

*Global Burden of Disease*

**Mental Disorders and  
Illicit Drug Use Expert Group**



**Appendix D**

**Quality Score Criteria**

©NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTRE,  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, 2008

## Quality score criteria

### 1. Case ascertainment

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationwide survey/register/database (not for a specific population)</li> <li>Multiple institutions/centers</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional</li> <li>Case/death registers</li> <li>One treatment institution/hospital etc.</li> </ul>
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not specified</li> </ul>

### 2. Measurement instrument

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview/self-reported drug use (comment about reporting type, eg. self-report or standardised interview)</li> <li>In treatment for drug dependence</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systematic case note/database/reports review</li> <li>Blood and/or urine toxicology screen</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chart diagnosis</li> </ul>
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not specified</li> </ul>

### 3. Diagnostic criteria

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any diagnostic system reported for drug dependence or abuse (not use) eg., DSM, ICD, RDC (comment, eg. DSM)</li> <li>Dependence inferred from type of sample population (comment, eg. treatment centre)</li> </ul>
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug use</li> <li>Own system</li> <li>Symptoms described</li> <li>No system</li> <li>Not specified</li> </ul>

### 4. Estimate

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes (comment on what type of estimate, eg. relative risk, SMR, prevalence, incidence)</li> </ul>
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>

**5. Numerator and denominator presented?**

1	• Yes
0	• No

**6. Numerator and denominator based on identical epochs and identical catchment areas?**

1	• Yes
0	• No

**7. Completeness of follow-up in cohort studies and response for cross-section studies**

2	• High response rate/inclusion of defined sample population (>80%)
1	• Moderate response rate (60% - 79%) • Exclusions made
0	• Poor response rate (<60%)

**8. Representative of the catchment area?**

2	• Well represented • National registers • Multiple institutions across states
1	• Small area • Not representative of nation • One treatment centre • Registers of specific populations, eg. pilots
0	• Convenient sampling • Other (comment)

**9. Age/sex specific values presented?**

2	• Yes
1	• Some (eg. sex and 2 broad age ranges only)
0	• No

**10. Quality of methods of reporting**

Text	• Eg. translation of tools, interviewer's quality, quality control monitoring, limitations of data, high quality methods used etc
------	---

## 11. Duration of follow-up

- 
- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>Text</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eg. Number of years at follow-up – small sample size over a number of years etc.</li></ul> |
|-------------|--|