

**Appendix 3 (as supplied by the authors) : Characteristics of cohort populations of interest (2012/13)**

<b>Characteristic, n (%)</b>	<b>Imaging for low back pain</b>	<b>Cervical cancer screening</b>	<b>Repeat DEXA scans</b>
N*	51,929	1,483,962	394,314
Age, mean (95% CI)**	41.8 (39.9-43.6)	-	63.9 (62.6-65.4)
Age, grouped†			
<21 years	-	729,901 (49.2)	-
>69 years	-	754,061 (50.8)	-
Female	22,650 (43.6)	1,483,962 (100.0)	332,198 (84.2)
Neighbourhood income quintile			
1 (lowest)	10,537 (20.5)	299,740 (20.3)	64,455 (16.4)
2	10,511 (20.4)	295,519 (20.0)	74,268 (18.9)
3	10,452 (20.3)	289,017 (19.5)	77,134 (19.6)
4	10,560 (20.5)	297,597 (20.1)	84,886 (21.6)
5 (highest)	9,353 (18.2)	296,934 (20.1)	91,980 (23.4)
Missing	516	5,155	1,591
Rurality			
Urban	47,614 (92.3)	1,316,339 (88.7)	354,728 (90.1)
Rural	3,978 (7.7)	167,623 (11.3)	39,011 (9.9)
Missing	337	0	575
Index DEXA scan risk level			
Baseline scan	-	-	75,446 (19.1)
Low risk scan	-	-	49,570 (12.6)
High risk scan	-	-	269,298 (68.3)

\*N refers to the cohort denominator for the fiscal year 2012/13; \*\*mean age was not calculated for the cervical cancer screening population; †grouped age was only calculated for the cervical cancer screening population; DEXA = dual energy X-ray absorptiometry