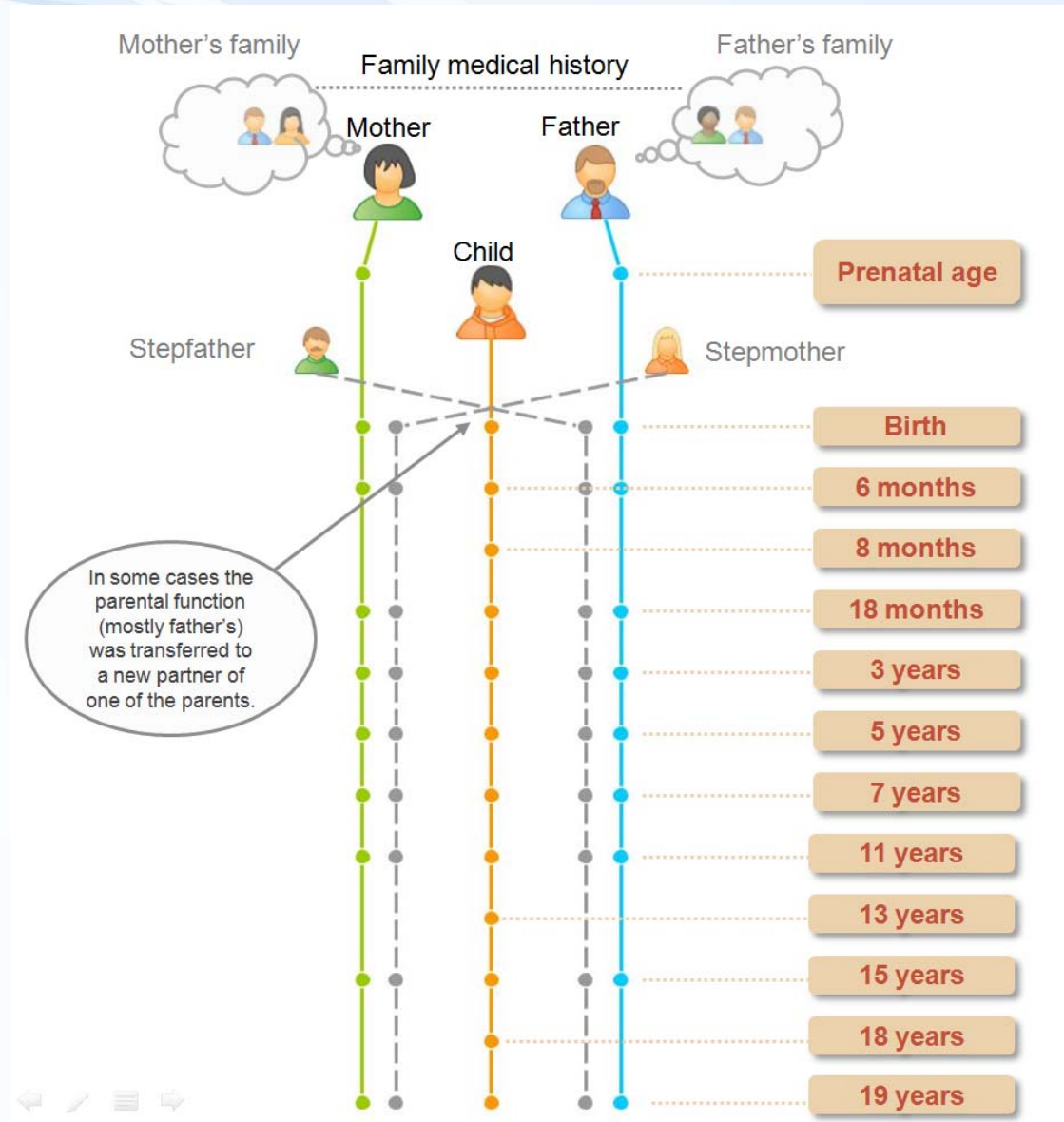
Drop out Rates

Cohort of ELSPAC presents **7 589 children** and their families,
(5 738 from Brno; 1 851 from Znojmo district).
Data collected into paper questionnaires.



Follow up Periods, Observed Population

- 13 distinctive observation periods
- Respondents
 - Mothers
 - Fathers
 - Children (11th year)
- 6x F2F assessments



What we do now?

- **Specific analyses** of topics of interest.
- Publications mainly in national journals.
- **Coding** all questionnaires into SPSS database.
- **Data cleaning.**
- **Descriptive analyses.**
- **Building** of the **scientific team.**
- The next generation cohort study.



Welcome to the website of the ELSPAC study

... website of a unique scientific study that has been following factors which might influence health of one generation of children in the South Moravian Region for more than 20 years. The study involves 7.589 children, their parents, teachers, paediatricians, psychologists and dentists.

This website provides basic information about the study for anyone, as well as information for participants and for cooperating research teams.

You can become an active participant in the study or a cooperating researcher. If you are interested in the study, please [contact us](#).

We would like to thank all those who have participated in the study, as well as those who have helped to carry it out. We hope to stay in touch with all of you.

ELSPAC news

17.10.2013

[ELSPAC results published](#)



ELSPAC CZ eBrowser

HEALTH & SOCIAL INDICATORS
OF THE CZECH POPULATION

EXAMPLES OF DATA FROM THE
STUDY (1992-2013)



AVAILABLE ANALYSES



Child



Mother



Father

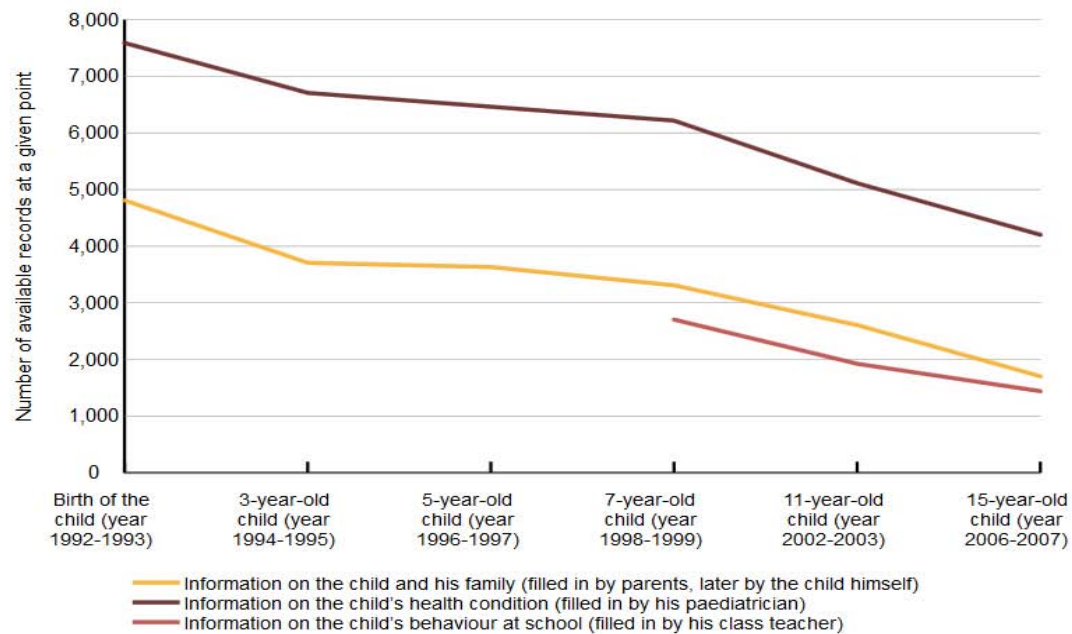


Parents



Data of the ELSPAC study come from three basic sources: families, paediatricians and class teachers of the followed-up children. Some families have become lost to follow-up in the course of time (the move away and lose contact, or opt to withdraw from the study); nevertheless, a relatively robust sample of data is available even for the point when followed-up children were 15 years old.

Number of participating families



Sort by:

- Child's gender
- Child's birth order
- Birth complications
- Parents' age
- Comparison with the Czech population

Tools:

- Show table
- Help



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Thank you very much for your attention.
I am happy to answer your questions.

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