

2022-08-19

The Stockholm Public Health Cohort Collaboration Policy

The Stockholm Public Health Cohort is a prospective study set within the framework of the Stockholm County Council public health surveys of 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2021. The surveys involved random samples of the background population of Stockholm County above 18 or 16 years (inclusion criteria has varied). To date, the study comprises over 140,000 unique participants (Table 1).

Table 1. Baseline sample size and number of responders at recruitment and attrition over questionnaire-based follow-up in the Stockholm Public Health Cohort

Sub-cohort by year of recruitment	Invited individuals at baseline	Survey 2002	Survey 2006	Survey 2010	Survey 2014	Survey 2021
		Responders	Responders	Responder	Responders	Responders
2002	49,909	31,182	23,794	19,327	15,213	11,286
2006	56,634		34,707	25,167	17,029	13,120
2010	55,341			30,767	18,517	13,613
2014	52,568				22,250	14,704
2021	47,885					23,072

A cross-sectional random sample of Stockholm County's population have been invited to participate in each round of data collection. Additionally responders from previous data collection were followed up with a new round of data collection. All data collected has been in accordance with current legislation.

Data is collected using postal or web-based questionnaires (during 2021 also through the app Hälsometern), covering health parameters, tobacco use, physical activity, alcohol consumption, labour market position, physical and psychosocial work environment, anthropometry, and other life circumstances. Self-reported exposure and outcome information is being complemented by extensive information from longitudinal health and sociodemographic data registries regarding study participants as well as their first-degree relatives.

Access to the SPHC

The purpose of the SPHC cohort is to increase knowledge on public health, and the causes and consequences of ill health. Collaborations with academic researchers that help achieve this purpose is encouraged. Regardless of the type of research, all potential collaborations or

2022-08-19

data access agreements must, however, be reviewed by the Steering Committee of SPHC. In order to access the material, an application should be submitted to the Steering Committee, by an applicant with a PhD or equivalent degree. Application can only be granted after ethical vetting and approval. After approval, a contract will be established, and data provided after a payment agreement is arranged.

Steering group of SPHC

The steering group currently consists of all unit heads at the centre of epidemiology and community medicine (CES) at Region Stockholm, and the principal investigator.

Costs for accessing data

The maintenance and basic development of the SPHC is guaranteed through base support from the Region Stockholm. Any individual research attempt based on the SPHC data must, however, be self-supporting. Furthermore, costs for data extraction are based on a modest flat fee and hourly rates for the SPHC database manager. Help with data analysis is charged according to separate agreements for the specific projects. Further instructions for applicants are available from the Research Proposal Form.

Other requirements

Each published study must have a co-author from the centre of epidemiology and community medicine. This co-author must be included in the drafting and vetting of the manuscript, and preferably also the design. This co-author is responsible for assuring that all research is conducted in an appropriate manner in agreement with all terms of how the data was collected.

Copies of all publications (including published abstracts) should be sent to the SPHC (sphc.ces.sls@regionstockholm.se). Scales that are derived from any data in the SPHC or additionally collected data used in a publication should be sent to the database administrator for inclusion in the database. This information will then be available for other researchers. Further, each published article based on SPHC material should be complemented with a short report in Swedish to be published on CES webpage if this is requested by the Steering group. Arrangements around this short report will be discussed with the Steering group of SPHC and the communication unit at CES.

Further inquiries

Additional information regarding application and previously approved and published studies can be found at <https://www.folkhalsoguiden.se/halsa-stockholm/>
Applications should be sent to: sphc.ces.sls@regionstockholm.se

Requests for more information, and questions, should be sent to:
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