

Re: Comparing groups of different sample sizes

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stef wrote:

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?

They don't need to be equal – some common procedures assume equal variances, but there are solutions to this procedures such as the t test. Excluding data will result in less precise estimates and tests.

Thom

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