In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century New Zealand was a slightly healthier place than comparable countries. Infant mortality began to decline significantly in New Zealand in the 1880s, around the time that the cohort we study was born, suggesting a favorable public health environment. The cohort we study were eligible for free and universal primary schooling in the late nineteenth century, and were later covered by a single-payer health care system introduced in the 1930s. Per capita income in New Zealand was high, but similar to that achieved in the United States, was higher in New Zealand than in the United Kingdom — critical in constructing a historical longitudinal panel.