

Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, Biostatistics Department Research Methods Consulting

Reporting Guidelines

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Following are short summaries of the reporting guidelines for the most frequent study types. For more details, please follow the links provided.

1 CONSORT

To help authors adequately report their trial findings, CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) offers recommendations for reporting randomized trials. It provides a checklist of 25 items focusing on how the trial was designed, analysed, and interpreted. The goal is to improve the clarity, completeness, and transparency of reporting and aiding the critical appraisal and interpretation of trial findings. However, it does not include recommendations for designing and conducting trials and it is not intended to evaluate the quality of a trial. CONSORT was the first reporting guideline developed by a group of experts and since its release in 1996 it has been revised and updated, lastly in 2010. There are over 580 journals that endorse CONSORT, e.g. the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the Lancet, and the New England Journal of Medicine.

http://www.consort-statement.org/

2 STROBE

The STROBE Statement (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) was developed to assist authors when writing up analytical observational studies, to support editors and reviewers when considering such articles for publication, and to help readers when critically appraising published articles. It includes recommendations for the three main study designs: cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies. The checklist contains 22 items that should be addressed in articles reporting the findings of a study. It is not an instrument to evaluate the quality of observational research, but to facilitate clear and complete reporting of it. The STROBE statement is being endorsed by a growing number of biomedical journals.

https://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=strobe-home

3 TRIPOD

The TRIPOD Statement (Transparent reporting of a multivariable prediction model for individual prognosis or diagnosis) aims to improve the reporting of studies developing, validating, or updating prediction models. Prediction models are developed to estimate the probability or risk that a specific disease or condition is present (diagnostic models) or that a specific event will occur in the future (prognostic models).* The TRIPOD Statement is a checklist of 22 items considered essential for good reporting and it covers studies that report solely development, both development and external validation, and solely external validation (with or without updating) of a prediction model. It supports authors writing reports, editors and peer reviewers in reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication, and helps readers critically appraising published reports. The recommendations are guidelines only for reporting research and do not prescribe how to develop or validate a prediction model. Furthermore, the checklist is not a tool to assess the quality of a multivariable prediction model.

https://www.tripod-statement.org/

^{*}TRIPOD is not intended for multivariable modelling in aetiological studies or for studies investigating single prognostic factors. Furthermore, TRIPOD is also not intended for impact studies that quantify the impact of using a prediction model on participant or doctors' behaviour and management, participant health outcomes, or cost-effectiveness of care, compared with not using the model.