An Introduction to the Women's Health Initiative Investigator Data

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Abstract

The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) is an ongoing national health study aimed at identifying strategies for the prevention and control of major causes of mortality among post-menopausal women in the United States. The WHI started recruiting participants in 1993 and follow-up continues to this day in extension and ancillary studies. The investigator data collected during WHI follow-up are an invaluable resource for epidemiological and clinical researchers both due to its large sample size (161,808 women) and diversity (data include diet, medical history, physical measurements, and psychosocial measurements). The purpose of this seminar is to introduce investigators to the WHI data sets, summarize their strengths and limitations, and discuss the process for accessing them.

Speaker Bio

Michael Pennell is an Associate Professor in the Division of Biostatistics in the College of Public Health and a member of the CCTS Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) core. Dr. Pennell is also a Co-Investigator of the Life and Longevity After Cancer (LILAC) study, which is a prospective study of cancer survivors from the WHI. He has extensive experience working the WHI investigator data sets through his involvement in LILAC and is performing statistical methodology research to address limitations in linking the two sources of data.