

Additional file 2. STROBE checklist for cross-sectional studies

Reactive markers of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis among people who use drugs in Sofia, Bulgaria: a cross-sectional bio-behavioural survey

Items follow the STROBE Statement checklist for cross-sectional studies. The “Where reported” column gives the section of the article, or of Additional file 1, in which each item is addressed.

No.	Item	Recommendation	Where reported
1a	Title and abstract	Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Title (“a cross-sectional bio-behavioural survey”); Abstract, Methods
1b		Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Abstract
2	Background/rationale	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Background, paragraphs 1–8
3	Objectives	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Background, final paragraph. No hypotheses were prespecified; the study is descriptive and estimative
4	Study design	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Methods, Study design and setting
5	Setting	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Methods, Study design and setting; Recruitment and sampling (Sofia, late June to August 2024)
6a	Participants	Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	Methods, Participants; Recruitment and sampling
7	Variables	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Methods, Data collection (outcomes and assays); Statistical analysis (exposures and covariates); Additional file 1, Section S1
8	Data sources/measurement	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment. Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Methods, Data collection. One assay per marker was used for all participants
9	Bias	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Methods, Recruitment and sampling (trusted outreach workers, coded anonymous records); Discussion, Limitations (selection, social desirability, unconfirmed tests)
10	Study size	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Methods, Participants: no formal sample size calculation; every eligible client reached by the outreach service during the fieldwork period was included (n = 480). The achieved precision is shown by the confidence intervals in Table 3
11	Quantitative variables	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Methods, Statistical analysis (age per 10 years and in five strata; education collapsed from five to three categories, with the reason)
12a	Statistical methods	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Methods, Statistical analysis
12b		Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Methods, Statistical analysis (stratified analysis, Woolf test, additive interaction on the risk scale); Additional file 1, Section S6
12c		Explain how missing data were addressed	Methods, Statistical analysis (complete cases, denominators stated, structural skips distin-

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			guished); Additional file 1, Section S2 and Table S1
12d		If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	Not applicable: convenience sample without weights; consequence stated in Discussion, Limitations
12e		Describe any sensitivity analyses	Methods, Statistical analysis; Results, Stratified analysis, interaction and sensitivity analyses; Additional file 1, Table S8
13a	Participants	Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study	Methods, Participants: all 480 eligible clients invited were enrolled, and all contributed questionnaire and specimen data
13b		Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Methods, Participants: no eligible person declined and no participant was excluded, so there was no non-participation to report
13c		Consider use of a flow diagram	Not used: with no exclusions or refusals, a single stage (480 invited, 480 enrolled, 480 analysed) is stated in the text
14a	Descriptive data	Give characteristics of study participants and information on exposures and potential confounders	Results, Tables 1 and 2
14b		Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Tables 1 and 2 (not recorded rows and denominators); Additional file 1, Table S1
15	Outcome data	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Results, Table 3; Additional file 1, Tables S2 and S3
16a	Main results	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision. Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Results, Prevalence of reactive markers (crude prevalence ratios); Correlates of HIV and HCV reactivity (Table 5); Methods, Statistical analysis and Additional file 1, Section S1 (choice of covariates)
16b		Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorised	Table 1 (age groups); Methods, Statistical analysis (education categories)
16c		If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Absolute prevalences with exact confidence intervals are reported throughout; risk over time cannot be estimated from a cross-sectional design (Discussion, Limitations)
17	Other analyses	Report other analyses done, e.g. analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Results, Stratified analysis, interaction and sensitivity analyses; Additional file 1, Sections S5–S7 and Tables S4–S8
18	Key results	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion, paragraph 1; Conclusions
19	Limitations	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Discussion, Limitations
20	Interpretation	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion
21	Generalisability	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Discussion, Limitations, paragraph 2

No.	Item	Recommendation	Where reported
22	Funding	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	Declarations, Funding (data collection funded by the Center for Humane Policy; analysis unfunded)