## 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
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what
		was done and what was found
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being
(Introduction paragraphs 1-4)		reported
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
(Abstract paragraph 1,		
Introduction paragraph 5)		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
(Methods paragraph 1)		
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of
(Methods paragraph 2-4)		recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of
(Methods paragraph 5-6)		participants
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders,
(Methods paragraph 10-11)		and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of
(Methods paragraph 7)		assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods
		if there is more than one group
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
(Methods paragraph 9)		
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at
(Methods paragraph 5)		
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If
(Methods paragraph 12-13)		applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for
(Methods paragraph 14)		confounding
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed
		(d) If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling
		strategy
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers
(Methods Figure 1, Results		potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in
paragraph 1)		the study, completing follow-up, and analysed
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical,
(Results Table 1-2,		social) and information on exposures and potential confounders
Results paragraphs 1-2, 7)		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of
		interest
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures
		•

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
	(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized
	(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute
	risk for a meaningful time period
17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and
	sensitivity analyses
18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential
	bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential
	bias
20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives,
	limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other
	relevant evidence
21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results
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
	117 118 119 220

<sup>\*\*</sup> details available in online portal and in published paper.

**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.