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## The Helsingborg Birth Cohort 1964-1967

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# The Helsingborg Birth Cohort 1964-1967

## BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AND PLANS FOR FURTHER ANALYSES

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### Plans and prospects

- These fifty-years old obstetric and neonatal data have previously been assessed and linked to national registers of morbidity and mortality.
- Complementing with gestational age at birth data, to estimate weight deviation at birth, alongside unique data on prevalence of smoking, will add knowledge on specific developmental origins of health and disease.
- The results might be used to target study groups, such as offspring born small for gestational age (SGA), for metabolic and vascular examinations.



### Introduction

Specific components of the intrauterine environment, such as the influence of maternal smoking during pregnancy, have been shown to affect perinatal outcomes as well as cardiovascular risk factors in adult life. To establish effects of intrauterine environment on adult health and disease long-term studies are needed.

### Subjects and Methods

Information was collected on all pregnancies diagnosed in the Helsingborg area between February 1st, 1964 and January 31st, 1967, and ending in a delivery after gestational week 27 at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Helsingborg Hospital, Helsingborg, Sweden.

At the initial early pregnancy visit, the women were asked to complete a questionnaire, and throughout pregnancy use another one. This information, alongside perinatal information on mother and child (birth weight, length), was assessed after the delivery before discharge.

Examples of data collected with contemporary standards of the time: smoking, medication, preeclampsia, placental weight and appearance, children's asphyxia, pulmonary complications, dysmaturity index and debilitas congenita.

### Previous results

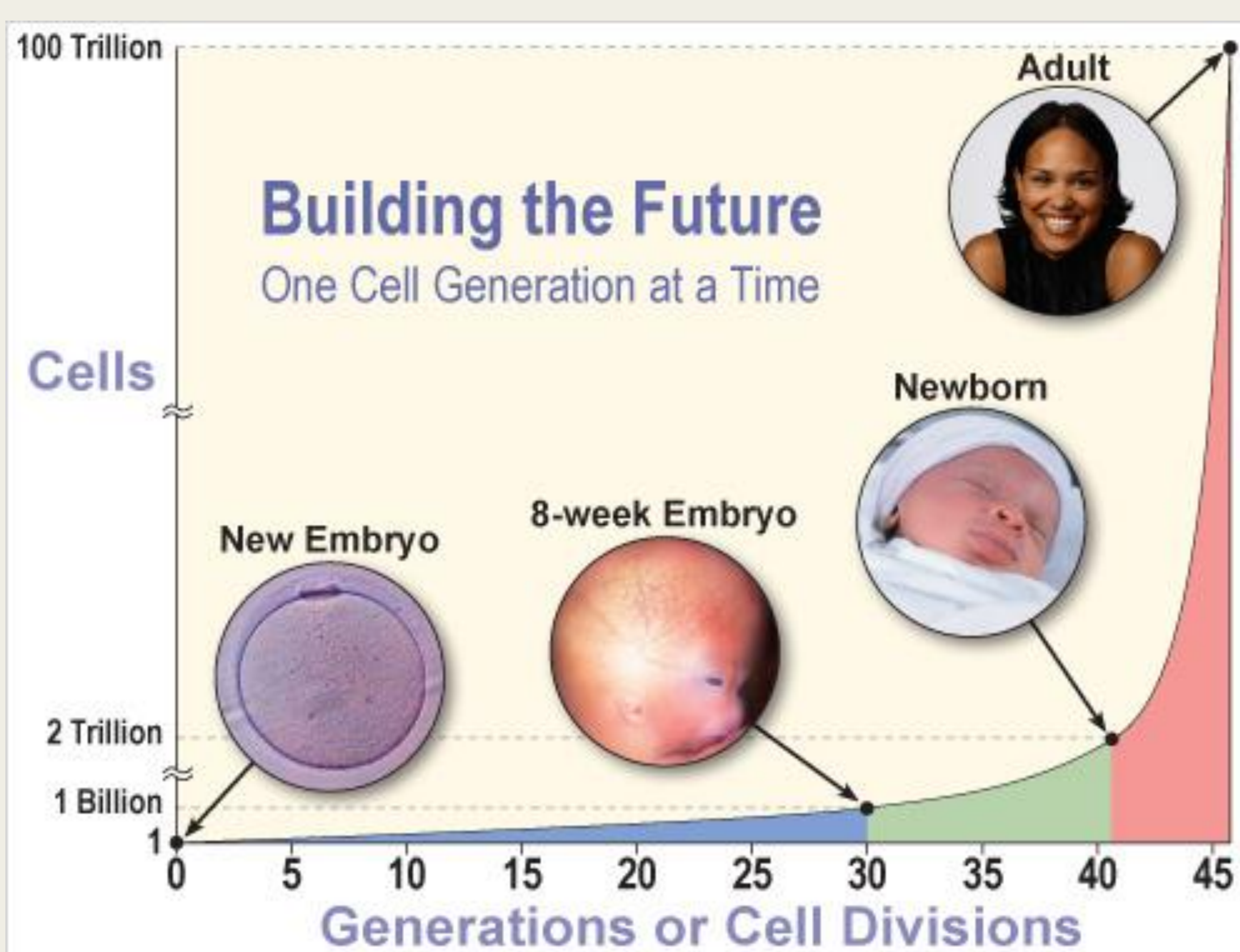
Deliveries of 4091 women remained after exclusion of twin deliveries (n=53) and repeated deliveries during the study period (n=218)<sup>1</sup>.

Half of the women reported smoking at some time during pregnancy, 5% ceased smoking during pregnancy, and 9% smoked more than ten cigarettes daily during the whole pregnancy<sup>2</sup>.

In a national record linkage, data was included from 4,060 women, of whom 56 children died neonatally and 10 children were not found<sup>3</sup>.

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<http://www.ehd.org/when-health-begins-theory.php>



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