Methods in Observational Epidemiology (Monographs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

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J. L. Kelsey, W. D. Thompson, A. S. Evans : Methods in Observational Epidemiology (Monographs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Methods in Observational Epidemiology (Monographs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is not for meBy S. CudjoeThis was the textbooks for my epidemiology II course. While the book does go over most observational studies, I did not like the book because of the questions at the end of the chapters.Example 1. Chapter 9, Case control, question 2. states: The table below presents results from a logistic regression analysis of breast cancer cases and unmatched controls from the same study as the ovarian cancer cases and controls described in this chapter... c. How much more likely to develop breast cancer is a woman whose menopause occurs at age 55 than...This is not a hard question, my issue was the "table below" did not have the information. Since it was the study from the chapter, I went in the chapter and found what I needed. Minor nuisance for me but several of my colleagues were stumped because they couldn't find the appropriate information on the table we were referred to.Example 2, Chapter 12 (Sample size), it was difficult doing problem 2.d.. The question asks "2.) Assume that the annual incidence rate for breast cancer among those exposed to oral contraceptives is 4.4 per 10,000, and among those not exposed is 2.2 per 10,000. D. If 25% of women are exposed in the general population to oral contraceptives then how many cases and controls will be needed? When working this problem we need Pbar for the formula. The formula to get Pbar requires the proportion for P0 and P1. Well, in this case, since the exposure for

P0 is 25%, that means exposure for P1 is different and what was given. I found out that I needed to do the proportion equation for P1, but that equation requires the odds ratio (OR). The OR is not given. Neither the chapter nor the question states what the OR should be. Our instructor told us that we should use 2, after we all got the problem wrong.Example 3. Ch 13 measurement error. The incidence of a rare blood disorder, 8 out of 10,000 exposed individuals actually develop the disorder, as opposed to 3 out of 10,000 unexposed individuals. What would be the observed risk ratio if...sensitivity of 99% and a specificity of 98%. In the book, how to work the problem is not in an easy to read format. The problem is worked narrative style in the text, as opposed to by itself. Second the sample used exposed for both cases and controls. The question is provided the exposed and unexposed for cases. I worked the problem as what is in the book but I'm not sure if it is correct. The problem is when trying to calculate the new odds ratio. The box for unexposed cases are different from exposed controls.The examples above are just three of the question issues I had with the book. I felt the book did not always do well explaining the proper terms to use for the formulas, or it did not show the examples in an easy to read and understand format. I also did not care for the index. I felt it was lacking. I remember looking for 'retrospective cohort' under R and it was not there, not even to say, go to Cohort, retrospective. Since, it is an entire Chapter, (CH 5), I would think they would have thought to put it under R. A minor nuisance but a nuisance nonetheless.In all, this book was not for me.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Provides The InformationBy Angela M WilliamsA lot of material and content - good overview of the methods. A little on the "academia" side of providing information. I can see why instructors use it as a textbook in an epidemiology course.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great TextbookBy CiearraThis was an recommended title for my class, and I am so glad I bought it. Love the way it is written. Great book to have for anyone interested or working in public health.

This is the first book to provide a complete picture of the design, conduct and analysis of observational studies, the most common type of epidemiologic study. Stressing sample size estimation, sampling, and measurement error, the authors cover the full scope of observational studies, describing cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies, and epidemic investigation. The use of statistical procedures is described in easy-to-understand terms.

From reviews of the first edition: "A much-needed, descriptive, informative, comprehensive, and up-to-date guide to the many theoretical facts as well as the important practical applications of observational epidemiology. [The authors] expand on many concepts their colleagues merely label and focus these topics as the essence of epidemiological issues.... The book is excellently illustrated with appropriate tables and figures that aid in the lucid presentation and clarification of the concepts and examples covered.... Should serve as an excellent text for students learning methodology in epidemiology and as a handy and reliable reference source for scientists and researchers actively involved in non-experimental epidemiologic investigations." --The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine"The most impressive feature...is its clarity....Throughout the book principles are illustrated by well-chosen examples from studies on a wide diversity of diseases." --The Lancet"A comprehensive methods book covering a broad range of topics.... Important and complicated concepts are communicated in a readable format with a minimum of symbols and equations, making this text appropriate to a wide audience within the field of public health.... Well written...I highly recommend this book both as a graduate level text, and as a basic reference for practicing professionals." --The Epidemiology Monitor"The authors can be commended for their successful efforts in compiling a much-needed, descriptive, informative, comprehensive, and up-to-dtae guide to the many theoretical facets as well as the important practical applications of observational epidemiology. They expand on difficult concepts that their colleagues merely label and focus these topics as the essence of epidemiological issues.... The book is excellently illustrated with appropriate tables and figures that aid in the lucid presentation and clarification of the concepts and examples covered.... Should serve as an excellent text for students learning methodology in epidemiology and as a handy and reliable reference source for scientists and researchers actively involved in non-experimental epidemiologic investigations." --The Yale Journal of Biology and MedicineFrom the Back CoverProviding a comprehensive picture of the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of non-experimental studies of both infectious and non-infectious diseases, the second edition of this widely used text has been thoroughly updated to take into account the numerous developments in epidemiology over the past decade. Since the first edition was published in 1986, additional sources of data have become available through the increasing use of computerized records for health-related purposes. Also, a better understanding of the uses and limitations of certain epidemiologic concepts has been gained. Modifications of traditional study designs, including nested case-control studies and case-cohort studies, are now more frequently employed. Biological markers of exposure, disease susceptibility, and disease itself are used in many studies, and methods of statistical analysis have been further developed. All of these developments have been considered in writing the Second Edition. The authors cover the full scope of observational studies, describing in detail cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies, and epidemic investigation. The use of statistical procedures is described in easy-to-understand terms. Sample size estimation, sampling, measurement, and measurement error are fully discussed. Perhaps the greatest challenge for the authors in writing this Second Edition was to make some of the modern,

frequently used methods of statistical analysis understandable to readers with a limited mathematical or statistical background. Although this book is intended for readers who have had introductory courses in epidemiology and biostatistics, even readers who do not fullycomprehend the theory behind some of the techniques should understand the rationale for their use and be able to interpret results when they appear on a computer printout or in the literature. The Second Edition of this widely used text will serve as a practical resource for students and practitioners of epidemiology, public health, and biostatistics.About the AuthorJ. L. Kelsey is at Columbia University School of Public Health.