General study goal

Understand how the environment, from pre-birth to adulthood, affects child’s development, health, socialisation and school career
Elfe Steering Committee

Elfe study is managed by:
- National Institute of Demographic Studies (Ined)
- National Institute of Health & Medical Research (Inserm)
- French Blood Service (EFS)

Elfe study is supported by:
- Public institutions
- French Ministries of Research, Health & Ecology

Aspects of the environment that have most changed in past decades….
- Family structure, economic precariousness, socio-cultural milieu
- Diet, physical activity
- Emerging pollutants (phthalates, biocides…), air, water, noise
- New media and communication technology

In relation with …
- Development of cognitive, language and socio-affective skills
- Social norms and values, modes of integration, school career
- Growth troubles, obesity, asthma, allergies
Thematic working groups

Health
- Neonatal period, accidents and injuries, asthma, respiratory disease and allergies, healthcare consumption, infectious diseases
- Exposure to environmental pollutants, physical exposure

Social sciences
- Demography & family, socialization & education, economic status & insecurity

Examples of questions covered

Environmental health

→ Contamination during pregnancy and early childhood by emerging pollutants (phthalates, BPA) as well as other pollutants (lead, mercury, and pesticides...); consequences on children’s neuro-cognitive and reproductive development

→ Exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution: consequences on pregnancy outcomes or child growth and respiratory health status

→ Exposure to electromagnetic fields, non-ionising or ionising radiations: assessment of radiation levels and consequences on children’s development and health

→ Exposure to UV radiations: consequences on foetal growth and cancer (collaborations)
Recruitment strategy

- In about 350 birth places (2/3 of all birthplaces) in metropolitan France
- 4 periods in April, July, October & December 2011
- 212 maternities selected for biology collection

Recruitment

- More than 18,000 children
- Planned follow-up: 20 years
First data collection steps

Birth
Interview with the mother at the maternity unit, biological samples, supply of dust traps

3-10 months
Questionnaires about the infant’s diet

2 years
Phone interview + questionnaire for family doctor

3 years
Interviews over the phone – in the child’s home (cognitive test, biological samples, dust trap)

90,5 % participating families (86,9 % complete questionnaires)

81,7 % of participation (78,4 % completely)
First data collection steps

- **Birth**: Interview with the mother at the maternity unit, biological samples, supply of dust traps
- **2 months**: Phone interview
- **3-10 months**: Questionnaires about the infant’s diet
- **1 year**: Phone interview
- **3 years**: Interviews over the phone – in the child’s home (cognitive test, biological samples, dust trap)

To learn more about Elfe...

**Web site:** [www.elfe-france.fr](http://www.elfe-france.fr)

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