### Data Format Guide

For the script to correctly parse your data, please structure your CSV file according to the following guidelines.

#### 1. Essential Columns (for all data types)

Your CSV file **must** contain a column named Author. This column is used to label the individual studies in the forest plot.

* Author: The identifier for each study (e.g., "Smith 2021", "Jones et al.").

You can also include any other columns that you might want to use for subgroup analyses or meta-regressions (e.g., Year, Country, Dosage).

#### 2. Continuous Data Format

For continuous outcomes (where you have mean and standard deviation), the script expects six columns for each outcome. The naming convention is:

OutcomeName\_statistic.group

* **OutcomeName**: The base name for your outcome (e.g., FunctionalScore, PainLevel).
* **\_** (Underscore): Separates the outcome name from the statistic.
* **statistic**: Can be mean, sd (standard deviation), or n (number of participants).
* **.** (Dot): Separates the statistic from the group identifier.
* **group**: .e for the experimental/intervention group and .c for the control group.

**Example for a continuous outcome named "ConstantScore":** Your CSV should have the following columns:

* ConstantScore\_mean.e
* ConstantScore\_sd.e
* ConstantScore\_n.e
* ConstantScore\_mean.c
* ConstantScore\_sd.c
* ConstantScore\_n.c

#### 3. Dichotomous (Binary) Data Format

For dichotomous outcomes (where you have event counts), the script expects four columns for each outcome. The naming convention is:

OutcomeName.statistic.group

* **OutcomeName**: The base name for your outcome (e.g., Improvement, SuccessRate).
* **.** (Dot): Separates the outcome name from the statistic.
* **statistic**: Can be event (number of events) or n (total number of participants).
* **.** (Dot): Separates the statistic from the group identifier.
* **group**: .e for the experimental/intervention group and .c for the control group.

**Example for a dichotomous outcome named "PositiveSign":** Your CSV should have the following columns:

* PositiveSign.event.e
* PositiveSign.n.e
* PositiveSign.event.c
* PositiveSign.n.c

### Summary Table

| **Data Type** | **Statistic** | **Experimental Group Column** | **Control Group Column** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Continuous** | Mean | OutcomeName\_mean.e | OutcomeName\_mean.c |
|  | Standard Deviation (SD) | OutcomeName\_sd.e | OutcomeName\_sd.c |
|  | Sample Size (N) | OutcomeName\_n.e | OutcomeName\_n.c |
| **Dichotomous** | Number of Events | OutcomeName.event.e | OutcomeName.event.c |
|  | Sample Size (N) | OutcomeName.n.e | OutcomeName.n.c |

By following these naming conventions, you can have multiple outcomes of different types in the same CSV file, and the script will automatically detect and analyze them correctly.