

Chapter 8 Exercises

Consider the following scenarios. Do you think the two comparison groups are comparable? Why or why not?

1. In studying the effect of prenatal lead exposure on child IQ, researchers compare children born to women who live in a town dominated by a large battery plant with children born to women who live in a seaside resort town.
2. In a study of exercise and bone density, a group of joggers is compared to a group of sedentary people.
3. Researchers studying whether cognitive stimulation protects against dementia randomly assign nursing home residents who are not cognitively impaired to either a daily hour-long Scrabble session or a daily hour of group time socializing in the lounge.
4. In a study of the effect of childhood socioeconomic status on later life depression, researchers studied identical twins who had been separated at birth and adopted into economically discordant households.
5. In a study exploring the potential association between perchloroethylene, a chemical used in dry cleaning, and neurological symptoms, such as headache, dizziness, and fatigue, researchers compare workers at a dry cleaning plant to an unexposed group recruited through random-digit dialing.