



Figure 4-1. CONSORT 2010 Flow Diagram.

When reporting the sample size, authors should indicate whether a power analysis was performed to estimate the minimum sample size needed to avoid a Type II error (or an error in which the intervention is believed to be ineffective when in fact it is effective).

After reporting participant flow and demographics, authors should provide information about the equivalence of control and intervention groups (when comparison or control is used). Procedures used to establish whether control and intervention groups were statistically equivalent on baseline measures should be described. If statistically significant differences exist between the control and intervention groups at baseline, authors should detail the statistical methods used to control or remove differences.

When comparison or control groups are used, authors should report between-group outcomes first. If between-group outcome measures are not statistically significant, it is difficult to justify intervention effectiveness. A common mistake involves the minimization of statistically insignificant between-group differences while highlighting statistically significant within-group findings. In this situation, it is inappropriate to use within-group findings to justify the effectiveness of the intervention when in fact no statistically significant differences exist between the intervention group and the control or comparison.

When reporting results, the statistical test value, p value, and effect size should be reported. Effect size allows readers to evaluate whether statistically significant differences between groups (and pre- and posttests) are large enough to be clinically meaningful. Confidence intervals, which indicate the range of uncertainty for the intervention effect, should also be reported.

Authors should disclose the existence of missing data and describe the statistical methods for handling missing data. Authors should also report whether the intervention was carried out as intended and provide objective data confirming intervention fidelity, if measures were used.

See Chapter 7, Reporting Statistical Data in Text and Tables, to understand how to correctly report statistical tests and symbols in the Results section.

The Results section should be between three and four double-spaced pages in length.