

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cross-sectional studies*

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract Page 1 in the title and abstract the study's design is indicated. (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Page 1 in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found have been reported.
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Pages 1 and 2, paragraphs 1 and 2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 2, paragraph 2
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Page 2, paragraph 3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Page 2, paragraph 3
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants Page 2, paragraph 3
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Page 2, paragraph 4 and page 3, paragraph 1
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group Not applicable
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Page 3, paragraph 2
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Page 3, paragraph 2 (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Page 3, paragraph 2 (c) Explain how missing data were addressed Not applicable (d) If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy Page 3, paragraph 2 (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses Page 3, paragraph 2
Results		
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study,

completing follow-up, and analysed

[Page 2, paragraph 3](#)

(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage

[Page 2, paragraph 3](#)

(c) Consider use of a flow diagram

[Not reported, but described clearly in the text Page 2, paragraph 3](#)

Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Page 3, paragraph 3; page 4, table 1 (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Not applicable
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures Pages 6 and 7 and Table 3
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (e.g., 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included Not applicable (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Not applicable (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period Not applicable
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Pages 6 and 7; table 2 and figure 2
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Page 10, paragraph 3
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias Page 11, paragraph 3
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Page 11, paragraphs 1 and 2
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Page 11, paragraph 3
Other information		
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based Mentioned in Page 11 under Funding subsection.

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at

<http://www.annals.org/>, and *Epidemiology* at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.