STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

Format from R. Jandoc et al., Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 68 (2015), 950-956

Item	Item	Recommendation	Location
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study design (interrupted time series) in the title or abstract	Title and abstract
Introduction			
Background/ rationale	2	Provide background regarding the intervention and setting under investigation to the study rationale and methods	Introduction, paragraphs 1-3
Objectives	3	(a) State specific objectives and any prespecified hypotheses	Introduction, paragraph 4
		(b) Distinguish between primary and secondary objectives	Methods, paragraph 2
Methods			
Intervention	4	Define the intervention time point(s) used in the analysis	Methods: Intervention design, Statistical analysis
Participants	5	(a) List eligibility criteria and methods of selection	Methods: Case detection intervention
		(b) Define subgroups	Methods: Case detection intervention
		(c) Consider including a comparison group not exposed to the intervention as a secondary group of participants	Methods: Intervention and control areas
Data sources/ measurement	6	(a) List data source(s)	Methods: Data sources
		(b) Comment on data completeness, validity, and changes in data coverage over time	Methods: Data Sources Results: Population-level case detection
Variables	7	(a) Define all variables	
		• Outcome variable(s)	Methods: Intervention design Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection
		• Descriptive and stratifying variable(s)	Methods: Statistical analysis, Intervention-level case detection
		(b) Comment on change in variable coding over time	
		(c) Consider including details of variable coding in supplemental material	S1 Text
Statistical methods	8	(a) Report all statistical methods	Methods: Statistical analysis
		• Study time intervals, for example, monthly, quarterly	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection
		• Regression model, for example, ARIMA, linear, segmented	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection
		◦ For ARIMA models, include the intervention	
		◦ Indicate the appropriateness of linear model(s) when applied	
		Number of preintervention, postintervention and between intervention data points	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection, paragraph 2

Item	Item	Recommendation	Location
		(b) Define the study period and number of preintervention data points used in forecasting	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection, paragraph 2
		(c) Indicate how autocorrelation, nonstationarity, and seasonality were tested and handled	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection, paragraph 4
		(d) Consider a lag period if intervention effects are gradual or delayed	
		(e) Define and distinguish between primary and secondary or sensitivity analyses	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection, paragraphs 2 and 3
		(f) Consider use of comparison outcome(s) and/or population(s) not exposed to the intervention(s) as secondary analyses	Methods: Intervention and control areas
		(g) Report statistical software used for analysis	Methods: Statistical analysis, Population-level case detection, paragraph 4
Results			
Participants	9	(a) Report numbers of individuals and/or observations in each group analyzed	Table 1 Results: intervention-level case detection
		(b) Consider use of a flow diagram	Table 1
		(c) Describe characteristics and missing data	Results: Population-level case detection
Outcome data	10	(a) Report the number of outcomes examined over the study period	Results: Population-level case detection
		(b) Report the average, minimum, and maximum number of outcomes across time intervals	Results: Population-level case detection
		(c) Report on data variability	Results: Population-level case detection
		(d) Comment on outliers and ceiling or floor effects where relevant	Results: Population-level case detection
Main results	11	(a) Present results using a graphical display with intervention time point(s) clearly defined	Figure 3
		(b) Consider including forecasted results graphically	Figure 3
		(c) Report absolute and/or relative change(s) and their significance, for example, clincial or policy and statistical	Table 4 Results: Population-level case detection
Other analyses	12	Report additional results (secondary and sensitivity analyses) in the article, appendix or research Web site	Supporting information
Discussion			
Key results	13	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion, paragraph 1
Context	14	(a) Provide context related to possible confounding	Discussion, paragraph 4

Item	Item	Recommendation	Location
		• Discuss relevant cointerventions that occurred during the study period	Discussion, paragraph 4
		• Comment on the stability of participant characteristics over time	Discussion, paragraphs 4 and 5
		• Comment on the stability of outcome coding over time	Discussion: Strengths and limitations
		(b) Discuss results of comparison analyses or provide a rationale if no comparison group was considered	Discussion, paragraph 4
Limitations	15	(a) Discuss limitations of study	Discussion: Strengths and limitations
		(b) Comment on data variability and appropriateness of the number of data points	Discussion: Strengths and limitations
		(c) Comment on ceiling or floor effects and outliers where relevant	Discussion: Strengths and limitations
		(d) Discuss direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Discussion: Strengths and limitations
Interpretation	16	Provide overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion and conclusion
Other information			
Funding	17	List of funding source(s) and role of funders	Funding section
References	18	Reference methodological articles that support statistical methods used	References 20-26