

estimates of the standard deviation is that even if we assume that the underlying population standard deviations are the same (that is  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = \sigma$ ), it is unlikely that the sample estimates  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  will be identical. By pooling the two estimates of the standard deviation, we obtain a more accurate estimate of their common value.

*The sample estimate* of the standardized mean difference is often called Cohen's  $d$  in research synthesis. Some confusion about the terminology has resulted from the fact that the index  $\delta$ , originally proposed by Cohen as a *population parameter* for describing the size of effects for statistical power analysis is also sometimes called  $d$ . In this volume we use the symbol  $\delta$  to denote the effect size parameter and  $d$  for the sample estimate of that parameter.