

Workshop: Are Your Support Programs for Service Members Effective?



Threats to Validity	
Threats to Internal Validity	Description
Maturation	Changes in outcomes that are a consequence of time rather than of the program, such as participant aging.
History	Events or conditions outside of the study that may affect a subject's performance on study measures or outcomes.
Mortality	The loss of subjects from the study due to their initial non-availability or subsequent withdrawal from a study.
Regression to the Mean	The tendency of extreme scores to move towards the mean during the course of a study and/or as a result of repeated testing.
Instrumentation	Changes in outcomes or measures as a result of changes to the instruments or their administration during the course of a study.
Repeated Testing	Excessive familiarity with study measures, often as a result of multiple testing timepoints, may affect performance on these measures.
Selection Bias	When the treatment and control groups are statistically unequal in terms of one or more of the factors of interest at the beginning of a study.

Threats to Validity	
Threats to External Validity	Description
Pre- and Post-test sensitization	The presence of a pre-test and/or a post-test may affect subject responses.
Reactivity	When a subject is aware of being part of a study and alters their behavior or responses as a result.
Order Effects	When using multiple measures, the order of presentation may affect subject responses.
Situational Factors	Situational variables (e.g. location, timing, group size, etc.) specific to a particular study may limit generalizability.
Sample Characteristics	Various aspects or traits of the study sample may not be reflective of the general population.