The Framingham Osteoarthritis Study (Original Cohort)

The original Framingham Cohort was examined during examination 18 (1983-85). During the examination, subjects were asked questions about knee pain and were asked also if they were willing to obtain x-rays of knees which, if the subject consented, were obtained at end of the examination. Approximately 80% of subjects coming to the clinic for examination 18 obtained knee x-rays. Details of the examination are published in Felson DT et al. The Prevalence of Knee Osteoarthritis in the Elderly. Arthritis Rheum 30: 914-918, 1987.

Radiographs were AP fully extended weight bearing films. Readings were done according to the Kellgren and Lawrence Atlas. Subjects were excluded from the data if they had rheumatoid arthritis or their x-ray films were of such poor quality that Kellgren & Lawrence grade could not be graded for both knees.

The same protocol was used to examine the Offspring in 1992-5. Note that the only Offspring examined with those whose parents had been examined during the aforementioned Cohort osteoarthritis study OR Offspring who were spouses of these Offspring.

Definitions:

- Knee OA was defined as present if a knee had Kellgren and Lawrence grade 2 or greater.
- A person was defined as having x-ray OA if at least one knee had OA
- Subjects were asked NHANES knee pain question (see Felson et al, Arthritis Rheum 30:914-918, 1987). Symptoms were defined as present if the subject said yes to NHANES knee pain question.
- Subjects were defined as having symptomatic knee OA if they had symptoms in either knee and had radiographic OA in either knee