**EPI202: Fall 2022**

**Homework 2**

**To be uploaded as PDF to course website by 9:30AM on November 10, 2022**

Please provide concise, precise answers.

We encourage collaborative learning in this course. You may discuss homework assignments with other students. However, all written work that you submit for grading must be your own, in your own words, reflecting your understanding of the homework assignment. Homework assignments should not be prepared by copying, paraphrasing, or summarizing someone else’s work.

To complete this assignment, you can use the EPI202 calculator, a hand calculator, Excel or any statistical package (SAS, Stata, R etc.).

* Please round all final estimates for measures of association to 2 digits and p-values to 3 digits.
* No output will be considered as part of a response, although you may choose to attach output to demonstrate how you came to your answer in a separate appendix at the end of your work (which will not be graded).

**Note: for all questions, please include all relevant formulas and define any variables that you use and have not already defined in previous questions to receive full credit.**

**Part I. Adjusted analyses.**

The following questions are based on the paper: Sponholtz TR, Palmer JR, Rosenberg L, Hatch EE, Adams-Campbell LL, Wise LA. Reproductive factors and incidence of endometrial cancer in U.S. black women. Cancer Causes Control. 2017;28:579-588.

<https://link-springer-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/article/10.1007/s10552-017-0880-4>

1. Use the data in Table 3 of the paper to construct a new table showing the data stratified by menopausal status to examine the association between age at first birth (categorized as <20 years versus ≥ 20 years) and the incidence of endometrial cancer.

|  | Age at first birth | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | <20 years | ≥ 20 years |
| **Premenopausal** |  |  |
| Cases | 31 | 36 |
| Person-time (years) | 3920000 | 3440000 |
| **Postmenopausal** |  |  |
| Cases | 51 | 92 |
| Person-time (years) | 11770000 | 20000000 |

1. Use the data in the table you created in question 1 to calculate the Mantel-Haenszel incidence rate ratio (IRRMH) for the association between age at first birth (categorized as <20 years versus ≥ 20 years ) and the incidence of endometrial cancer accounting for potential confounding by menopausal status.
   1. Calculate the IRRMH.
   2. Interpret the numerical result in words.
   3. Construct a 95% confidence interval for the IRRMH from question 2. Interpret the numerical result in words.

|  |  |  |  | (person-years) | (person-years) | (person-years) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (premenopausal) | 31 | 36 | 67 | 3920000 | 3440000 | 7360000 |
| (postmenopausal) | 51 | 92 | 143 | 17770000 | 20000000 | 21770000 |

After adjusting for menopausal status, the incidence rate of endometrial cancer for those whose age at first birth is less than 20 years is 0.8749 times the incidence rate of endometrial cancer for those whose age at first birth is equal or above 20 years, assuming no residual confounding, confounding by other variables, selection bias, or information bias.

The 95% confidence interval for the IRRMH:

After adjusting for menopausal status, these data are not consistent with incidence rate ratios ranging from 0.6624 to 1.1556 with 95% confidence for the association between age at first birth (< 20 years compared to ≥ 20 years) and the incidence rate of endometrial cancer, assuming no residual confounding, confounding by other variables, selection bias, or information bias.

**Part II. Adjusted analyses in closed cohort data**

In this section, you will analyze data from the Myocardial Infarction Onset Study. This study was a multicenter cohort study of myocardial infarction patients enrolled between 1989 to 1996 at the time of their myocardial infarction. All participants were followed through the National Death Index until death or a minimum of 10 years after enrollment. There was no loss to follow-up. In this analysis, you will evaluate the relationship between reporting ever using marijuana on the baseline interview and the cumulative incidence of death from any cause over the following 10 years. You will account for potential confounding by age. [Note: In this study, conducted in the late 1980s, sex was recorded and categorized as female or male based on NIH reporting requirements in place at the time. No data on gender was recorded.]

The variables in this dataset are described below:

| **Variable Name** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| id | ID number |
| age | Age (continuous, years) |
| age\_cat | Age Category (1: <50yrs, 2: 50-64 yrs, 3: 65+ yrs) |
| female | Female (1: female, 0: male) |
| married | Married (1: yes, 0:no) |
| educ | Educational Attainment (1: <HS, 2: HS, 3: >HS) |
| dm | Diabetes (1: yes, 0:no) |
| htn | Hypertension (1: yes, 0:no) |
| phys\_activity | Frequency of Physical Activity (0: <1/wk, 1: 1-3/wk, 2: 4+/wk) |
| evermarj | Ever use marijuana (1: yes, 0:no) |
| follow\_up | Duration of follow-up (years) |
| dead | Death within 10-years (1: died, 0: survived) |
| cvdeath | Death from cardiovascular causes (1: CVD death, 0: did not die of CVD) |

The dataset name is MI\_Onset\_10 and is available for download from the course website in several file formats including CSV, R, SAS and Stata. You may use SAS, STATA, R, the EPI202 calculator or any other statistical analysis software package of your choosing.

1. Calculate the crude cumulative incidence ratio for the association between reporting a sedentary lifestyle (physical activity < 1 time per week versus ≥ 1 time per week) at baseline and the cumulative incidence of death by the end of the 10-year follow-up period. (HINT: you will find it helpful to create a new variable categorizing sedentary = 1 if frequency of physical activity is less than once per week; and sedentary = 0 if the participant reported physical activity at least once per week).

cases over the 10-year follow-up period

1. In this question, you will empirically evaluate if age possesses the properties of confounding and the direction of that confounding. **In this question, you will use age as a categorical variable with three levels (as coded in the data)**.
   1. You will first evaluate the relationship between age and sedentary lifestyle at baseline (physical activity < 1 time per week versus ≥ 1 time per week).
      1. Calculate the prevalence of reporting sedentary lifestyle, **separately** **for each of the three age groups**.
      2. Calculate the prevalence ratios **using the youngest age group as the referent.**
      3. Using the results from i and ii: is age positively or negatively associated with a sedentary lifestyle in the study base?

**NOTE**: There is no need to compute confidence intervals or construct hypothesis tests.

Among those ages < 50 years, cases

Among those ages 50-64 years, cases

Among those ages ≥ 65 years, cases

Using the youngest age group as referent,

the prevalence ratio between those ages 50-64 years and the referent is

the prevalence ratio between ages ≥ 65 years and the referent is

Age is positively associated with a sedentary lifestyle in the study base because the prevalence of reporting a sedentary lifestyle gets higher with the increment of age and .

* 1. Next, you will assess the relationship between age and the 10-year cumulative incidence of death.
     1. Calculate the 10-year cumulative incidence of death **separately** **for each of the three age groups** and,
     2. Calculate the **cumulative incidence ratios using the youngest group as the referent.**
     3. Using the results from i and ii: is age positively or negatively associated with the 10-year cumulative incidence of death among the non-exposed (those who reported physical activity at least once per week).

**NOTE**: There is no need to compute confidence intervals or construct hypothesis tests.

Among those ages < 50 years, cases over the 10-year follow-up period

Among those ages 50-64 years, cases over the 10-year follow-up period

Among those ages ≥ 65 years, cases over the 10-year follow-up period

Using the youngest age group as referent,

the prevalence ratio between those ages 50-64 years and the referent is

the prevalence ratio between ages ≥ 65 years and the referent is

Age is positively associated with the 10-year cumulative incidence of death among the non-exposed, because the 10-year cumulative incidence of death gets higher with the increment of age and .

* 1. Given the results from 2.a. and 2.b. is it reasonable to be concerned that the crude association you computed in question 1 was confounded by age? Explain your answer using the three properties of confounders.

According to the results of question 2.a and question 2.b,

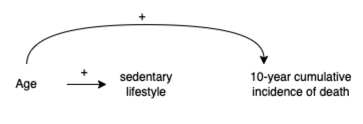
1. Age is(positively) associated with a sedentary lifestyle in the study base
2. Age is (positively) associated with the 10-year cumulative incidence of death among the non-exposed

Also,

1. Age is not the downstream consequence of a sedentary lifestyle or the 10-year incidence rate of death.

Hence, age is a confounder in the crude association computed in question 1.

* 1. Predict the direction that the association between reporting a sedentary lifestyle at baseline and the 10-year cumulative incidence of death will change after adjusting for age. Explain your answer in words and by drawing a DAG with signs (+) or (-) in the arrows that emerge from age.



The association between reporting a sedentary lifestyle at baseline and the 10-year cumulative incidence of death will go down after adjusting for age because the bias is upward based on this DAG.

1. Based on our results from 2), we are planning to stratify on age the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-years all-cause mortality (with age as a categorical variable with three levels, as coded in the data). Is there any evidence that the *positivity assumption* is violated in at least one stratum? Explain your answer by checking whether the positivity assumption holds or not *in the data*.

|  | < 50 years | | | 50-64 years | | | ≥ 65 years | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Has Sedentary lifestyle | No Sedentary lifestyle | Total | Has Sedentary lifestyle | No Sedentary lifestyle | Total | Has Sedentary lifestyle | No Sedentary lifestyle | Total |
| Cases | 9 | 68 | 77 | 28 | 279 | 307 | 35 | 674 | 709 |
| Non-cases | 170 | 490 | 660 | 193 | 892 | 1085 | 78 | 796 | 874 |
| Total | 179 | 558 | 737 | 221 | 1171 | 1392 | 113 | 1470 | 1583 |

Based on the data above, the positivity assumption holds because everyone stratum has at least one case or non-case.

1. Next, analyze the data after adjusting for age in 3 categories.
   1. Calculate the Mantel-Haenszel summary cumulative incidence ratio for the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and all-cause mortality after adjusting for age.
   2. Calculate the 95% confidence interval for the Mantel-Haenszel summary cumulative incidence ratio after adjusting for age.
   3. Calculate the summary cumulative incidence difference after adjusting for age.
   4. Calculate the 95% confidence interval for the summary cumulative incidence difference after adjusting for age.

**Interpret all numerical results (a to d) in words**.

cases over the 10-year follow-up period

After adjusting for age, the cumulative incidence of death over the 10-year follow-up period among those who reported a sedentary lifestyle at baseline is 0.5772 times the cumulative incidence of death over the 10-year follow-up period among those who did not have a sedentary lifestyle at baseline, assuming no residual confounding, confounding by other variables, selection bias, or information bias.

The 95% confidence interval for the :

After adjusting for age, these data are not consistent with cumulative incidence ratios ranging from 0.4665 to 0.7142 with 95% confidence for the association between sedentary lifestyle and all-cause mortality, assuming no residual confounding, confounding by other variables, selection bias, or information bias.

1. Present the point estimates and 95% confidence intervals for the cumulative incidence ratios and cumulative incidence difference for the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10 year all-cause mortality for each age category (keep using age as a three level variable).

|  | Cumulative Incidence Ratios for sedentary lifestyle and all-cause mortality  (**95% CI**) | Cumulative Incidence Differences for sedentary lifestyle and all-cause mortality  (**95% CI**) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| <50 years | 0.4126 (0.2102, 0.8099) | -0.0716 (-0.1136, -0.0296) |
| 50-64 years | 0.5318 (0.3706, 0.7629) | -0.1116 (-0.1617, -0.0614) |
| 65 or older | 0.6755 (0.5102, 0.8945) | -0.1488 (-0.2377, 0.0598) |

1. For the stratified data in the table above, perform **the test of homogeneity** for the cumulative incidence ratio.
   1. State the null and alternative hypotheses.
   2. What is the value of the H statistic, and how many degrees of freedom does it have?
   3. Find the p-value for the test statistic.

*H0*: There is no effect measure modification of the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-year all-cause mortality across the strata of age on the multiplicative scale.

*HA*: There is the effect measure modification of the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-year all-cause mortality across the strata of age on the multiplicative scale.

Test statistic:

Degrees of freedom = # of strata -1 = 3-1=2 degree of freedom

cases over the 10-year follow-up period

So, under the null

1. For the stratified data in the table above, perform **the test of homogeneity** for the cumulative incidence difference.
   1. State the null and alternative hypotheses.
   2. What is the value of the H statistic, and how many degrees of freedom does it have?
   3. Find the p-value for the test statistic.

*H0*: There is no effect measure modification of the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-year all-cause mortality across the strata of age on the additive scale.

*HA*: There is the effect measure modification of the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-year all-cause mortality across the strata of age on the additive scale.

Test statistic:

Degrees of freedom = # of strata -1 = 3-1=2 degree of freedom

under the null

1. Is there statistical evidence of effect measure modification by age on either the additive or multiplicative scale? Explain briefly.

Based on the results of questions 6 and 7, we fail to reject the both null hypotheses at the level. We do not have sufficient evidence to conclude that there is effect measure modification by age on the additive or multiplicative scale for the association between sedentary lifestyle at baseline and 10-year all-cause mortality, assuming no confounding, selection bias, or information bias.