# Biostatistics Week XIII

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# Conflicting Results

- Researcher A conducts a study comparing the effects an intervention vs. placebo on reducing weight
  - 5 kg reduction among the intervention group (p = 0.01)
- Researcher B conducts a similar study comparing the effects an intervention vs. placebo on reducing weight
  - 5 kg reduction among the intervention group (p = 0.35)

## Statistical Power

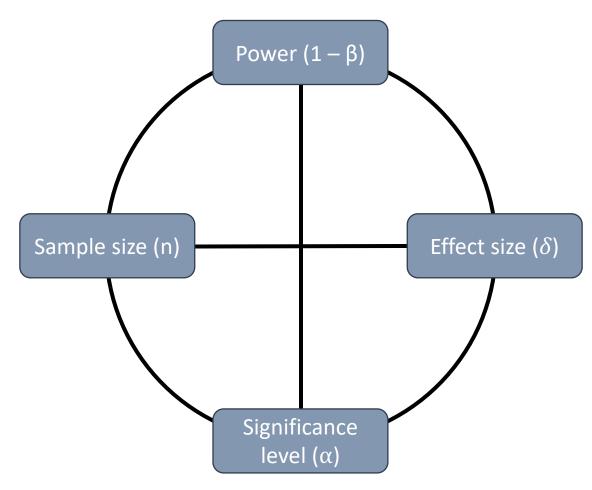
	Decision	
H <sub>0</sub>	Fail to reject	Reject
True	Correct decision	Type I Error α
False	Type II Error	Correct decision

- Statistical power =  $1 \beta$ 
  - P(reject H<sub>0</sub>| H<sub>0</sub> is false)

#### Statistical Power

- Power is affected by:
  - Significance level ( $\alpha$ )
  - Effect size  $(\delta)$
  - Sample size (n)

## Power Analysis/Sample Size Calculation



Given any three, the fourth can be determined

## Default Values

- Power = usually **0.80**, 0.90
- Significance level = usually **0.05**, 0.01, 0.001
- Effect size
  - Literature review
  - Pilot study
  - Cohen's recommendations

## **Brief Summary**

- Given any three of the following, the fourth can be determined:
  - Power
  - Significance level
  - Effect size
  - Sample size
- Determining sample size prior to starting a study is important
  - Too small of a sample size can under detect the effect of interest in your experiment
  - Too large of a sample size may lead to unnecessary wasting of resources