

Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)

Questions to assist with the critical appraisal of case-control studies¹

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Citation:	
<i>Are there other companion papers from the same study?</i>	
	Yes/ Can't tell/ No
1. Is the study design clearly stated?	
2. Does the study address a clearly focused question? Consider: population; definition of case & control	
3. Are the setting, locations and relevant dates provided?	
4. Were participants fairly selected? Consider: eligibility criteria; sources & selection of participants; for matched studies – details of matching criteria and number of controls per case.	
5. Are participant characteristics provided? Consider: numbers of cases and controls	
6. Are the measures of exposures & outcomes appropriate? Consider if the methods of assessment are valid & reliable.	
7. Is there a description of how the study size was arrived at?	
8. Are the statistical methods well described? Consider: How missing data was handled; were potential sources of bias (confounding factors) considered/controlled for.	
9. Are the results well described? Consider if: effect sizes, confidence intervals/standard deviations provided; the conclusions are the same in the abstract and the full text.	
10. Is any sponsorship/conflict of interest reported?	
11. Finally...Did the authors identify any limitations and, if so, are they captured above?	
Summary <i>Add comments relating to areas of concern that were avoidable and a statement indicating if the results are reliable and/or useful.</i>	

This checklist should be cited as: Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE) 2018. Questions to assist with the critical appraisal of case-control studies. Available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/libraries/sure/checklists.html>

¹ Devised with reference to the STROBE consideration and elaboration article: Vandembroucke JP, von Elm E, Altman DG, Gøtzsche PC, Mulrow CD, et al. (2007) [Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology \(STROBE\): Explanation and Elaboration](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0040297). PLoS Med 4(10): e297. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0040297