

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort 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 In title and abstract (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Provided.
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported YES
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Included in last paragraph in introduction.
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Provided in methods.
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Provided in first and second paragraphs of methods.
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Provided in first paragraph of methods. (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed N/A
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Provided in the first four paragraphs of methods.
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 Provided paragraphs one to three of methods.
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Provided in the last two paragraphs of the methods and the paragraph on strengths
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Provided in the first paragraph of methods
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Provided in paragraphs 1-3 and 5 in methods.
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Provided (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions N/A (c) Explain how missing data were addressed Provided in first and last paragraph in methods (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed Referenced in first paragraph of methods (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses Provided in detail in methods
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 Provided in paragraph one of methods (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage Provided in paragraph one of methods (c) Consider use of a flow diagram

Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Provided in paragraph one of methods
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Provided in paragraph one of methods
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) N/A
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Table 1
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 Provided in results section
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Provided.
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period N/A
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Provided in results
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Provided in paragraph one of discussion
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 Provided in second last paragraph of discussion
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Provided
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Provided in discussion (paragraph 5-6)
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 (provided in title page)

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

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>.