Table 3. Characteristics of the study populations, Agincourt HDSS and CR data, 2006–09

Characteristics	Agincourt HDSS matched		Agincourt HDSS unmatched		CR matched		CR unmatched	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Age at death, years:								
<1	134	5.9	228	15.6	126	5.6	318	5.5
1–4	79	3.5	114	7.8	74	3.3	204	3.6
5–14	67	3.0	39	2.7	62	2.7	153	2.7
15–24	120	5.3	67	4.6	120	5.3	344	6.0
25–34	443	19.6	228	15.6	468	20.7	985	17.1
35–44	418	18.5	221	15.1	417	18.4	1045	18.2
45–54	284	12.5	169	11.6	271	12.0	760	13.2
55–64	229	10.1	125	8.6	227	10.0	551	9.6
65–74	203	9.0	95	6.5	207	9.1	526	9.2
75–84	171	7.6	109	7.5	183	8.1	544	9.5
85+	116	5.1	67	4.6	109	4.8	310	5.4
Unspecified	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.1
Total	2264	100.0	1462	100.0	2264	100.0	5748	100.0
Sex:								
Male	1160	51.2	795	54.4	1160	51.2	2774	48.3
Female	1104	48.8	667	45.6	1104	48.8	2964	51.6
Unspecified	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.2
Total	2264	100.0	1462	100.0	2264	100.0	5748	100.0
Venue of death:								
Hospital	1117	49.3	642	43.9	1058	46.7	2094	36.4
Heath care centre	25	1.1	17	1.1	–	–	–	–
Clinic	19	0.8	7	0.4	–	–	–	–
Emergency room/outpatient unit	–	–	–	–	37	1.6	95	1.7
Dead on arrival	–	–	–	–	9	0.4	52	0.9
Nursing home	–	–	–	–	6	0.3	30	0.5
Home	937	41.4	588	40.2	970	42.8	2784	48.4
Vehicle accident site	59	2.6	43	2.9	–	–	–	–
Other	98	4.3	157	10.7	50	2.2	206	3.6
Unknown/unassigned/unspecified	9	0.4	8	0.5	134	5.9	487	8.5
Total	2264	100.0	1462	100.0	2264	100.0	5748	100.0
Ascertainment of cause via:								
Verbal autopsy	2157	95.3	1346	92.1	–	–	–	–
Forensic autopsy	–	–	–	–	55	2.4	116	2.0
Opinion of attending doctor	–	–	–	–	717	31.7	1547	26.9
Opinion of attending doctor on duty	–	–	–	–	454	20.1	752	13.1
Opinion of registered nurse	–	–	–	–	5	0.2	4	0.1
Interview with family member	–	–	–	–	617	27.3	1814	31.6
Other	–	–	–	–	5	0.2	19	0.3
Unknown	–	–	–	–	28	1.2	55	1.0
Unspecified	107	4.7	116	7.9	383	16.9	1441	25.1
Total	2264	100.0	1462	100.0	2264	100.0	5748	100.0

only increased to 23.2% (496/2137), kappa 0.1631 (CI: 0.1511 to 0.1751), or less than one in four cases.

Table 5 shows the misclassification patterns using the short list causes. Using the VA cause as reference diagnosis, the sensitivity of the CR system to identify external causes was relatively high (67%, 95% CI: 58.8 to 74.8), but considerably lower for natural causes. A relatively high PPV (78%, 95% CI: 69.7 to 85.0) was calculated for external causes, but noticeably lower values for natural causes.

The CR data show considerable misclassification of HIV disease. Of 672 VA deaths attributed to HIV disease (B20–B24), only 11% were assigned B20–B24 in the CR data (Table 5), and the remainder to 73 other ICD-10 codes. The most frequent single recipient CR causes were