



The Danish National Health Interview Surveys

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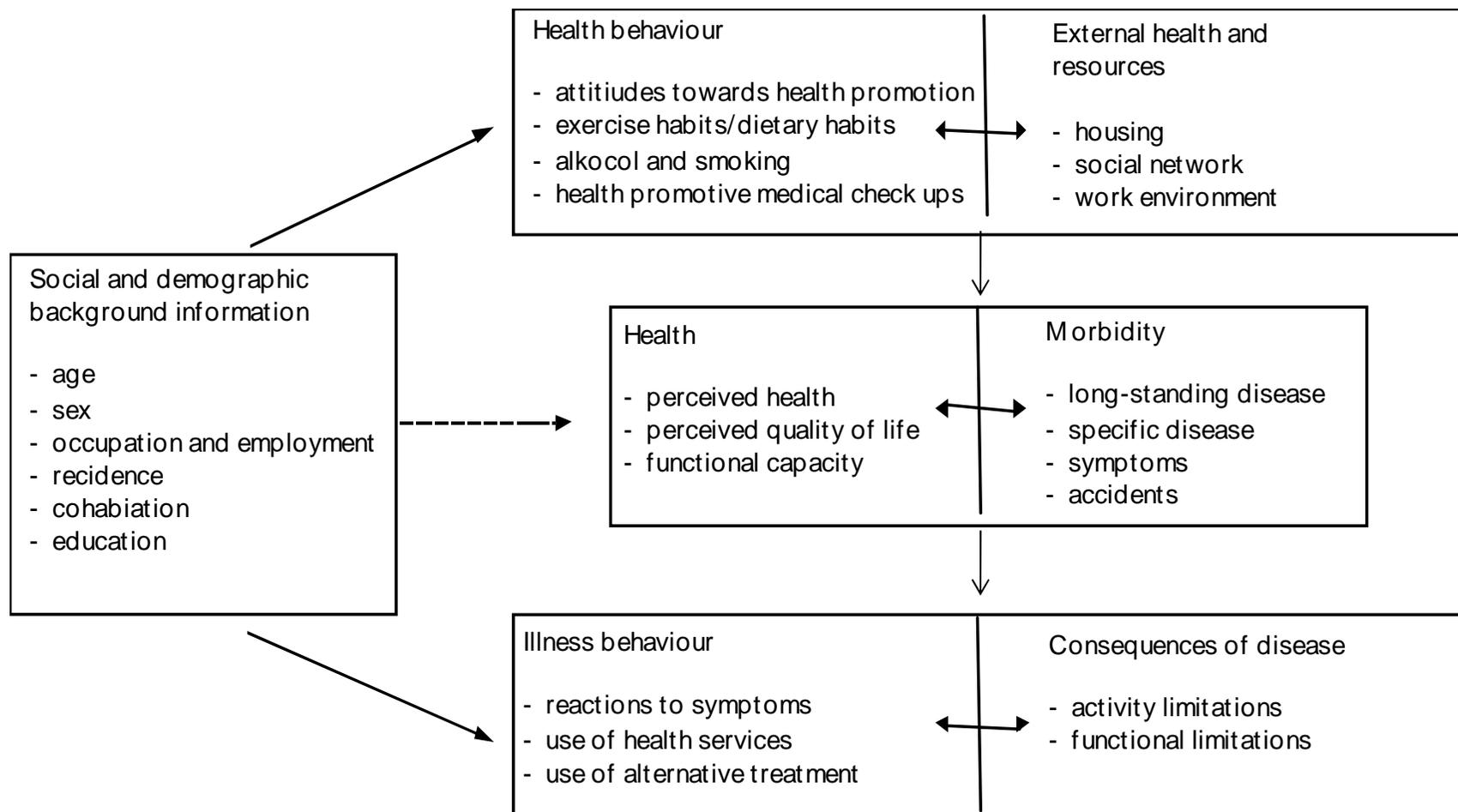
National Institute of Public Health (NIPH)

NIPH is Denmark's national public health institute. The NIPH is a research institute under the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark. Before January 2007 the institute belonged under the Danish Ministry of the Interior and Health.

The Danish Health Interview Surveys

- The institute has carried out national representative health interview surveys since 1987
- The surveys have been carried out in 1987, 1994, 2000 and 2005 (and 2010)
- The main purpose of the surveys is to describe the status and trends in health and morbidity in the adult population (16 years or older) and in the factors that influence health status
 - All samples were drawn at random from the adult Danish population (including institutionalized persons) using the Danish Civil Registration System (each Dane has a unique personal registration number).

Main elements of the Danish Health Interview Surveys



Specific topics

- Parent-reported child health and health status
- Exposure to harmful environmental factors and assessment of the associated health-related risks
 - Chronic pain
 - Dental status
 - Use of illicit drugs
- Violence and sexual assault
 - Suicidal behavior
 - Sexual desire
- Problem gambling (ludomania)
 - Sleeping habits
 - Ethnic background
 - Nature
 - Religion

Survey design

	1987	1994	2000	2005	2010
Sampling method	Simple random sample	Simple random sample	County-stratified random sample	Region-stratified random sample	Simple random sample
Data collection mode	Face-to-face interview	Face-to-face interview+ self-admin. questionnaire	Face-to-face interview+ self-admin. questionnaire	Face-to-face interview+ self-admin. questionnaire	Self-admin. questionnaire (postal)

Sample sizes and response rates

	1987	1994	2000	2005	2010
Sample size	5,950	5,995	22,484	21,832	25,000
Response rate	79.9%	77.8%	74.2%	67.7%	60.5%
Response rate (self-admin. questionnaire)¹	-	87.5%	85.6%	77.2%	-

¹Among the interviewed

Follow-up sample

The follow-up sample in 2000 intended to be both a panel of the survey in 1994 and a sample of adult Danes. Hence, this subsample consists of three parts:

1. all persons invited to the survey in 1994 and still alive and living in Denmark in 2000
2. a supplement of persons aged 16–21 years in 2000; and
3. a supplement of persons who have obtained Danish citizenship between 1994 and 2000

Follow-up study population: 3,417 individuals.

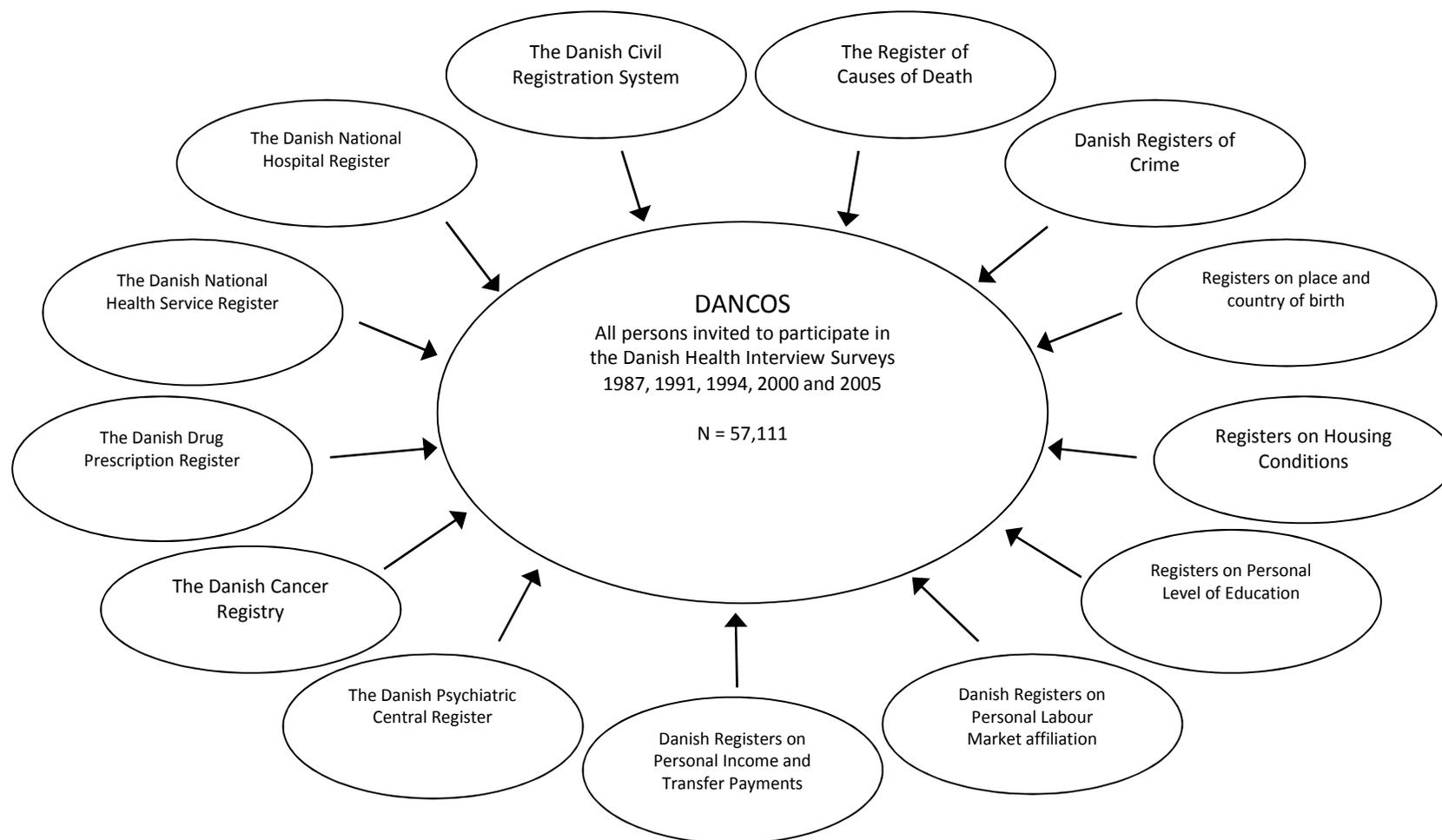
The follow-up sample was re-invited in both 2005 and 2010.

In all, 2,598 individuals completed an interview in 1994, 2000 and 2005.

The Danish National Cohort Study (DANCOS)

- A registry-based follow-up database of the health interview surveys conducted from 1987 to 2005 (2010 will also be included). Possible since each Dane has a unique personal registration number
 - Information on morbidity, mortality and other relevant information is obtained for all invited subjects (both respondents and non-respondents)

Official registers linked by DANCOS



Source: Davidsen et al, Scand J Public Health, 2010 (in press)

Questions on height and weight in all years

How tall are you?

Write height in cm:

How much do you weigh?

Write weight in kg:

National Health Interview Survey 2005

We would like to ask you to measure your waist circumference with the measuring tape you received together with the questionnaire. You should measure your waist at the narrowest place between the top of the hip and the lowest rib. Please ensure that you read the measuring tape from the correct end.

What is your waist circumference in centimetres?

Write the number of centrimetres:

National Health Interview Survey 2005

Do you want to lose or gain weight?

- To lose weight
- To gain weight
- Do not want to change my weight

Examples of other relevant questions

Do you want to lose weight? 4 answer categories **(2010)**

How would you rate your weight? 5 answer categories **(2010)**

How important do you think it is to change your weight?

Rate this on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “not important at all” and 10 is “very important”. **(2005)**

If you decided to change your weight, do you think you could accomplish it?

Rate this on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “impossible” and 10 is “easy”. **(2005)**

More information on the Danish Health Interview Surveys

Ekholm O, Kjøller M, Hesse U, Davidsen M. The study design and characteristics of the Danish national health interview surveys. *Scand J Public Health*. 2009; 37: 758-765.

www.niph.dk