

# SEX HORMONES USER GUIDE

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## INTRODUCTION

An assortment of sex hormones were measured in six PLCO studies, and separate datasets are available for each through CDAS. Since the six studies implemented different assaying techniques, were done at different points in time, and measured different analytes, a harmonized dataset combining all of the studies is not provided. Should one want to combine the measures from some or all of the studies, it is highly recommended to first conduct analyses separately for each study.

## MATCHING

Some of the studies were selected with frequency matching and some used individual matching. When cases were frequency matched to controls, the variable CELL is included which pairs all cases within a set of matching strata with their controls. If a study used individual matching, the variable CASE\_SET is included, which is unique per case and its matched control. All matching variables are included within each dataset, except any which pertain to date of blood draw due to issues mentioned above.

## BREAST AND PROSTATE

Both the breast and prostate studies were selected as subsets of already matched cohorts from the Breast and Prostate Cancer Cohort Consortium (BPC3) study and the Cancer Genetic Markers of Susceptibility (CGEMS) study. The matching variables and cells were retained from the original study; however the case and control counts within each cell will not match.

## FROZEN DATA

The populations for these studies were selected at different time points ranging from May 2001 to March 2015. They are thus frozen in time. Since the time of selection and the time of analysis, some of the controls will have been diagnosed with cancer. The variable IS\_CASE reflects the case status at the time of selection, though current cancer status can be ascertained from the various site datasets on CDAS. For the breast study, in order to maximize the number of cases, participants who had reported a cancer to the trial, but whose medical records had not yet confirmed it, were included in the study. If a cancer was deemed erroneously reported, or the records could not be obtained, this case was removed from the population. The final denominators in these files represent everybody who was selected for the study, who still meet eligibility for the study, and who have a sex hormone result available.