

## ILLICIT DRUGS QUALITY INDEX: MORTALITY STUDIES

Variable name	Description	Options	Score
Case ascertainment	How representative are the cases chosen?	All cases from a geographically defined population (e.g., all heroin users in treatment in a state or country)	3
		Random, but representative sample of a population (e.g. X number of treatment centres, which are representative of state or country)	2
		Sample restricted to one city (e.g, multiple treatment centres in a city)	1
		Convenience sample, where the representativeness of the sample is unclear	0
Measurement	Measurement instrument to determine use or dependence.	Dependence assessed via structured interview, or in treatment for dependence	2
		Diagnosis from chart/drug use (without formal assessment)	1
		Not specified	0
Diagnosis	Indicates whether dependence was diagnosed.	Any diagnostic system reported for drug dependence or abuse/Dependence inferred from type of sample population	2
		Drug use/Own system/Symptoms described	1
		Not reported	0
Estimate	Type of estimate	Crude Mortality Rate:	
		Yes	1
		No	0
		Standardised mortality ratio:	
		Yes	1
No	0		
Num/Den	Was the numerator <i>and</i> denominator presented for the estimates?	Crude Mortality Rate: Person years follow-up reported (denominator)?	
		Yes	1
		No	0
		Standardised Mortality Ratio: Expected deaths reported (denominator)?	
		Yes	1
No	0		

Variable name	Description	Options	Score
Num/Den Area/Epoch	Were the numerator and denominator based on identical epochs and identical catchment areas for estimate of interest?	Yes (for CMRs, the estimate will by definition be of the same epoch and catchment area, for SMRs, the expected deaths need to be for the same catchment area and epoch)	1
		No	0
Completeness	Captures response rates and attrition rates	High response rate/follow-up rate (>80%)	2
		Moderate response rate (60-79%)	1
		Exclusions Poor response rate (<60%)made	0
Representativeness	Determines generalisability of the sample to the population	Well represented/National registers/Multiple institutions across states	2
		Small area/Not representative of nation/One treatment centre/Registers of specific populations	1
		Convenience sampling/Not reported	0
Age/sex	Identifies whether age and/or sex specific values were reported.	Yes	2
		Some (e.g., sex and 2 broad age ranges only)	1
		No	0
<b>Qualitative information (free text)</b>			
Quality	To capture methods that were not reported on by other variables (free text)		
Duration FU	To obtain more information about follow-up periods and sample sizes when doing so (free text)		
Quality Index Notes	Insert any other quality information that has not been captured by other variables. For example, note whether the study is one that uses indirect prevalence methods, and state which data sources were used for this.		
<b>Total Score</b>			
Out of a possible 18			