

Appendix 1: Check list of industries with industry specific questionnaire

Industry	
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Oil and Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Pulp and paper industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chemical industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ceramics, stone, clay, glass or concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Metal industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of heating equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of industrial machinery	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of computer equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of semi-conductors and related devices	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of electrical equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Repairing of electrical equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of automotive electrical equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Repairing/rebuilding of automotive electrical equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing/rebuilding of non-electrical vehicle parts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing/rebuilding of truck trailers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ship building	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ship repair	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of parts/components for guided missiles or space vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of dental equipment/supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of jewelry/precious metal goods	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Repairing of jewelry/precious metal goods	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Metal working	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing of nuclear weapons	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manufacturing fluorescent lamps	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Armed forces	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Lumber/wood products	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Farming or other agricultural work	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Firefighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Slaughterhouse or meat-packing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Animal handler/veterinarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Health care sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Appendix 2: Sample size needed to detect a gene-environment interaction

The number of cases needed to detect a gene environment interaction is determined by the anticipated size of the associated odds ratio. Using all information available from published studies on the relation of Glu⁶⁹ to sarcoidosis, and the risks of CBD in the presence of beryllium and the variant form, the estimate obtained for the odds ratio of interaction is 6.74. Given a real uncertainty about the weight that can be put on this estimate we calculated sample size using estimates for the gene environment interaction that span this value (3, 6 and 9). A study of 617 cases and 1234 referents would be able to detect a gene-environment interaction odds ratio of 3, given 5% of referents “exposed” to beryllium. In the 1:2 designs, the interaction odds ratio of 6 is detected with 660 cases even if only 1.5% of referents “exposed” to beryllium (not shown in the table).

Number of sets for gene-environment interaction for beryllium

Prevalence of beryllium exposure in general population	Odds ratio of sarcoidosis among exposed population with susceptible genotype	Number of cases to achieve power 80%	
		1 control/case	2 controls/case
0.01	3	4235	2837
0.03	3	1460	986
0.05	3	906	617
0.10	3	495	343
0.01	6	1545	976
0.03	6	536	344
0.05	6	335	218
0.10	6	187	126
0.01	9	1032	633
0.03	9	360	225
0.05	9	226	144
0.10	9	128	86

* Following assumption were made in the sample size calculations: level of significance = 5%; prevalence of sarcoidosis in Canada =30 per 100,000; frequency of *HLA-DPB1* Glu⁶⁹ allele (susceptible genotype) in the general population = 30%; odds ratio of sarcoidosis among unexposed population with susceptible genotype =1.00; odds ratio sarcoidosis among exposed population with wild type genotype =1.10, implying marginal odds ratio of exposure of ~2.0 when the interaction odds ratio=3; unmatched analysis by logistic regression.

Appendix 3: Referent diagnoses (ICD code) and final group

ICD 9 codes	N	Group
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis, 466	8	Other
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic, 490	44	COPD
Chronic bronchitis, 491	95	COPD
Emphysema, 492	123	COPD
Asthma, 493	838	Asthma
Bronchiectasis, 494	32	Other
Chronic airway obstruction, not elsewhere classified, 496	97	COPD
Asbestosis, 501	4	Other
Pneumoconiosis due to other silica or silicates, 502	1	Other
Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids, 507	1	Other
Empyema, 510	10	Other
Pleurisy, 511	62	Other
Pneumothorax, 512	8	Other
Abscess of lung and mediastinum, 513	2	Other
Pulmonary congestion and hypostasis, 514	1	Other
Post-inflammatory pulmonary fibrosis, 515	30	Other
Other alveolar and parietoalveolar pneumonopathy, 516	34	Other
Lung involvement in conditions classified elsewhere, 517	7	Other
Other disease of lung, 518	57	Other
Total	1454	

Appendix 4:

Diagnoses by years employed by Glu 69: industry with 50+ employed (Men)

	Years Exposed	Glu 69	Sarcoidosis		Asthma		COPD		Other		Total		p(x ²)
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Oil and Gas	None	-	165	35.3	154	32.9	81	17.3	68	14.5	468	100.0	0.37
		+	112	35.3	118	37.2	53	16.7	34	10.7	3.7	100.0	
		Total	277	35.3	272	34.6	134	17.1	102	13.0	785	100.0	
	<10	-	40	38.5	41	39.4	15	14.4	8	7.7	104	100.0	0.45
		+	22	29.7	29	39.2	13	17.6	10	13.5	74	100.0	
		Total	62	34.8	70	39.3	28	15.7	18	10.1	178	100.0	
	≥10	-	24	35.3	19	27.9	10	14.7	15	22.1	68	100.0	0.37
		+	15	38.5	13	33.3	6	15.4	5	12.8	39	100.0	
		Total	39	36.4	32	29.9	16	15.0	20	18.7	107	100.0	
Construction	None	-	150	36.3	147	35.6	59	14.3	57	13.8	413	100.0	0.80
		+	100	36.0	108	38.8	36	12.9	34	12.2	278	100.0	
		Total	250	36.2	255	36.9	95	13.7	91	13.2	691	100.0	
	<10	-	59	36.0	50	30.5	31	18.9	24	14.6	164	100.0	0.20
		+	33	31.4	40	38.1	24	22.9	8	7.6	105	100.0	
		Total	92	34.2	90	33.5	55	20.4	32	11.9	269	100.0	
	≥10	-	20	31.7	17	27.0	16	25.4	10	15.9	63	100.0	0.99
		+	16	34.0	12	25.5	12	25.5	7	14.9	47	100.0	
		Total	36	32.7	29	26.4	28	25.5	17	15.5	110	100.0	
Chemical Industry	None	-	216	35.9	206	34.2	97	16.1	83	13.8	602	100.0	0.59
		+	138	35.0	145	36.8	67	17.0	44	11.2	394	100.0	
		Total	354	35.5	351	35.2	164	16.5	127	12.8	996	100.0	
	<10	-	11	36.7	8	26.7	5	16.7	6	20.0	30	100.0	0.45
		+	8	26.7	14	46.7	4	13.3	4	13.3	30	100.0	
		Total	19	31.7	22	36.7	9	15.0	10	16.7	60	100.0	
	≥10	-	2	25.0	0	0.0	4	50.0	2	25.0	8	100.0	0.38
		+	3	50.0	1	16.7	1	16.7	1	16.7	6	100.0	
		Total	5	35.7	1	7.1	5	35.7	3	21.4	14	100.0	

	Years Exposed	Glu 69	Sarcoidosis		Asthma		COPD		Other		Total		p(x ²)
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Metal Industry	None	-	224	36.5	206	33.6	99	16.1	85	13.8	614	100.0	0.64
		+	140	34.7	148	36.6	68	16.8	48	11.9	404	100.0	
		Total	364	35.8	354	34.8	167	16.4	133	13.1	1018	100.0	
	<10	-	3	17.6	7	41.2	4	23.5	3	17.6	17	100.0	0.20
		+	5	29.4	10	58.8	2	11.8	0	0.0	17	100.0	
		Total	8	23.5	17	50.0	6	17.6	3	8.8	34	100.0	
	≥10	-	2	22.2	1	11.1	3	33.3	3	33.3	8	100.0	0.53
		+	4	44.4	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	8	100.0	
		Total	6	33.3	3	16.7	5	27.8	4	22.2	18	100.0	
Armed Forces	None	-	219	36.0	206	33.8	97	15.9	87	14.3	609	100.0	0.36
		+	142	35.0	156	38.4	62	15.3	46	11.3	406	100.0	
		Total	361	35.6	362	35.7	159	15.7	133	13.1	1015	100.0	
	<10	-	6	28.6	5	23.8	6	28.6	4	19.0	21	100.0	0.77
		+	7	29.2	4	16.7	10	41.7	3	12.5	24	100.0	
		Total	13	28.9	9	20.0	16	35.6	7	15.6	45	100.0	
	≥10	-	4	40.0	3	30.0	3	30.0	0	0.0	10	100.0	-
		+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	100.0	
		Total	4	40.0	3	30.0	3	30.0	0	0.0	10	100.0	
Lumber and Wood	None	-	197	34.7	193	34.0	93	16.4	85	15.0	568	100.0	0.19
		+	138	35.7	146	37.7	63	16.3	40	10.3	387	100.0	
		Total	335	35.1	339	35.5	156	16.3	125	13.1	955	100.0	
	<10	-	22	39.3	16	28.6	12	21.4	6	10.7	56	100.0	0.32
		+	9	26.5	11	32.4	6	17.6	8	23.5	34	100.0	
		Total	31	34.4	27	30.0	18	20.0	14	15.6	90	100.0	
	≥10	-	10	62.5	5	31.2	1	6.2	0	0.0	16	100.0	0.10
		+	2	22.2	3	33.3	3	33.3	1	11.1	9	100.0	
		Total	12	48.0	8	32.0	4	16.0	1	4.0	25	100.0	

	Years Exposed	Glu 69	Sarcoidosis		Asthma		COPD		Other		Total		p(x ²)
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Agriculture	None	-	189	36.0	176	33.5	85	16.2	75	14.3	525	100.0	0.47
		+	123	34.6	135	37.9	57	16.0	41	11.5	356	100.0	
		Total	312	35.4	311	35.3	142	16.1	116	13.2	881	100.0	
	<10	-	20	31.2	22	34.4	14	21.9	8	12.5	64	100.0	0.77
		+	18	40.0	12	26.7	10	22.2	5	11.1	45	100.0	
		Total	38	34.9	34	31.2	24	22.0	13	11.9	109	100.0	
	≥10	-	20	39.2	16	31.4	7	13.7	8	15.7	51	100.0	0.54
		+	8	27.6	13	44.8	5	17.2	3	10.3	29	100.0	
		Total	28	35.0	29	36.2	12	15.0	11	13.8	80	100.0	
Health Care	None	-	216	35.5	201	33.0	102	16.7	90	14.8	609	100.0	0.31
		+	135	33.8	150	37.5	69	17.2	46	11.5	400	100.0	
		Total	351	34.8	351	34.8	171	16.9	136	13.5	1009	100.0	
	<10	-	9	39.1	12	52.2	1	4.3	1	4.3	23	100.0	0.27
		+	7	36.8	6	31.6	3	15.8	3	15.8	19	100.0	
		Total	16	38.1	18	42.9	4	9.5	4	9.5	42	100.0	
	≥10	-	4	50.0	1	12.5	3	37.5	0	0.0	8	100.0	0.07
		+	7	63.6	4	36.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	100.0	
		Total	11	57.9	5	26.3	3	15.8	0	0.0	19	100.0	

Diagnoses by years employed by Glu 69: industry with 50+ employed (Women)

	Years Exposed	Glu 69	Sarcoidosis		Asthma		COPD		Other		Total		p(x ²)
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Oil and Gas	None	-	142	27.1	230	43.9	93	17.7	59	11.3	524	100.0	0.59
		+	115	30.2	170	44.6	59	15.5	37	9.7	381	100.0	
		Total	257	28.4	440	44.2	152	16.8	96	10.6	905	100.0	
	<10	-	13	38.2	14	41.2	3	8.8	4	11.8	34	100.0	0.90
		+	4	28.6	6	42.9	2	14.3	2	14.3	14	100.0	
		Total	17	35.4	20	41.7	5	10.4	6	12.5	48	100.0	
	≥10	-	1	12.5	4	50.0	2	25.0	1	12.5	8	100.0	0.53
		+	2	33.3	3	50.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	6	100.0	
		Total	3	21.4	7	50.0	2	14.3	2	14.3	14	100.0	
Agriculture	None	-	148	28.1	229	43.5	91	17.3	59	11.2	527	100.0	0.87
		+	111	29.8	165	44.2	59	15.8	38	10.2	373	100.0	
		Total	259	28.8	394	43.8	150	16.7	97	10.8	900	100.0	
	<10	-	3	13.6	12	54.5	5	22.7	2	9.1	22	100.0	0.17
		+	7	38.9	9	50.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	18	100.0	
		Total	10	25.0	21	52.5	7	17.5	2	5.0	40	100.0	
	≥10	-	5	29.4	7	41.2	2	11.8	3	17.6	17	100.0	0.73
		+	3	30.0	5	50.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	10	100.0	
		Total	8	29.6	12	44.4	2	7.4	5	18.5	27	100.0	
Health Care	None	-	125	30.4	175	42.6	69	16.8	42	10.2	411	100.0	0.97
		+	90	30.9	125	43.0	45	15.5	31	10.7	291	100.0	
		Total	215	30.6	300	42.7	114	16.2	73	10.4	702	100.0	
	<10	-	18	21.2	36	42.4	17	20.0	14	16.5	85	100.0	0.09
		+	17	34.0	23	46.0	8	16.0	2	4.0	50	100.0	
		Total	35	25.9	59	43.7	25	18.5	16	11.9	135	100.0	
	≥10	-	13	18.6	37	52.9	12	17.1	8	11.4	70	100.0	0.88
		+	14	23.3	31	51.7	8	13.3	7	11.7	60	100.0	
		Total	27	20.8	68	52.3	20	15.4	15	11.5	130	100.0	

Appendix 5: Genotype (Glu69 marker) by diagnosis and sex

Diagnosis	Men			Women		
	N	Glu 69 positive	%	N	Glu 69 positive	%
Sarcoidosis	378	149	39.4	277	121	43.7
Asthma	374	160	42.8	427	179	41.9
COPD	178	72	40.4	159	61	38.4
Other	140	49	35.0	104	40	38.5
Total	1070	430	40.2	967	401	41.5