

1. How are units from the population selected for the sample?

2. How are the values of explanatory variables (e.g. group assignment) determined?

At Random,
by Researcher

Not at Random,
Not by Researcher

At Random

A random sample is selected from one population; units are then randomly assigned to different values of the explanatory variable.

Random samples are selected from the population, with existing values for explanatory variables.

Inferences to the population can be drawn

Not at Random

A group of study units is found; units are then randomly assigned to treatment groups.

Collections of study units are found, with existing values for explanatory variables.

Causal inferences can be drawn