

Supplemental 2. Hoys bias assessment for the 37 included studies. ‘1’ indicates high risk of bias, ‘0’ indicates low risk of bias

Reference	1. Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables, e.g. age, sex, occupation?	2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population?	3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken?	4. Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal?	5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)?	6. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study?	7. Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (e.g. prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary)?	8. Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects?	9. Was the length of the shortest prevalence period for the parameter of interest appropriate?	10. Were the numerator (s) and denominator (s) for the parameter of interest appropriate?	Summary item on the overall risk of study bias
14	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
29	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
33	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
37	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
38	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
39	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
42	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
43	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
44	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
45	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
46	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
48	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
49	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

51	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
52	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
53	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
58	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
47	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
57	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
61	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1