**Supplementary File 1**

**Sampling**

Infants and their families were randomly selected from the population of infants who were recorded on the Child Benefit Register during the period 1st December 2007 to 30th June 2008. On registration of a child’s birth in Ireland, the Department of Social Protection automatically begins a Child Benefit claim for the child; therefore the Child Benefit Register is an appropriate sampling frame. Of 73,662 infants registered for Child Benefits in the 2008 calendar year, 41,185 infants were determined to be the correct age (i.e. 9 months) at time of interview during the data collection period (data for the wave 1 infant cohort was collected between September 2008 and April 2009) and therefore eligible to take part. Of 17,264 families who were approached, 11,134 primary caregivers agreed to take part (response rate of 64.5%). As the focus of our study was postpartum depression, we excluded any primary caregivers who were not the biological female parent of the cohort child (i.e. we excluded non-biological parents, or non-parental caregivers such as grandmothers, aunts, etc.) which resulted in a sample of 11,089. A flowchart showing further details of the derivation of the analytic samples for the present study are shown in Figure 1 in the accompanying supplementary file.