

# Comparing groups of different sample sizes

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.stat.edu/2006-08/msg00001.html>

---

- *From:* "stef" <[smckee@xxxxxxxx](mailto:smckee@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 26 Jul 2006 08:00:48 -0700
- 

I am wanting to compare the difference in hospital length of stay and associated cost savings between a group of 167 patients whose physicians refused a particular hospital consult service vs. 800 patients whose physicians did not refuse this consult service – in order to evaluate the impact of this service on inpatient LOS and cost-savings. Do the N's need to be equal? – do i need to take a random sample of 167 patients from the 800 and only compare those – or can i compare the entire 800 as long as variances on key variables are equal?

.