Lifelines is a large, multi-generational cohort study that includes over 167,000 participants from the northern population of the Netherlands. Lifelines works with a combination of questionnaires, measurements and biological samples; thus, providing a unique source for research purposes. Participants from three generations are followed for at least 30 years, to obtain insight into healthy ageing and the main factors relating to the onset and progression of diseases. Every 15 years, participants complete a questionnaire, in which they provide a wide variety of data. In addition, once every 5 years, participants are invited to visit a Lifelines location for a physical examination. During this visit, biological samples are collected and several measurements and tests are conducted. Biological samples are stored at -80 °C to ensure high quality and long-term preservation.

There are many unmet needs to diagnose, prevent and treat disease. Therefore, it is important to understand why some people stay healthy in old age, while others are affected by disease. Many risk factors for disease have their origin in early life. This is why we collect a large selection of data and biological samples from adults as well as from children. This overview provides information about the data that we collected from children up to and including age 17, between 2010 and 2017.