

# Index of examples

## Chapter 1. The role of epidemiology in cancer hazard identification by the *IARC Monographs* programme



[Example 1.1.](#) Evaluation of radiofrequency electromagnetic field (RF-EMF) radiation by the *IARC Monographs* ..... 13



[Example 1.2.](#) Evaluation of red meat consumption by the *IARC Monographs* ..... 14



[Example 1.3.](#) Evaluation of night shift work by the *IARC Monographs* ..... 14



[Example 1.4.](#) Evaluation of opium consumption by the *IARC Monographs* ..... 15

## Chapter 2. Causal diagrams to evaluate sources of bias



















[Example 2.1a.](#) Motivation for creating a DAG for red meat consumption ..... 26



[Example 2.1b.](#) Motivation for creating a DAG for red meat consumption (continued) ..... 29



[Example 2.2.](#) Chains, forks, and colliders used in DAGs ..... 30

	<a href="#">Example 2.3a.</a>	Forks as depictions of shared causes in DAGs.....	32
	<a href="#">Example 2.3b.</a>	Conditioning or blocking of paths in DAGs.....	32
	<a href="#">Example 2.4.</a>	Depiction of colliders in DAGs.....	33
	<a href="#">Example 2.5.</a>	Example of a collider in a randomized controlled trial among downhill skiers.....	35
	<a href="#">Example 2.6a.</a>	A possible DAG for red meat consumption and colorectal cancer .....	37
	<a href="#">Example 2.6b.</a>	Backdoor paths in a DAG for red meat consumption and colorectal cancer .....	38
	<a href="#">Example 2.6c.</a>	Conditioning to block backdoor paths in a DAG.....	40
	<a href="#">Example 2.7a.</a>	Depicting shared causes in a DAG for opium consumption and lung cancer .....	41
	<a href="#">Example 2.7b.</a>	Simplifying a DAG for opium consumption and lung cancer to account for confounding ..	42
	<a href="#">Example 2.7c.</a>	Confounding by backdoor paths in the DAG for opium consumption and lung cancer.....	43
	<a href="#">Example 2.8a.</a>	Depiction of non-differential measurement error in a DAG for red meat consumption and colorectal cancer .....	47
	<a href="#">Example 2.8b.</a>	Depiction of differential measurement error in a DAG for red meat consumption and colorectal cancer.....	48
	<a href="#">Example 2.9.</a>	Depiction of collider bias (by hospitalization) .....	51
	<a href="#">Example 2.10.</a>	Selection bias in a DAG of opium consumption and lung cancer .....	52
	<a href="#">Example 2.11.</a>	Depiction of collider bias (from loss to follow-up).....	53
	<a href="#">Example 2.12a.</a>	Depiction of signed DAGs.....	55
	<a href="#">Example 2.12b.</a>	Using signed DAGs to determine the possible impact of biases.....	56

## Chapter 3. Confounding: a routine concern in the interpretation of epidemiological studies



**Example 3.1.** Self-matching to control for confounding ..... 69

**Example 3.2.** An example of a natural experiment to control for confounding: a military conscription lottery..... 70



**Example 3.3.** Adjustment for body mass index in studies on red meat consumption and colorectal cancer..... 71



**Example 3.4.** Overadjustment as a concern in studies on shift work and cancer..... 72



**Example 3.5.** Examining confounding by co-exposures in the workplace ..... 73



**Example 3.6.** Healthy worker survivor bias ..... 74



**Example 3.7.** Relative importance of confounders ..... 75



**Example 3.8.** Negative control outcomes..... 76

**Example 3.9.** Indirect adjustment of SMRs to reduce healthy worker biases in aluminium smelting work ..... 77

**Example 3.10.** Negative control exposures..... 78

**Example 3.11.** Using a proxy variable to evaluate confounding in a cohort of Seventh Day Adventist adherents..... 79



**Example 3.12.** Restriction to one level of a proxy variable to examine residual confounding ..... 79



**Example 3.13.** Evidence triangulation to evaluate confounding..... 80



**Example 3.14.** Use of bounding to examine confounding scenarios ..... 81



**Example 3.15.** Bias adjustment to evaluate confounding..... 82



**Example 3.16.** The *E*-value to evaluate confounding..... 83

**Chapter 4. Information bias: misclassification and mismeasurement of exposure and outcome**

**Example 4.1.** Linear models for measurement error of protein intake from food frequency questionnaires ..... 92

**Example 4.2.** Berkson error in an example from blood lead and intelligence quotient testing ..... 92

**Example 4.3.** Non-differential exposure misclassification when exposure is rare versus when exposure is common ..... 93

**Example 4.4.** Misclassification from categorizing a continuous exposure variable in workers exposed to crystalline silica ..... 93

**Example 4.5.** Assessing for varying quality of the interviewee response in assessing tobacco smoking ..... 94

**Example 4.6.** Assessing for varying quality of interviewer in assessing job histories..... 94



**Example 4.7.** Recall bias and knowledge of carcinogenicity ..... 95



**Example 4.8.** Estimation of the extent of recall bias ..... 95



**Example 4.9.** Proxy respondents and recall bias in a study of pesticide exposure ..... 96















**Example 4.10.** Using DAGs to identify recall bias..... 97

**Example 4.11.** Negative control exposures to assess recall bias in a study of pesticide exposure ..... 98

**Example 4.12.** Positive control outcomes to assess exposure misclassification in a study of benzene exposure..... 98



**Example 4.13.** Using national statistics to assess recall bias ..... 99

	<a href="#">Example 4.14.</a> Recruiting different types of control groups to assess recall bias.....	99
	<a href="#">Example 4.15.</a> Using triangulation to assess recall bias.....	100
	<a href="#">Example 4.16.</a> Analysis of bias from non-differential exposure misclassification.....	101
	<a href="#">Example 4.17.</a> Analysis of bias from differential exposure misclassification .....	102
	<a href="#">Example 4.18.</a> Multidimensional sensitivity analysis.....	103
	<a href="#">Example 4.19.</a> Sensitivity analysis for both confounding and misclassification.....	104
	<a href="#">Example 4.20.</a> Sensitivity analysis for categorical exposure misclassification.....	105
	<a href="#">Example 4.21.</a> Probabilistic bias analysis for exposure misclassification.....	106
	<a href="#">Example 4.22a.</a> Regression calibration for adjustment for measurement error.....	108
	<a href="#">Example 4.22b.</a> Regression calibration for adjustment for measurement error (continued).....	108
	<a href="#">Example 4.22c.</a> Regression calibration for adjustment for measurement error (continued).....	108
	<a href="#">Example 4.22d.</a> Regression calibration for adjustment for measurement error (continued).....	108
	<a href="#">Example 4.22e.</a> Estimating an adjusted confidence interval with regression calibration.....	108
	<a href="#">Example 4.23.</a> Bias adjustment for misclassified categorical exposures.....	110



**Example 4.24.** Bayesian model components for non-differential exposure misclassification in a case–control study ..... 113

**Example 4.25.** Opium use and HNSCC – bias analysis for categorical data..... 114

**Example 4.26.** Non-differential outcome misclassification in studies of low-dose ionizing radiation ..... 115



**Example 4.27.** Non-differential outcome misclassification from underdiagnosis of prostate cancer..... 115

**Example 4.28.** Non-differential outcome misclassification of tumour subtypes..... 116



**Example 4.29.** Differential outcome misclassification among firefighters ..... 116

**Example 4.30.** Sensitivity analysis for outcome misclassification..... 116

## Chapter 5. Selection bias and other miscellaneous biases



**Example 5.1.** Selection bias in a case–control study..... 126

**Example 5.2.** Magnitude of selection bias..... 127



**Example 5.3.** Assessing bias due to non-response at baseline in an occupational cohort study of flight attendants..... 128



**Example 5.4.** Bias due to loss to follow-up in an occupational cohort study of flight attendants..... 129
















**Example 5.5.** Identifying time zero in an occupational cohort study of flight attendants ..... 130

**Example 5.6.** Left truncation as a source of selection bias in studies of hormone replacement therapy..... 130



**Example 5.7.** Left truncation in a population-based cohort study of breast cancer..... 131

**Example 5.8.** Right truncation in the cohort of atomic bomb survivors in Japan ..... 132

	<a href="#">Example 5.9.</a> Cross-validation to improve ascertainment of case participants ..... 133
	<a href="#">Example 5.10.</a> Potential bias resulting from differential selection of case participants ..... 134
	<a href="#">Example 5.11.</a> Potential bias from incomplete case ascertainment of benign tumours..... 134
	<a href="#">Example 5.12.</a> Potential selection bias arising from different sources of case ascertainment ..... 135
	<a href="#">Example 5.13.</a> Potential bias from excluding people with previous cancer from the study..... 135
	<a href="#">Example 5.14.</a> Potential bias arising from inclusion of prevalent cases ..... 136
	<a href="#">Example 5.15.</a> Indirect evaluation of potential selection bias from differential participation rates in a case–control study ..... 136
	<a href="#">Example 5.16.</a> Evaluating potential Berkson bias in a case–control study..... 137
	<a href="#">Example 5.17.</a> Evaluating potential selection bias from recruitment of hospital-based control participants..... 137
	<a href="#">Example 5.18.</a> Recruiting hospital visitors as control participants..... 138
	<a href="#">Example 5.19.</a> Triangulation across control groups in a study of titanium dioxide exposure..... 138
	<a href="#">Example 5.20a.</a> Potential bias from non-participation in a population-based case–control study ..... 139
	<a href="#">Example 5.20b.</a> Demographic variables as surrogates for examining selection bias ..... 140
	<a href="#">Example 5.20c.</a> Use of short questionnaires among non-respondents in a case–control study ..... 140



**Example 5.20d.** Examining the potential for bias from use of proxy interviews ..... 140



**Example 5.21.** Potential selection bias from differential participation in a case-control study ..... 141



**Example 5.22.** Potential bias from recruitment of hospital-based control groups..... 141



**Example 5.23.** Using negative control exposures to examine potential selection bias in a case-control study ..... 142

**Example 5.24.** Using negative control outcomes to examine potential selection bias in a case-control study ..... 142



**Example 5.25.** Using dose-response analysis to examine potential selection bias in a case-control study ..... 143

**Example 5.26.** Using external data on exposure prevalence to examine potential selection bias in a case-control study of pesticide exposure ..... 143



**Example 5.27.** Using external data on exposure prevalence to examine potential selection bias in a case-control study of opium exposure ..... 143

**Example 5.28.** Using triangulation of findings from different control groups to examine biases in a case-control study of pesticide exposure ..... 144



**Example 5.29.** Comparisons across studies to examine potential biases in case-control studies ..... 144



**Example 5.30a.** Identifying potential selection bias in a nested case-control study of breast cancer..... 145



**Example 5.30b.** Quantitative bias analysis to examine potential selection bias in a nested case-control study of breast cancer..... 147



**Example 5.30c.** Confidence interval estimation when quantifying selection bias for a nested case-control study of breast cancer ..... 148





**Example 5.30d.** Probabilistic bias analysis to examine potential selection bias in a nested case–control study of breast cancer ..... 149



**Example 5.30e.** Applying probabilistic bias analysis results to estimated odds ratios in a nested case–control study of breast cancer ..... 149

**Example 5.31.** Immortal time bias in a registry study related to solar radiation exposure ..... 151



**Example 5.32.** Examining reverse causation in a case–control study of oesophageal cancer ..... 151



**Example 5.33.** Examining protopathic bias in case–control studies of opium use and cancer ..... 151



**Example 5.34.** Evaluating the potential impact of protopathic bias in a study of pancreatic cancer ..... 152

**Example 5.35.** Inappropriate adjustment for a collider ..... 152

**Example 5.36.** Modelling using biomarker-based proxies of exposure in a study of herbicide exposure ..... 153

**Example 5.37.** Differential errors resulting from use of biomarkers in studies of Burkitt lymphoma ..... 154

## Chapter 6. Incorporating bias assessments into evidence synthesis



**Example 6.1.** Selection of key biases for night shift work ..... 163



**Example 6.2.** Selection of key biases for opium consumption ..... 163







**Example 6.3.** Specifying key confounders ..... 165



**Example 6.4.** Assessing exposure misclassification ..... 166









**Example 6.5.** Identifying selection bias ..... 167

	<a href="#">Example 6.6.</a>	Bias assessment summary table .....	168
	<a href="#">Example 6.7.</a>	Bias assessment summary with few informative studies .....	169
	<a href="#">Example 6.8.</a>	Bias assessment summary using triangulation.....	171
	<a href="#">Example 6.9.</a>	Multiple-bias analysis .....	172

**Chapter 7. Study reporting considerations to facilitate quantitative bias assessment with access to original data**

	<a href="#">Example 7.1.</a>	Red meat consumption and cancer.....	180
	<a href="#">Example 7.2.</a>	Water arsenic concentration and cancer.....	181
	<a href="#">Example 7.3.</a>	Use of a negative control outcome in a study of hypertension and cancer .....	183
	<a href="#">Example 7.4.</a>	Use of a negative control exposure in a study of maternal alcohol consumption and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy .....	184
	<a href="#">Example 7.5.</a>	Indirect methods to evaluate confounding in a cohort of lead smelter workers .....	185
	<a href="#">Example 7.6.</a>	Bias from inadequate adjustment for time-varying confounding.....	186
	<a href="#">Example 7.7.</a>	Use of g-methods to control for time-varying confounding in a study of titanium dioxide exposure.....	186
	<a href="#">Example 7.8.</a>	Explaining assumptions about differential sources of error .....	188
	<a href="#">Example 7.9.</a>	Regression calibration to quantify bias due to measurement error .....	188
	<a href="#">Example 7.10.</a>	Probabilistic bias analysis to quantify recall bias .....	189

	<a href="#">Example 7.11.</a> Case–case analyses to quantify recall bias.....	190
	<a href="#">Example 7.12.</a> Interphone study on mobile phone use and the risk of brain tumours .....	192
	<a href="#">Example 7.13.</a> Mobile phone use and the risk of uveal melanoma.....	194
	<a href="#">Example 7.14.</a> Selection probabilities in the Interphone study .....	195
	<a href="#">Example 7.15.</a> Loss to follow-up and the association between shift work and breast cancer .....	197
	<a href="#">Example 7.16.</a> Case–control study of opium exposure and oesophageal cancer.....	199