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# Methodological Considerations for Designing Observational Public Health Studies

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## **Message from the Guest Editors**

Recently, the phenomenon of case and control selection and its corresponding impacts have sparked heated debate. The paradigm of description of case and control groups, besides good selection of them based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, is one of the most important aspects of performing a good case control study in public health. We emphasize that this paradigm can affect the results of studies and the conclusions that researchers and clinicians could then pick up and employ in their practice. Therefore, we decided to clarify the effect of changing the control and case group definition on the results, odds ratio (OR) and its confident intervals in two analytical articles in our large database. It will be constructive for any researcher in this field and every researcher who is interested in case-control studies.









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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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