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NORDSTAR: paving the way for a new era in asthma research

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NORDSTAR is a longitudinal dataset for the study of asthma comprising 3.3 million individuals and over 50 million person-years in 4 Nordic countries. The data include diagnoses, medication dispensing, use of resources and costs, socio-demographics, and mortality. <http://bit.ly/2HueyEt>

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Asthma is a heterogeneous, chronic airway disease with large variation in prevalence between geographies [1, 2]. In the Nordic countries, prevalence of asthma has been reported to be 10% in Denmark [1], 9–11% in Finland [1, 3], 11–12% in Norway [1], and 8–10% in Sweden [1, 4, 5]. Poor asthma control is associated with substantial reductions in patient quality of life [6–8], and higher morbidity and mortality [9, 10], together with significantly increased direct and indirect costs [6, 11].