

# Principles of exposure measurement in epidemiology

*Collecting, evaluating, and improving  
measures of disease risk factors*

SECOND EDITION

Emily White  
Bruce K. Armstrong  
Rodolfo Saracci

OXFORD

# Contents

- Preface* v
- 1** Exposure measurement 1
- Introduction 1
  - Exposure 3
  - Measurement and scales of measurement 9
  - Exposure dose 11
  - Timing of exposure 17
  - Items to measure in a study 25
  - The measurement instrument 29
  - Summary 30
  - About this book 32
  - References 34
- 2** Methods of exposure measurement 37
- Introduction 37
  - Classification of exposures 37
  - Methods overview 39
  - Choice of method 47
  - Choosing method of administration of questionnaires: face-to-face, telephone or self-administered 52
  - Summary 60
  - References 61
- 3** Exposure measurement error and its effects 65
- Introduction 65
  - Continuous exposure measures 67
  - Categorical exposure measures 83
  - Effect of measurement error in the presence of covariates 91
  - Summary 92
  - References 93
- 4** Validity and reliability studies 97
- Introduction 97
  - The interpretation of measures of reliability 98
  - Issues in the design of validity and reliability studies 112
  - Analysis of validity and reliability studies 117

- Summary 137
- References 138
- 5 Reducing measurement error and its effects 141**
  - Introduction 141
  - Adjustment of study results for the effects of measurement error 142
  - Use of scores or averages based on multiple measures of exposure 146
  - Other methods to reduce measurement error 154
  - Quality control procedures 158
  - Summary 170
  - References 171
- 6 The design of questionnaires 175**
  - Introduction 175
  - Choice of items to be covered 176
  - Types of question 178
  - Question content 181
  - Question wording 182
  - Question order 190
  - Questionnaire structure 192
  - Questionnaire format 195
  - Asking about behaviours that vary over time 199
  - Aids to recall 200
  - Pre-testing questionnaires 202
  - Translating questionnaires 208
  - Summary 209
  - References 210
- 7 The personal interview 213**
  - Introduction 213
  - Interviewer error 214
  - Types and styles of interview 217
  - The optimal circumstances for an interview 218
  - The interviewer's task 219
  - Selection, training, and supervision of interviewers 227
  - Special aspects of telephone interviewing 233
  - Summary 235
  - References 236
- 8 Use of records, diaries, and proxy respondents 239**
  - Introduction 239
  - Use of records 239

Use of diaries	254
Use of proxy respondents	266
References	275
<b>9 Measurements in the human body or its products</b>	<b>285</b>
Introduction	285
The value and limitations of measurements in the human organism	287
Measurement of xenobiotic compounds	291
Measurement of endobiotic compounds	301
Quality control in biological measurements	308
Banks of biological specimen	315
Summary	318
References	320
<b>10 Measurements in the environment</b>	<b>325</b>
Introduction	325
The value and limitations of environmental measurements	326
Sampling and measuring present exposures	329
Sampling and measuring past exposures	339
Summary	352
References	353
<b>11 Response rates and their maximization</b>	<b>357</b>
Introduction	357
Calculating response rates and other participation rates	358
Factors associated with non-response	360
Selection bias	364
Maximization of response rates	367
Summary	391
References	392
<b>12 Ethical issues</b>	<b>401</b>
Introduction	401
Human rights and epidemiological research	402
Ethical practice in epidemiological research	407
Summary	419
References	420
<b>Index</b>	<b>423</b>