

Case-control studies—control selection

Control selection

There are two major sources for controls: hospital and community controls.



Community controls
 Neighborhood controls
 Best friend controls

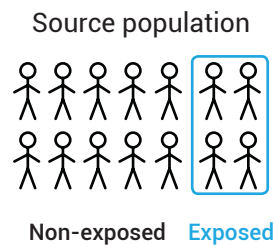


Hospital controls
 Same department?
 Range of diagnoses?
 Same diagnosis?

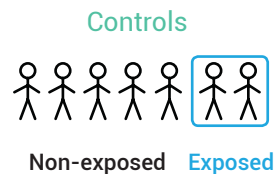
Ideally the controls (hospital or community) are recruited from the same baseline population as the cases.



The level of exposure in controls should be the same as the level of exposure in the source population in which the study was carried out.



Look out:
 The way in which controls are selected can influence the level of exposure in the controls, thereby making it either too high or too low which might bias the results of the study.



Matching

Matching refers to a process of control selection that aims at making the controls comparable to the cases with respect to certain variables such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status.

The variables that are matched cannot be assessed for their effect on the disease any more.

Individual matching

