Asthma affects millions of people worldwide and has become one of the most important public health issues in many countries. As genetic and environmental factors interact, asthma may be programmed very early in life. This thesis assessed the impact of different factors of early life on the development of asthma in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The studies were based on data from Swedish national registers, and on a birth cohort that was initiated in 1974–75. Dispensed asthma medication was used as a proxy for asthma.