



## Dr Andrew Wills

**BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, FHEA, CStat**

Senior Lecturer in Applied Statistics

Biomedical Research Unit,  
Level 3, UBHT Education Centre BS2 8AE  
([See a map](#))

+44 (0) 117 34 21769  
[a.k.wills@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:a.k.wills@bristol.ac.uk)

## Summary

### Current and ongoing research areas:

I collaborate with a group in Norway on the [Norwegian Childhood Growth Study](#), where we are trying to understand growth patterns that may be suboptimal for health and their determinants. Much of my statistical and epidemiological work has been within what is called "[life course epidemiology](#)" and the "[developmental origins of adult disease hypothesis \(Barker Hypothesis\)](#)". For example, I have worked on the [1946 British Birth cohort study](#) and with several [cohort studies in India](#).

I also enjoy more general statistical collaborative work; for example, I have worked on several [randomised controlled trials](#), and I am currently involved in a cross sectional study of outcomes at age 5y in children with cleft palate- the [Cleft Care UK project](#).

## Biography

I am a statistician and epidemiologist.

I have an MSc in Medical Statistics (2007; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and a PhD in Biomechanics and Epidemiology (2006; Centre for Biomedical Engineering, University of Surrey). Since 2007 I have worked as a medical statistician and epidemiologist on various topics within a life course epidemiological framework (*MRC Lifecourse epidemiology unit, Uni of So'ton; MRC Unit for Lifelong health and ageing, University College London; MRC CAiTE, University of Bristol*). Prior to that I was the Research leader in a rehabilitation hospital (*DMRC Headley Court*) where my personal research interests were in understanding human movement and its link to injury.

## Teaching

### Courses for non-statisticians:

Most of my current teaching that I developed\* is concerned with teaching statistical thinking and reasoning to non-statisticians:

- \*Module leader of the MSc Reproduction & Development Research Methods and Statistics module (20 credits)
- \*Module leader of the MRes Health Sciences Research Further Research Methods module (20 credits).
- \*iBSc Health Sciences Introduction to Research module (10 credits): Online statistics materials.
- BDS Research Methods (2nd yr) course: tutor for 10 sessions.

### Courses for more statistical & epidemiological learners:

- I have taught on the short course programme in the School of Social and Community Medicine, in particular the Introduction to statistical methods for life course epidemiology short course.
- I have also developed some teaching materials for external workshops that cover analysing repeated measures of an exposure.

## Keywords

- Statistics
- Epidemiology

## Memberships

## Organisations

[Bristol Dental School](#)

[Bristol Medical School \(PHS\)](#)

## Other sites

- [Social-community-medicine](#)

## Research programmes

- [Lifecourse Epidemiology and Population Oral Health](#)

## Research groups

- [Nutrition](#)

## Recent publications

- Lee, TVN, Ireland, AJ, Atack, NE, Deacon, SA, Jones, TEM, Matharu, J, Wills, A, Al-Ghatam, R, Richard, BM, Ness, AR & Sandy, JR, 2019, '[Is There a Correlation Between Nasolabial Appearance and Dentoalveolar Relationships in Patients With Repaired Unilateral Cleft Lip and Palate?](#)'. *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal*.
- Helle, C, Hillesund, ER, Wills, AK & Øverby, NC, 2019, '[Examining the effects of an eHealth intervention from infant age 6 to 12 months on child eating behaviors and maternal feeding practices one year after cessation: The Norwegian randomized controlled trial Early Food for Future Health](#)'. *PLoS ONE*, vol 14., pp. e0220437
- Yang, A, Richard, BM, Wills, A, Mahmoud, O, Sandy, J & Ness, AR, 2019, '[Closer to the Truth on National Fistula Prevalence After Unilateral Complete Cleft Lip and Palate Repair?: The Cleft Care UK Study](#)'. *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal*.
- Helle, C, Hillesund, ER, Wills, AK & Øverby, NC, 2019, '[Evaluation of an eHealth intervention aiming to promote healthy food habits from infancy -the Norwegian randomized controlled trial Early Food for Future Health](#)'. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, vol 16.
- Ness, AR, Wills, AK, Waylen, A, Smallridge, J, Hall, AJ, Sell, D & Sandy, JR, 2018, '[Closing the Loop on Centralization of Cleft Care in the United Kingdom](#)'. *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal*, vol 55., pp. 248-251
- Skreden, M, Hillesund, ER, Wills, AK, Brantsæter, AL, Bere, E & Øverby, NC, 2018, '[Adherence to the New Nordic Diet during pregnancy and subsequent maternal weight development: a study conducted in the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study \(MoBa\)](#)'. *British Journal of Nutrition*, vol 119., pp. 1286-1294
- Manley, KM, Wills, AK, Villeneuve, N, Hunt, K, Patel, A & Glew, S, 2018, '[Comparison of the Cervex-Brush alone to Cytobrush plus Cervex-Brush for detection of cervical dysplasia in women with a transformation zone type 3](#)'. *Cytopathology*.
- Feng, H, Xun, P, Pike, K, Wills, AK, Chawes, BL, Bisgaard, H, Cai, W, Wan, Y & He, K, 2017, '[In utero exposure to 25\(OH\) D and risk of childhood asthma, wheeze and respiratory tract infections: A meta-analysis of birth cohort studies](#)'. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, vol 139., pp. 1508?1517
- Strand, BH, Wills, AK, Langballe, EM, Rosness, TA, Engedal, K & Bjertness, E, 2017, '[Weight Change in Midlife and Risk of Mortality From Dementia up to 35 Years Later](#)'. *Journals of Gerontology, Series A*, vol 72., pp. 855-860
- Wills, A, Mahmoud, O, Hall, A, Sell, D, Smallridge, J, Southby, L, Toms, S, Waylen, A, Wren, Y, Ness, AR & Sandy, J, 2017, '[Centre-level variation of treatment and outcome in 5-year-old children with non-syndromic unilateral cleft lip and palate: The Cleft Care UK study. Part 1: Methodology and results for dento-facial outcomes](#)'. *Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research*, vol 20., pp. 1-7

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