

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *case-control studies*

	Item No	Recommendation	Page No
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	P2
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	P2
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	P4-5
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	P5
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	P6
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	P6
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls	P6
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	P6
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	P6
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	P6-7
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	P6
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	P11
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	P15-16
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	P11-12
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	P11-12
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Not applicable
		(d) If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed	P11-12
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Not applicable
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	P13
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Not applicable
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Not applicable
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	P13,P33
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Not applicable

Outcome data	15*	Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	P33
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	P13
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	P13
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	P13
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	P13
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	P22
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	P25
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	P25
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	P25
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	P26

*Give information separately for cases and controls.

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 <http://www.strobe-statement.org>.