

Appendix. Criteria for the evaluation of SURGE items

Section	Item	Description of the criterion	Categories
Title and abstract	1	It states the word 'questionnaire' or 'survey' in the title and/or abstract.	1. In title and abstract
			2. In title or abstract
Introduction	2	There is an explanation of why the research is necessary, placing the study in the context of previous studies in relevant fields	3. No
			1. Yes
	3	It indicates the purpose or objective	2. No
Methods	4	The questionnaire is described: it provides access to the questionnaire items used in the study either in the article, in the appendices, or in an online supplement	1. Questionnaire provided
			2. Central questions provided
Research instrument	5	If an existing instrument was used, its psychometric properties were mentioned: confidence and validity	3. A complete question provided
			4. Questions not provided
	6	If an existing instrument was used, references to the original study are provided.	1. Yes
			2. No
	7	In a new instrument, the procedures used to develop it and/or the methods used for the pre-test are mentioned.	3. Not applicable
	8	In a new instrument, its validity and confidence were reported. Psychometric measurements should be mentioned.	1. Yes
			2. No
			3. Not applicable
	9	It describes the scoring procedures	1. Both
			2. Only confidence
			3. Only validity
			4. None
			5. Not applicable
			1. Yes

			2. No 3. Not applicable
Sample selection	10	It describes the study population and sampling frame. Sample frame: the methods they used to reach this target: list or population size. For instance: list of all students from three schools from which 87 students were randomly recruited.	1. Both 2. Study population 3. Sampling frame 4. None
	11	It describes the representativeness of the sample.	1. Yes 2. No
	12	It presents a sample size calculation (elements of the applied formula) or justification of it.	1. Yes 2. No
Survey administration	13	The mode of administration of the survey to participants is specified.	1. In person 2. Mail 3. Mixed 4. Not mentioned
	14	They inform about the type and number of contacts. It refers to the initial contact between participants and researchers; type (i.e., phone, e-mail, postal address, online/offline ad), number of contacts (i.e., how many times they tried to contact the subjects)	1. Type and number 2. Only type 3. No information
	15	Report whether financial or other incentives were provided to study participants (respondents).	1. Yes 2. No
	16	There is a description of who approached the potential participants; who encouraged potential research subjects to participate in the survey (for example, organization/group identification or who signed the cover letter)	1. Yes 2. No
Analysis	17	The data analysis method is described. A description of the variables that were analyzed, how they were manipulated, and the statistical methods that were used was provided.	1. Adequate (complete) 2. Inadequate (incomplete) 3. Does not describe
	18	It mentions the methods for non-response error analysis.	1. Yes 2. No
	19	It mentions the method for calculating the response rate.	1. Yes 2. No
	20		1. Yes

	It gives definitions for complete versus partial endings. Completion: finishing the questionnaire. This item refers to whether a definition or cut-off limit was provided to partially complete the questionnaires	2. No
	21 It mentions methods for handling missing item data. Examples of some methods: imputed datasets, pairwise, regression and others	1. Yes 2. No
Results	22 It reports the response rate.	1. Yes, defined 2. Yes, not defined 3. Partial information 4. No information
	23 It takes into account all respondents. Reports the number of questionnaires returned with complete and partial information.	1. Yes 2. No
	24 Information on how non-respondents differ from respondents.	1. Yes 2. Subject addressed 3. No information
	25 Results are clearly presented.	1. Yes, complete 2. Yes, partial 3. No
	26 Results reflect the objectives of the study.	1. Yes 2. No
Discussion	27 Summary results in relation to the objectives of the study.	1. Yes 2. No
	28 It mentions the strengths of the study.	1. Yes 2. No
	29 It indicates the limitations of the study (taking into account potential sources of bias or imprecision).	1. Yes 2. No
	30 There is an explicit discussion of the generalization of results (external validity).	1. Yes 2. No
Ethical quality indicators	31 Report on the financing of the study.	1. Yes 2. No
	32 Review of the study by a Research Ethics Committee.	1. Yes 2. Reported exempted from a committee

		3. No
		1. Yes
33	Report on procedures for individuals' consent	2. Reported refused informed consent
		3. No

Source: Grimshaw ¹¹ (SURGE guidelines) supplementing Turk ⁶ (Appendix 1 of his study)