Additional file 1 - Description of the multilevel repeated measures used in this study

t = time 2006 .. 2008

i = individual 1 ..1048

j = neighbourhood 1 .. 259

outcome score at moment (t) for an individual (i) in neighbourhood (j)

intercept

deviation () from intercept for time ()

effect for variables measured at the individual level that are constant over time

effect for neighbourhood variables that are constant over time

random effect, the between neighbourhood variance

random effect, complete time dependent between and within individual

variance/covariance matrix

on the diagonal we have the within individual yearly (error) variance   
and off the diagonal the between individual covariance between two years.   
All parameters of this matrix are estimated from the data and are unstructured, meaning they can all be different. All the random effects are assumed to be normally distributed.   
Note that this variance/covariance matrix is modelled at the level of the individuals, the lowest level, the individual measurements, is empty.