

Summary

- The only way to answer causal questions about our systems is to think about them scientifically
 - Statistics can not differentiate between causal and non-causal associations (we are only measuring differences)
 - Model comparison, significance, and other statistical tools are useful, but can't replace scientific reasoning
- Use DAGs liberally to think about the causal relations you are attempting to measure
 - Use the **back-door criteria** to decide which variables should be included a model, depending on the question you are trying to answer:
 - Which effect do you want to estimate?
 - **Different estimates** of interest might require **different models**

