

The impact of attrition on the representativeness of cohort studies of older people

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Key Words:

ALSHW, attrition rates, characteristics

Research aim:

The aim of this paper is to examine the effects of death and other forms of attrition on risk factor prevalence in the study cohort and the target population over time.

Results/Conclusion:

There were differential associations with various risk factors, for example, non-English speaking country of birth was associated with non-death attrition but not death whereas being underweight (body mass index

Implications:

Deaths occur in both the target population and study cohort, while other forms of attrition occur only in the study cohort. Therefore non-death attrition may cause greater bias than death in longitudinal studies. However although more than a quarter of the oldest participants in the ALSWH died in the 12 years following recruitment, differences from the national population changed only slightly.

Cultural Group(s):

Non-English speaking country of birth (and others)

Location of study:

Australia (national)

Age group:

85-89

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

ALSWH participants aged 85-89 at baseline

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health (ALSWH), ABS Census data, National Health Surveys

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: