

1 Methodology checklist

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Critical appraisal checklist for a questionnaire study

Research question and study design	
Was a questionnaire the most appropriate method?	
Validity and reliability	
Have claims for validity been made, and are they justified? (Is there evidence that the instrument measures what it sets out to measure?)	
Have claims for reliability been made, and are they justified? (Is there evidence that the questionnaire provides stable responses over time and between researchers?)	
Format	
Are example questions provided?	
Did the questions make sense, and could the participants in the sample understand them? Were any questions ambiguous or overly complicated?	
Piloting	
Are details given about the piloting undertaken	
Was the questionnaire adequately piloted in terms of the method and means of administration, on people who were representative of the study population?	
Sampling	
Was the sampling frame for the definitive study sufficiently large and representative?	
Distribution, administration and response	
Was the method of distribution and administration reported	
Were the response rates reported, including details of participants who were unsuitable for the research or refused to take part?	
Have any potential response biases been discussed?	

Coding and analysis	
What sort of analysis was carried out and was this appropriate? (e.g. correct statistical tests for quantitative answers, qualitative analysis for open ended questions)	
Results	
Were all relevant data reported?	
Are quantitative results definitive (significant), and are relevant non-significant results also reported?	
Have qualitative results been adequately interpreted (e.g. using an explicit theoretical framework), and have any quotes been properly justified and contextualised?	
Conclusions and discussion	
Have the researchers drawn an appropriate link between the data and their conclusions?	
Have the findings been placed within the wider body of knowledge in the field (e.g. via a comprehensive literature review), and are any recommendations justified?	