STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of ***cohort studies***

Our study is a before - after observational study based on mortality data, as the only possible approach to the evaluation of a public health policy change. As the submission of a check list is required by the Journal, we are using the STROBE cohort check list as best option, but it does not fit exactly.

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract Both 'mortality' and 'after' are present in the title
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Done
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported. Done, with 5 key references
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses. Done in the last sentence of the Introduction
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper. Done
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection. Done, with reference to source of data as it is based in the use of secondary data from the National Mortality Registry
Participants	6	(*a*) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Done, with reference to source of data (other aspects do not apply)
		(*b*) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed Not applicable
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Done
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group Done
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Not applicable here, but addressed in discussion
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Not applicable: it is a population study, with country-wide data
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Done
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Done
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Done
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed Not applicable
		(*d*) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed Not applicable
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses Not applicable
Results		

Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed Done in table 1 (it is a pre-post study)
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage not applicable
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram Not applicable
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Done in table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Done in table 1
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) Done as annual mortality rates, before and after
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Done as annual mortality rates, before and after
Main results	16	(*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included Done
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Not applicable
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period Done
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Not applicable
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Done
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias Done
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Done
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Done
Other information		
Funding	22	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 Done. The study did not receive specific funding, but benefited from general CIBER ESP funding for evaluative research to the first author organisation.

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at http://www.strobe-statement.org.