

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort studies*

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up NOT APPLICABLE (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed
Variables	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
Data sources/measurement	8*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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
Bias	9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
Study size	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explain how the study size was arrived at
Quantitative variables	11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical methods	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) Explain how missing data were addressed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed NOT PERFORMED (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses
Results		
Participants	13*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive data	14*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)
Outcome data	15*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time
Main results	16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (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

		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
Other analyses	17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses
Discussion		
Key results	18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
Limitations	19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias
Interpretation	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
Generalisability	21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results
Other information		
Funding	22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups. (NOT APPLICABLE SINCE PARTICIPANTS WERE ALL EXPOSED)

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>.