

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 1/11/2021 10:34:51 AM
Subject: RE: bias in VE
Received: Mon 1/11/2021 10:34:51 AM

In certain designs/studies we can maybe take this bias into account, for example in the PICO study, the CONTEST study, Infectieradar. But these design may have other potential biases. So this also relates to the document regarding the different designs and pros/cons of these designs.
 I think it would be more for our own interpretation indeed.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Sent: maandag 11 januari 2021 11:27
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Subject: RE: bias in VE

Hi [redacted]
 This could indeed be relevant, even if behavior is not affected by vaccination the groups at highest risk of exposure or disease are vaccinated first. Not sure we could use estimates of this bias in public reports but it would be interesting for interpretation of the first VE estimates.

Van: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Verzonden: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:24 AM
Aan: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
CC: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Onderwerp: bias in VE

Hi [redacted]
 I don't know your exact background but recently you said you also have experience in estimating impact of bias on effect estimates (if I understood correctly). One of the most important biases in VE estimates of COVID-19 vaccination will be a differential risk for exposure between vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, at least that's what I expect. Because people who are vaccinated will feel that they are protected and will probably increase their number of contacts and places they visit. Maybe also driven by policies of restaurants, theaters etc. who will only accept persons who are vaccinated (maybe then the risk of exposure is not per se increased but we don't know). So I was thinking could we do some bias analyses estimating what the impact on the VE estimates would be, given certain assumptions about the increased risk of exposure in vaccinated persons. Information about behavior given vaccination could maybe come from the survey of the Gedragsunit. I don't know whether they already have these questions included, otherwise they can perhaps be added.

@ [redacted] I didn't discuss with you before. Do you think this is useful? Should we have a meeting to discuss?

Groeten, [redacted]

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