BDK09 Exercise

Clinical Trial Simulator: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/07/daily-chart-other-placebo-effect>

Use the link above to go the The Economist’s clinical trial simulator. Use the simulator to answer the following questions.

1. How effective was your first trial (what percentage)? What does this mean?
2. Now run more trials. What is the effectiveness for all trials? What is the highest effect size? What is the smallest?
3. Select some quantity of the trials to publish. How many did you publish? What is the published effect size?
4. Evaluate the publication. What was the distortion?
5. Continue through the simulator. Run a new trial, and this time try to maximize the published effect size. How many trials did you publish? What was the distortion?
6. Run a new trial, and this time try to make the published effect size as accurate as possible. How many trials did you publish? What was the distortion?
7. What are the advantages and disadvantages to publishing the maximum effect size versus publishing the most accurate effect size? Why might researchers choose to distort their findings?