

Study Design	Study Design Decision Short-hand ¹	Measure of Association	Interpretation of Measure of Association	Comments
Case control	Starts with cases	Odds ratio (OR)	Those with the disease were X times more/less likely to have been exposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the study procedure and the interpretation <i>start with the disease</i> You may not use RR for a case controls study. You can use OR in another study type but it is less desirable than the RR.
Cohort	Starts with a designated group or exposure ; follows through time	Relative risk (RR)	Those with the exposure were X times more/less likely to have the disease	
Clinical Trial	Investigator decides exposures			
Cross-sectional	None of the above			

¹For additional details see the handout *Study Design Dichotomous Key* or the study design summary: module 33