

Quality assessment checklist for prevalence studies (adapted from Hoy et al)

Name of author(s):		
Year of publication:		
Study title:		
Risk of bias items	Risk of bias levels	Points scored
1. Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables, e.g. age, sex, occupation?	Yes (LOW RISK): The study's target population was a close representation of the national population.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The study's target population was clearly NOT representative of the national population.	1
2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population?	Yes (LOW RISK): The sampling frame was a true or close representation of the target population.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The sampling frame was NOT a true or close representation of the target population.	1
3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken?	Yes (LOW RISK): A census was undertaken, OR, some form of random selection was used to select the sample (e.g. simple random sampling, stratified random sampling, cluster sampling, systematic sampling).	0
	No (HIGH RISK): A census was NOT undertaken, AND some form of random selection was NOT used to select the sample.	1
4. Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal?	Yes (LOW RISK): The response rate for the study was $\geq 75\%$, OR, an analysis was performed that showed no significant difference in relevant demographic characteristics between responders and non-responders	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The response rate was $<75\%$, and if any analysis comparing responders and non-responders was done, it showed a significant difference in relevant demographic characteristics between responders and non-responders	1
5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)?	Yes (LOW RISK): All data were collected directly from the subjects.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): In some instances, data were collected from a proxy.	1
6. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study?	Yes (LOW RISK): An acceptable case definition was used.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): An acceptable case definition was NOT used	1
7. Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (e.g. prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary)?	Yes (LOW RISK): The study instrument had been shown to have reliability and validity (if this was necessary), e.g. test-re-test, piloting, validation in a previous study, etc.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The study instrument had NOT been shown to have reliability or validity (if this was necessary).	1
8. Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects?	Yes (LOW RISK): The same mode of data collection was used for all subjects.	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The same mode of data collection was NOT used for all subjects.	1
9. Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate	Yes (LOW RISK): The paper presented appropriate numerator(s) AND denominator(s) for the parameter of interest (e.g. the prevalence of low back pain).	0
	No (HIGH RISK): The paper did present numerator(s) AND denominator(s) for the parameter of interest but one or more of these were inappropriate.	1
10. Summary on the overall risk of study bias	LOW RISK	0-3
	MODERATE RISK	4-6
	HIGH RISK	7-9