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Elfe : Etude Longitudinale Française depuis l'Enfance French Longitudinal Study from Childhood

JECS International Symposium – Nagoya – November 2013

 Cécile ZAROS

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



A multidisciplinary approach



Aspects of the environment that have most changed in past decades....

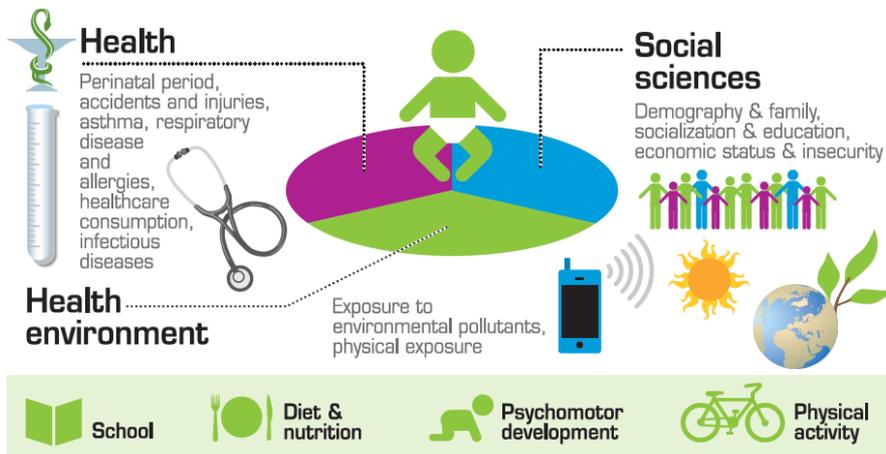
- Family structure, economic precariousness, socio-cultural milieu
- Diet, physical activity
- Emerging pollutants (phthalates, biocides...), air, water, noise
- New media and communication technology

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



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)

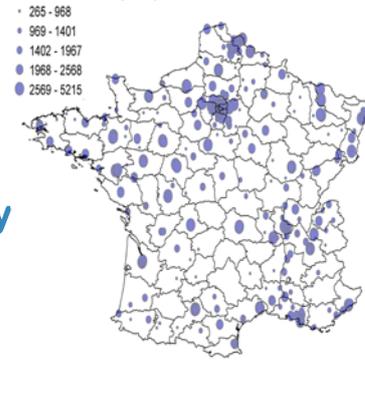
Recruitment strategy

➔ In about 350 birth places (2/3 of all birthplaces) in metropolitan France

➔ 4 periods in April, July October & December 2011

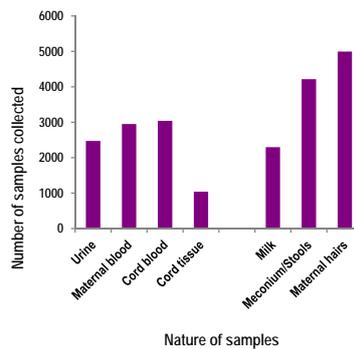
➔ 212 maternities selected for biology collection

Selected maternities (births)



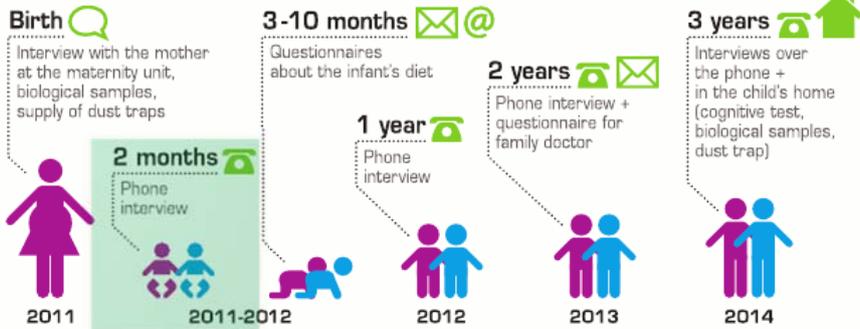
Recruitment

➔ More than 18,000 children



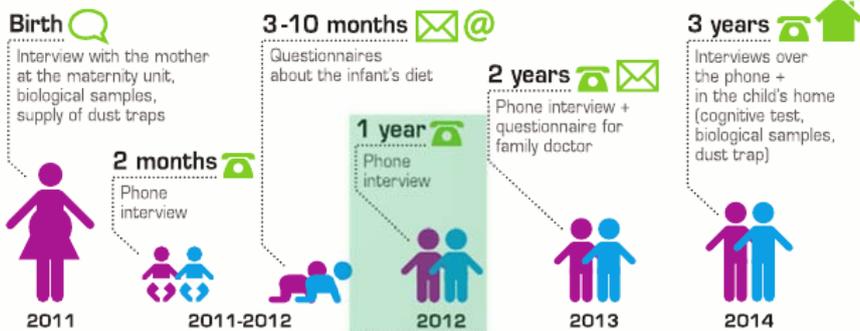
➔ Planned follow-up : 20 years

First data collection steps



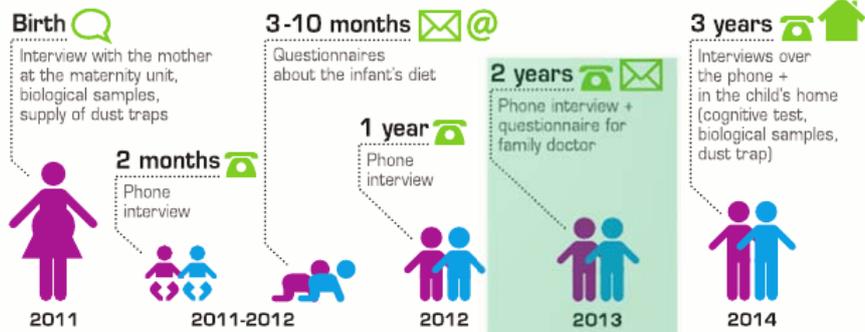
90,5 % participating families (86,9 % complete questionnaires)

First data collection steps



81,7 % of participation (78,4 % completely)

First data collection steps



 Ongoing ...

To learn more about Elfe...

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