

# Changes in prevalence of asthma and allergy in Swedish school children over almost three decades and factors reducing risk of allergy

The prevalence of allergic diseases increased dramatically in children during the last decades of the twentieth century. The aim of the thesis was to analyse changes in prevalence over time, between 1979 and 2007; and identify factors influencing allergy development. We found that the increase in asthma and eczema has levelled off since 1991, but for rhinoconjunctivitis the increase continued. Both pet-keeping during first year of life and dishwashing by hand instead of machine dishwashing protected from allergy development, whereas the late introduction of solids to the infants' diet increased the risk for food allergy.



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