

Project: Unreliable heterogeneity

Table 1

Variance in reliability leads to positive bias in heterogeneity estimates

Meta-Analysis	ρ_{xy}	Observed Effect Sizes			SD(ES)
		Study 1	Study 2	Study 3	
		$\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}} = .6$	$\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}} = .7$	$\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}} = .8$	
I	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
II	0.3	0.18	0.21	0.24	0.03
III	0.5	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.05

Note: Reproduced from Olsson Collentine et al. (2020). The values under Study 1, 2 and 3 are observed effect sizes for that study given its measurement reliability $\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}}$ and the true effect size ρ_{xy} when within-study sample size is infinite. SD (ES) is the standard deviation of the observed effect sizes for meta-analysis I, II and III, equivalent to heterogeneity given infinite within-study sample sizes. As true heterogeneity is absent, any SD(ES) values above zero represent bias. Code to reproduce table: [LINK](#)

Table 2

Imperfect reliability leads to negative bias in heterogeneity estimates

$\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}}$	Observed Effect Sizes			SD(ES)
	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3	
1	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.05
0.8	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.04
0.6	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.03

Note: The values under Study 1, 2 and 3 are observed effect sizes for that study given the measurement reliability $\sqrt{R_{xx'}} \times \sqrt{R_{yy'}}$ and the true effect size of that study (first row) when within-study sample size is infinite. SD (ES) is the standard deviation of the observed effect sizes, equivalent to heterogeneity given infinite within-study sample sizes. Code to reproduce table: [LINK](#)