

NCRTI TRC on Instruction
Glossary of Terms

Adjusted posttests

Adjusted posttests are posttest means that have been adjusted to correct for any pretest differences between the program and control groups.

“Business-as-usual” control group

A “business-as-usual” control group is one in which students receive whatever intervention or instruction they would normally receive if a research study were not taking place.

Control group

The control group consists of students who do not receive the intervention that is being tested in an experimental study; the control group serves as the comparison of interest.

Differential attrition

Attrition occurs when students who have been recruited to participate in a study leave the study at any point; differential attrition occurs when the level of attrition from the treatment group differs from the level of attrition from the control group.

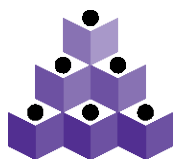
Disaggregated outcome data

Disaggregated outcome data are outcome data that have been calculated and reported separately for specific sub-populations (e.g., students with disabilities, English language learners, students of different race-ethnicities)

Distal outcome measure

Distal measures assess aspects of competence that are related to the skills targeted by the program but not directly taught in the program. For example, if a program taught word-level reading skill, a distal measure would be answering questions about passages the student reads. If a program taught calculation skill, a distal measure would be solving word problems that require the same kinds of calculation skill taught in the program.





Effect size

The effect size is a measure of the magnitude of the relationship between two variables. For example, the effect size might represent the magnitude of the relationship between participating in a particular intervention and an academic outcome of interest. The larger the effect size, the greater the impact that participating in the intervention had on the outcome.

Fidelity of implementation

Fidelity of implementation refers to the delivery of instruction in the way in which it was intended to be delivered.

Posttest

Posttest refers to data collected *after* implementation of an intervention has been completed.

Pretest

Pretest refers to data collected *prior* to the implementation of the intervention.

Proximal outcome measure

Proximal measures assess aspects of competence the program was directly targeted to improve. Typically, this does not mean the very items taught but rather novel items structured similarly to the content addressed in the program. For example, if a program taught word attack, a proximal measure would be decoding of pseudowords. If a program taught comprehension of cause-effect passages, a proximal measure would be answering questions about cause-effect passages structured similarly to those used during intervention, but not including the very passages used for intervention.

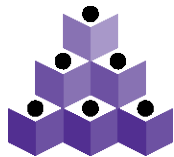
Quasi-experiment

A quasi-experiment is a type of research in which random assignment does not occur; but attempts to best approximate the effects of randomization through any number of methods to minimize selectivity bias.

Random Assignment

Random assignment refers to the process of assigning subjects randomly to a treatment group and a control group, when conducting an experimental study. Each subject has an equal probability of being placed in either group.





Reliability

Reliability is the consistency with which an outcome measures an underlying construct, from one administration to the next. A measure is considered reliable if it produces the same results when administered under different conditions, at different times, or using different forms of the instrument.

Tiered intervention

Tiered intervention systems offer interventions of increasing levels of intensity to target varying levels of student need.

Primary

High quality core instruction that meets the needs of most students

Secondary

Evidence-based intervention(s) of moderate intensity that addresses the learning or behavioral challenges of most at-risk students.

Tertiary

Tertiary prevention: individualized intervention(s) of increased intensity for students who show minimal response to secondary prevention

Treatment group (or program group, intervention group)

The treatment group consists of students who receive the intervention that is being studied.

Unadjusted posttests

Unadjusted posttests are posttest means that have not been adjusted to correct for any pretest differences between the program and control groups.

