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# NIH'S DEFINITIONS

Quick definitions to understand the NIH Policy

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## What is Valid Analysis?

**It is an unbiased assessment**

"Such an assessment will, on average, yield the correct estimate of the difference in outcomes between two groups of subjects.

Valid analysis can and should be conducted for both small and large studies.

A valid analysis does not need to have a high statistical power for detecting a stated effect.

The principal requirements for ensuring a valid analysis of the question of interest are:

- allocation of study participants of both sexes/genders (males and females) and different racial/ethnic groups to the intervention and control groups by an unbiased process such as randomization,
- unbiased evaluation of the outcome(s) of study participants, and
- use of unbiased statistical analyses and proper methods of inference to estimate and compare the intervention effects among the sex/gender and racial/ethnic groups."

## What is a Significant Difference?

**It is a difference based on medical/scientific data that is of clinical or public health importance**

"This definition differs from the commonly used "statistically significant difference," which refers to the event that, for a given set of data, the

data indicates a difference between the effects in two groups achieves statistical significance.

For purposes of this policy, a "significant

difference" is a difference that <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-00-048.html> Statistical significance depends upon the amount of information in