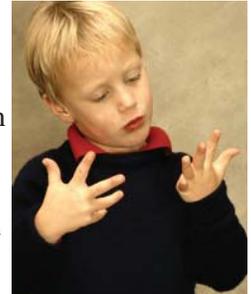




The CDC – Denmark Program

Collaborative Public Health Research

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)–Denmark Program was set up to look at many public health issues. The program highlights the work done using Danish national public health data systems. These systems are not found anywhere else. They include more than 200 long-term disease and administrative registries. They also include the stored newborn blood samples of all children born in Denmark from 1982 onward. These systems are linked with one another. Thus, they can be used to make data sets with information on very large numbers of people. These data sets cover long periods of time. Therefore, they can be used to look at health trends and disease traits. They can also be used to study less common risk factors or diseases in more detail and with more accuracy than can be done anywhere else.



Right now, CDC funding in Denmark is supporting studies of autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. All of these studies have one or more of the following basic activities:

- Improving existing registries, for example, the Danish National Cerebral Palsy Register: This registry is helping to gather better and more complete data on cerebral palsy. The result will be a high-quality registry of all people in Denmark with cerebral palsy. These actions will make it easier to look at and answer questions about the frequency, traits, causes, and outcomes of cerebral palsy.
- Doing registry-based studies, such as cohort or case-control studies of autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome: The overall purpose of these studies is to look at how often certain conditions or diseases occur over time. They will also look at a number of characteristics and risk factors for people with these conditions.
- Doing studies based on the Danish National Birth Cohort (DNBC) of 100,000 women and their children, including follow-up: One study going on now is called Lifestyle During Pregnancy: Neuropsychological Effects at Age 5. The purpose of this study is to look at the effects of different levels of prenatal alcohol use on children over time. It is also looking at other things women might do while they are pregnant that might affect their children over time.
- Coming up with and using laboratory methods for biologic samples, such as stored newborn screening dried blood spots and DNBC maternal serum samples: The overall purpose here is to come up with and use methods to measure many different chemicals in blood that could be markers for disease.

The CDC–Denmark Program is helping CDC to reach its goals by using Denmark’s data systems to look for answers to questions for which there are not now data elsewhere.

The CDC–Denmark Program also is being used to help create a broader U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) program. This program will help HHS and Denmark work together in medical and public health research. This could include sharing information, starting new programs, helping with training, and supporting research that will aid all parties.

The CDC–Denmark Program has led to several publications. These include reports on studies of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination and autism, and of cerebral palsy in children born using in vitro fertilization.

For further information:

Tel: 404-498-3860 (*for a full list of publications on the CDC–Denmark Program*)