Online Resource 2: Reporting checklist adapted from RECORD

Article: Guideline citation and the growth of PubMed: a pre-registered cohort study, 2008–2024

Journal: *Scientometrics*

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Status: draft for the author to verify against the official checklist (Benchimol et al., *PLoS Med* 2015; record-statement.org) **before submission.** RECORD was written for routinely collected *health* data; it is used here, adapted, for public bibliographic records. Locations refer to the manuscript (§ = section) and Online Resource 1 (S = supplementary section).

The status column says where an item is addressed. It does not certify compliance. “Partly” means the author should decide whether to add more.

Item	STROBE / RECORD content	Location	Status
1a	Design in title or abstract	Title (“cohort study”); Abstract, Methods	Yes
1b	Informative, balanced abstract	Abstract	Yes
RECORD 1.1	Type of data and databases named in title or abstract	Abstract, Methods (PubMed, NIH iCite)	Yes (abstract only; not in title)
RECORD 1.2	Geographic region and time frame in title or abstract	Abstract (2008–2024; worldwide PubMed literature)	Partly: region not stated, because the population is the global indexed literature
RECORD 1.3	Linkage between databases stated in title or abstract	Abstract (“Through NIH iCite, we linked…”)	Yes
2	Scientific background and rationale	§1 (including literature-growth and impact-indicator context)	Yes
3	Objectives and hypotheses	§1 (aim); §2.7 (H1, H2); Supplement S5 (H3)	Yes
4	Key elements of design early in the paper	§2.1	Yes
5	Setting, locations, periods of data collection and follow-up	§2.1, §2.5 (cohorts 2008–2024, follow-up to 2025, extraction 19 October 2026)	Yes
6a	Eligibility criteria and sources of participants	§2.3, §2.4	Yes

Item	STROBE / RECORD content	Location	Status
	(here: papers and guidelines)		
RECORD 6.1	Methods of population selection (codes, algorithms)	§2.3–2.4; S11 (exact search strings)	Yes
RECORD 6.2	Validation studies of the codes or algorithms	§2.6, Table 1; S1, S2 (gates G1–G4, cleaned F2 validation)	Yes
RECORD 6.3	Linkage: flow diagram or description	Figure 1; §2.5	Yes
7	Outcomes, exposures, predictors, confounders defined	§2.2, §2.5	Yes
RECORD 7.1	Complete list of codes and algorithms	S11; code repository	Yes
8	Data sources and measurement	§2.5, §2.6	Yes
9	Efforts to address bias	§2.6 (coverage weighting, audit); §2.7 (sensitivity analyses); §3.6 (post hoc)	Yes
10	How study size was arrived at	§2.1 (census; no sample size calculation), §3.1	Yes
11	Handling of quantitative variables	§2.5 (ages, cohorts, 5-year window)	Yes
12a	Statistical methods	§2.7	Yes
12b	Subgroups and interactions	§2.7 (age × cohort check); S4 (designs)	Yes
12c	Missing data	§2.6 (coverage weighting; Bookshelf records)	Yes
12d	Loss to follow-up (cohort)	§2.5 (censoring at 2025 in life tables)	Yes
12e	Sensitivity analyses	§2.7; S6, S9, S10	Yes
RECORD 12.1	Extent of the investigators' access to the database population	§2.1 (all records publicly accessible in full)	Yes
RECORD 12.2	Data cleaning methods	§2.4 (year de-duplication); §2.3 and S2 (F2 cleaning)	Yes
RECORD 12.3	Linkage methods and quality evaluation	§2.5 (History-server intersection); G3 (NICE matching)	Yes
13a	Numbers at each stage	§3.1, Figure 1	Yes
13b	Reasons for non-participation	§2.3 (Bookshelf records without references); Figure 1	Yes
13c	Flow diagram	Figure 1	Yes
RECORD 13.1	Selection of included records from the data source	Figure 1; §3.1	Yes
14	Descriptive data	§3.1, §3.2, Table 1	Yes
15	Outcome data	§3.2, §3.3, Table 2	Yes
16	Main results with precision	§3.2–3.3, Table 2, Figure 5	Yes

Item	STROBE / RECORD content	Location	Status
17	Other analyses	§3.4–3.6; S3–S10	Yes
18	Key results	§4 Principal findings	Yes
19	Limitations	§4 Strengths and limitations	Yes
RECORD 19.1	Implications of data not created for this question (misclassification, changes in indexing over time)	§4 Limitations (tagging gap, coverage, MEDLINE scope, frame precision)	Yes
20	Cautious overall interpretation	§4	Yes
21	Generalisability	§4 (journal-published guidelines only; NICE comparison)	Yes
22	Funding	Statements and Declarations	Yes
RECORD 22.1	Access to protocol, raw data and programming code	Statements and Declarations (public GitHub repository, Zenodo DOI to add); §2.1	Yes