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| Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of the cohort who had data on breastfeeding but did not have data on cognitive ability in old age according to history of breastfeeding. |
|  | Breastfed | Group difference | N breastfed |
| Characteristic | No | Yes | *p*a | No | Yes |
| **At birth** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mother's age at delivery (years) | 28.10 (5.36) | 28.23 (5.45) | .592 | 606 | 3092 |
| Parity |  |  | .770 | 606 | 3093 |
|  Primiparous | 297 (49.0%) | 1536 (49.7%) |  |  |  |
|  Multiparous | 309 (51.0%) | 1557 (50.3%) |  |  |  |
| Father's occupational status |  |  | .003 | 606 | 3093 |
|  Senior clerical | 124 (20.5%) | 462 (14.9%) |  |  |  |
|  Junior clerical | 136 (22.4%) | 696 (22.5%) |  |  |  |
|  Manual worker | 329 (54.3%) | 1871 (60.5%) |  |  |  |
|  Missing data | 17 (2.8%) | 64 (2.1%) |  |  |  |
| Mother's occupational status |  |  | .025 | 606 | 3093 |
|  Senior clerical | 34 (5.6%) | 100 (3.2%) |  |  |  |
|  Junior clerical | 177 (29.2%) | 985 (31.8%) |  |  |  |
|  Manual worker | 321 (53.0%) | 1655 (53.5%) |  |  |  |
|  Missing data | 74 (12.2%) | 353 (11.4%) |  |  |  |
| Length of gestation (days) | 279.2 (12.4) | 278.6 (14.9) | .349 | 592 | 3037 |
| Weight (g) | 3466.2 (486.7) | 3446.6 (494.4) | .370 | 606 | 3093 |
| Length (cm) | 50.7 (2.0) | 50.6 (2.0) | .404 | 596 | 3058 |
| Ponderal index (kg/m3) | 26.6 (2.2) | 26.48 (2.2) | .441 | 596 | 3058 |
| **At 0.5 years** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight (kg) | 7.88 (0.92) | 7.86 (0.89) | .681 | 601 | 3079 |
| Height (cm)g | 67.64 (2.28) | 67.69 (2.33) | .578 | 598 | 3078 |
| Body mass index (kg/m2) | 17.19 (1.46) | 17.14 (1.43) | .514 | 599 | 3077 |
| **At 2 years** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight (kg) | 12.32 (1.16) | 12.32 (1.18) | .994 | 601 | 3082 |
| Height (cm) | 86.44 (3.12) | 86.45 (3.19) | .934 | 599 | 3079 |
| Body mass index (kg/m2) | 16.64 (1.25) | 16.64 (1.22) | .995 | 600 | 3079 |
| **At 67.9 years** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highest own achieved level of education |  |  | .144 | 562 | 2942 |
|  Upper tertiary | 74 (12.2%) | 309 (10.0%) |  |  |  |
|  Lower tertiary | 120 (19.8%) | 571 (18.5%) |  |  |  |
|  Upper secondary | 137 (22.6%) | 772 (25.0%) |  |  |  |
|  Basic or less | 231 (38.1%) | 1290 (41.7%) |  |  |  |
| Any mental disorder |  |  | .801 | 605 | 3079 |
|  No | 486 (80.2%) | 2487 (80.4%) |  |  |  |
|  Yes | 119 (19.6%) | 592 (19.1%) |  |  |  |
| Marital status |  |  | .114 | 562 | 2942 |
|  Never married | 84 (13.9%) | 347 (11.2%) |  |  |  |
|  Married/Widowed | 298 (49.2%) | 1619 (52.3%) |  |  |  |
|  Divorced | 180 (29.7%) | 976 (31.6%) |  |  |  |
| Figures are mean (standard deviation) or number of participants (percentage). |

a *P*-values correspond to group comparisons with chi-square test for parity, father’s occupational status, mother’s occupational status and highest own achieved level of education, ANOVA for others.