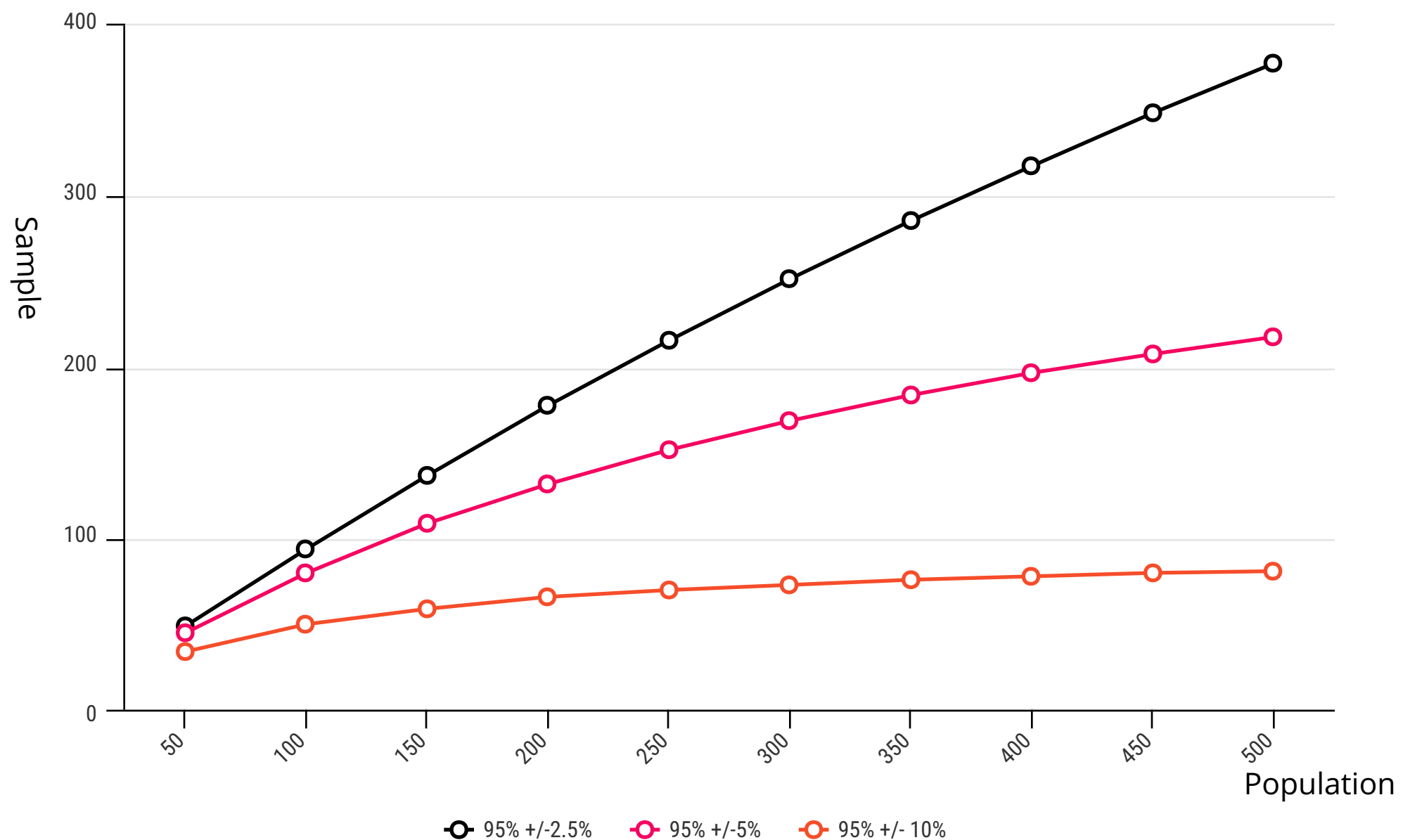


CASC's sample size guidance

Brief advice on determining how many patients to audit



Selecting your sample for clinical audit

Selecting how many patients or cases to include in your clinical audit project is important as you should be aiming to collect data that is representative of the wider population. That said, in 2017 there is no agreed national guidance on how many patients to sample for clinical audit. The above graphic provides details taken from the excellent www.raosoft.com website. The three plotted lines show the sample needed for 95% +/-2.5% (black), 95% +/-5% (red) and 95% +/-10% (orange). 95% represents the confidence in your result (i.e. high), with the +/- identifying the margin of error.



CASC comment

The key word used in relation to clinical audit is that it is a 'snapshot' of care. Sampling should be used to help reduce the burden on staff, but it is imperative that data is representative of the population being audited.



CQC comment

CASC have reviewed a significant number of CQC reports and there are many examples where they have commended Trusts who have undertaken audits reviewing 30 patient records per quarter.



HQIP comment

'National audit studies have indicated that approximately 40 sets of notes are required to provide a view of care within a healthcare setting'*

*HQIP's Local Clinical Audit Handbook for Physicians, 2011 (page 37)