

Best Practices for Using the CAMBIO Database

The CAMBIO isotopic data compilation offers a valuable resource for investigating archaeological questions about human behavior and cultural developments in the Caribbean, Mesoamerica, and southern Central America. To ensure proper data attribution and foster ethical research practices, we ask all users to follow these guidelines when using data from this compilation:

1. **Cite the Original Dataset:** Always cite the original authors or creators of the data in the CAMBIO dataset. Proper citation includes referencing any associated publications or reports that detail the data compilation. This recognition respects the intellectual contributions of those who collected, presented, and/or published the original data. Complete citations are associated with each entry in the database.
2. **Acknowledge CAMBIO Database Use:** Explicitly state in your research that the data was accessed from the CAMBIO human isotopic data compilation. Ensure that you also mention which version of the dataset was accessed. Acknowledging the database as a key resource adds transparency.
3. **Provide Context for Data:** When using the isotopic data in your research, include the necessary context regarding sampling methods, chronological information, and bioarchaeological or historical details. Accurate representation of the data helps prevent misinterpretation and preserves the integrity of subsequent analyses.
4. **Respect Data Usage Terms:** Review any metadata or use restrictions outlined by the CAMBIO database. Ensure that you adhere to any conditions specified by the data creators, including any required permissions for specific types of use or secondary analysis.
 - Note: As on October 2024, some datasets in v.1.2 of the CAMBIO Human datasets were removed from the database pending publication and peer review at the request of the original authors.
5. **Acknowledge Secondary Use:** If you modify or adapt the data (e.g., integrating it with other datasets or conducting new analyses), clearly indicate this in your research. Properly attributing the original data source while describing how the data was adapted maintains transparency and ensures the data's lineage is respected.