

The Million Women Study: design and characteristics of the study population

ABSTRACT

By the end of 2002, statistical power of the Million Women Study will be sufficient to show that current users of hormone replacement therapy have a relative risk of 0.8 or greater, or 1.2 or higher than those who have never used the therapy for breast and other cancers, colorectal cancer, lung and ovarian cancer disease, ischaemic heart disease (ICR), and stroke.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction The Million Women Study (MWS) is a population-based cohort study designed to investigate the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV in the United States. Since its initial design, the study has been extended to include women born in the United States between 1980 and 1998. The MWS is currently conducted through the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The MWS provides information on the number of sexual partners of women who were interviewed in the sample each year. This information is used to design, run, and analyze the study.

Data Sources:

The MWS was launched in 1989 to investigate the sexual behavior of young women in the United States (aged 15 and younger) in order to develop strategies to prevent STIs and HIV. The MWS data NHSBSP was established in 1988 and provides a 3-year routine screening process for breast cancer among women registered in the UK. In the present work, the design of the Million Women Study is outlined, along with the characteristics of that study population.

CONCLUSION

The Million Women Study is one of the most significant cohort studies to date. It is currently recruiting fast and is expected to reach 1 million women by 2000. Early findings suggest that the women recruited do not differ significantly in age from their counterparts in the general population. Within a 5-year timeframe, the study is anticipated to possess enough statistical data to answer inquiries about the impact of HRT on mortality from breast cancer and other relevant conditions. The cohort could potentially comprise one in five women aged 50-64 years in the UK. This is a testament to the successful national co-operation of the NHSBSP and may indicate to women that they are not sufficiently informed about the long-term effects of HRT and the significant use of this therapy in today's context.