

## Quality assessment criteria for survey research reports

| Category                  | Item   | Reported on Page Number/Line Number | Reported on Section/Paragraph |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Title and abstract</b> |  |                                     |                               |
|                           | Is the design of the study stated in the title and/or abstract?  |                                     |                               |
| <b>Introduction</b>       |  |                                     |                               |
|                           | a) Is there an explanation of why the research is necessary, placing the study in context of previous work in relevant fields?   |                                     |                               |
|                           | b) Is the purpose or aim of the paper explained?   |                                     |                               |
| <b>Methods</b>            |  |                                     |                               |
| Research tool             | a) Is the questionnaire described?   |                                     |                               |
|                           | b) If an existing tool was used, are its psychometric properties presented?  |                                     |                               |
|                           | c) If an existing tool was used, are references to the original work provided?   |                                     |                               |
|                           | d) If a new tool was used, are the procedures used to develop and pre-test provided?   |                                     |                               |
|                           | e) If a new tool was used, have its reliability and validity been reported?  |                                     |                               |
|                           | f) Is a description of the scoring procedures provided?  |                                     |                               |
| Sample selection          | a) Is there a description of the survey population and the sample frame used to identify this population?  |                                     |                               |
|                           | b) Do the authors provide a description of how representative the sample is of the underlying population?  |                                     |                               |
|                           | c) Is a sample size calculation or rationale/justification for the sample size presented?  |                                     |                               |
| Survey administration     | a) Mode of 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)? |                                     |                               |
|                           | c) Do the authors report whether incentives were provided (financial or other)?  |                                     |                               |
|                           | d) Is there a description of who approached potential participants (e.g., identification of who signed the covering letter)?   |                                     |                               |

|                                   |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Analysis                          | a) Is the method of data analysis described?   |  |  |
|                                   | b) Do the authors provide methods for analysis of nonresponse error?                                       |  |  |
|                                   | c) Is the method for calculating response rate provided?   |  |  |
|                                   | d) Are definitions provided for complete versus partial completions?                                       |  |  |
|                                   | e) Are the methods for handling item missing data provided?  |  |  |
| <b>Results</b>                    |  |  |  |
|                                   | a) Is the response rate reported?  |  |  |
|                                   | b) Are all respondents accounted for?  |  |  |
|                                   | c) Is information given on how nonrespondents differ from respondents?                                     |  |  |
|                                   | d) Are the results clearly presented?  |  |  |
|                                   | e) Do the results address the objective(s)?  |  |  |
| <b>Discussion</b>                 |  |  |  |
|                                   | a) Are the results summarized with reference to the study objectives?                                      |  |  |
|                                   | b) Are the strengths of the study stated?  |  |  |
|                                   | c) Are the limitations of the study (taking into account potential sources of bias or imprecision) stated? |  |  |
|                                   | d) Is there explicit discussion of the generalizability (external validity) of the results?                |  |  |
| <b>Ethical quality indicators</b> |  |  |  |
|                                   | a) Study funding reported?   |  |  |
|                                   | b) Research Ethics Board (REB) review reported?  |  |  |
|                                   | c) Reporting of subject consent procedures?  |  |  |