# Methods

The study was carried out using a retrospective analysis of electronic health records (EHRs) from the Flatiron Health Analysis Database. This database contains de-identified patient data from over 280 cancer clinics, representing more than 2.4 million actively treated US patients with cancer. The study included women aged 18 years or older with confirmed HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer (MBC) who received palbociclib plus AI or AI alone as first-line therapy. The primary outcome was overall survival (OS), and the secondary outcome was real-world progression-free survival (rwPFS). The study used statistical analyses such as stabilized inverse probability treatment weighting (sIPTW) and propensity score matching (PSM) to balance baseline characteristics between the two treatment groups.