

Quality assessment criteria for survey research reports

Category	Item	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Title and abstract			
	Is the design of the study stated in the title and/or abstract?	Page: 2 Line: 24-25	Section: Abstract Paragraph: 2
Introduction			
	a) Is there an explanation of why the research is necessary, placing the study in context of previous work in relevant fields?	Page: 3 Line: 48-61	Section: Introduction Paragraph: 1
	b) Is the purpose or aim of the paper explained?	Page: 3 Line: 62-63	Section: Introduction Paragraph: 2
Methods			
Research tool	a) Is the questionnaire described?	Page: 4 Line: 82-88 See also Figure 1	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 2 See also Figure 1
	b) If an existing tool was used, are its psychometric properties presented?	N/A	Novel survey was used
	c) If an existing tool was used, are references to the original work provided?	N/A	Novel survey was used
	d) If a new tool was used, are the procedures used to develop and pre-test provided?	Page: 4 Line: 73-81	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1
	e) If a new tool was used, have its reliability and validity been reported?	N/A	Reliability and validity of new tool has not been previously studied or reported
	f) Is a description of the scoring procedures provided?	Page: 4 Line: 82-88 See also Figure 1	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 2 See also Figure 1
Sample selection	a) Is there a description of the survey population and the sample frame used to identify this population?	Page: 3-4 Line: 72-73	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1
	b) Do the authors provide a description of how representative the sample is of the underlying population?	Page: 3-4 Line: 72-75	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1
	c) Is a sample size calculation or rationale/justification for the sample size presented?	N/A	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1 Convenience sample utilized
Survey	a) Mode of administration?	Page: 4 Line: 73-76	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1

administration	b) Do the authors provide information on the type of contact and how many attempts were made to contact subjects (i.e., prenotification by letter or telephone, reminder postcard, duplicate questionnaire with reminder)?	Page: 4 Line:73-76	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1
	c) Do the authors report whether incentives were provided (financial or other)?	Page: 4 Line: 76	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1
	d) Is there a description of who approached potential participants (e.g., identification of who signed the covering letter)?	Page: 4 Line: 73-76	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 1

Analysis	a) Is the method of data analysis described?	Page: 4-5 Line: 91-98	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 3
	b) Do the authors provide methods for analysis of nonresponse error?	No	Retrospective, anonymous nature of survey precluded analysis of nonresponse error
	c) Is the method for calculating response rate provided?	No	Retrospective, anonymous nature of survey precluded calculation of response rate
	d) Are definitions provided for complete versus partial completions?	Page: 7 Line: 153-156	Section: Results Paragraph: 6
	e) Are the methods for handling item missing data provided?	Page: 4 Line: 91-94	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 3
Results			
	a) Is the response rate reported?	No	Retrospective, anonymous nature of survey precluded calculation of response rate
	b) Are all respondents accounted for?	Page: 4 Line: 91-94	Section: Materials and methods Paragraph: 3
	c) Is information given on how nonrespondents differ from respondents?	No	Retrospective, anonymous nature of survey precluded comparison of responders to non-responders
	d) Are the results clearly presented?	Page: 5-7 Line: 102-156 See also Table 1-5	Section: Results Paragraph: 1-6 See also Table 1-5
	e) Do the results address the objective(s)?	Page: 5-7 Line: 102-156	Section: Results Paragraph: 1-6
Discussion			
	a) Are the results summarized with reference to the study objectives?	Page: 7-10 Line: 167-235	Section: Discussion Paragraph: 2-6
	b) Are the strengths of the study stated?	Page: 7 Line: 159-166	Section: Discussion Paragraph: 1
	c) Are the limitations of the study (taking into account potential sources of bias or imprecision) stated?	Page: 10 Line: 236-251	Section: Discussion Paragraph: 7
	d) Is there explicit discussion of the generalizability (external validity) of the results?	Page: 10 Line: 243-244	Section: Discussion Paragraph: 7
Ethical quality indicators			
	a) Study funding reported?	Page: 11 Line: 278-279	Section: Funding Paragraph: 1
	b) Research Ethics Board (REB) review reported?	Page: 12 Line: 283-885	Section: Ethical statement Paragraph: 1
	c) Reporting of subject consent procedures?	Page: 12 Line: 283-285	Section: Ethical statement Paragraph: 1

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.