

# The ORCHID project: Health and Development of Children of Parents with Disabilities in Sweden

Anna Thalén<sup>1,2</sup>, Alessandra Grotta<sup>1,2</sup>, Ylva B. Almquist<sup>1,2</sup>, Mikael Rostila<sup>1,2</sup>, Ayako Hiyoshi<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Can Liu<sup>1,2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Health Sciences, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Health Equity Studies, Stockholm University/Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>3</sup> Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

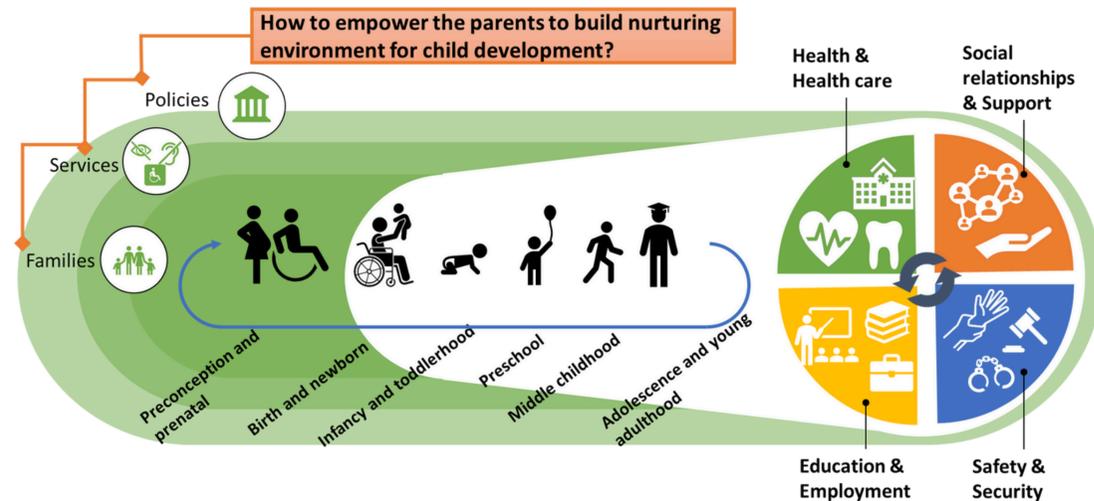
<sup>4</sup> Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine, Solna, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden



Stockholm University

## BACKGROUND

Parents with disabilities often face systemic disadvantages such as discrimination, unemployment, low income, and barriers to healthcare and support services. These challenges may influence their children's health and development, yet population-based data are limited and long-term child outcomes remain poorly understood.



## WHAT IS ORCHID?

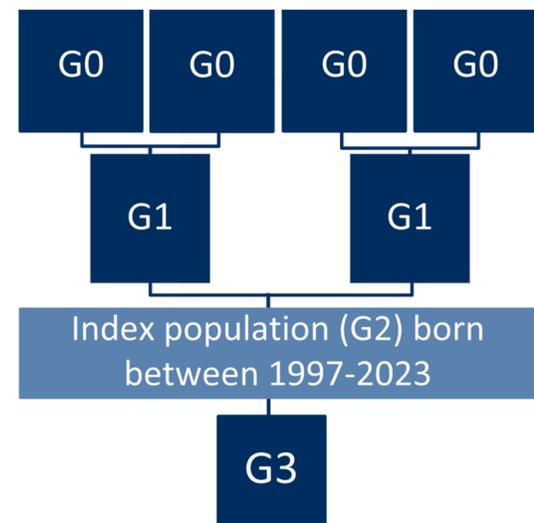
- A Swedish register-based project on the health and development of children of parents with disabilities
- A multigenerational dataset covering children born in Sweden between 1997–2023, with linked information on their parents, grandparents, and children.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

ORCHID enables studies on how parental disability is linked to children's outcomes from birth to young adulthood across several key areas:

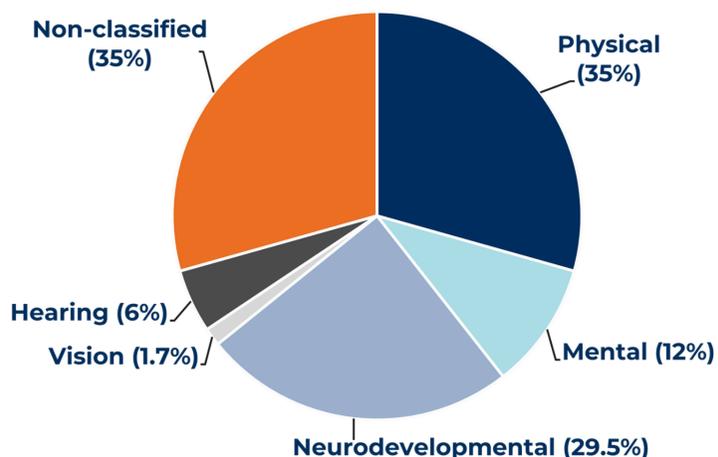
- Perinatal health
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Healthcare use and quality
- Psychiatric health
- Child welfare reciprocity
- Cause-specific mortality
- Education
- Labour market participation
- Disability

The data also include longitudinal measures of potential explanatory and protective factors such as socioeconomic circumstances, social relationships, health conditions, and social service use.



| Data Source  | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total population register  | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |
| Multigeneration register   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |
| Censuses   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |
| LISA (integrated database for health insurance and labour market studies)* |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| School information (grade)   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| LSS (Municipal support for persons with certain impairments)*              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| SOL (National care services for elderly and persons with impairments)*     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Disability-related educational support*                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Living condition survey (LNU)*   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Death register   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Cancer register  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Patient register*  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Medical birth register*  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Drug register  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Primary care register (Stockholm)  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

\* Include indicators for disability



## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY HEALTH AMONG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ORCHID links data on healthcare, education, labor market, and social welfare reciprocity to identify individuals with disabilities

Preliminary results show that 2.8% of children born 1999–2023 had a parent with a disability, and 65% of these parents could be grouped by disability type, noting that some had more than one type of disability.



ORCHID



Anna Thalén  
PhD Student  
anna.thalen@su.se