



# **Basic Statistics** **for Infection** **Preventionists**

**VIRTUAL LEARNING LAB**

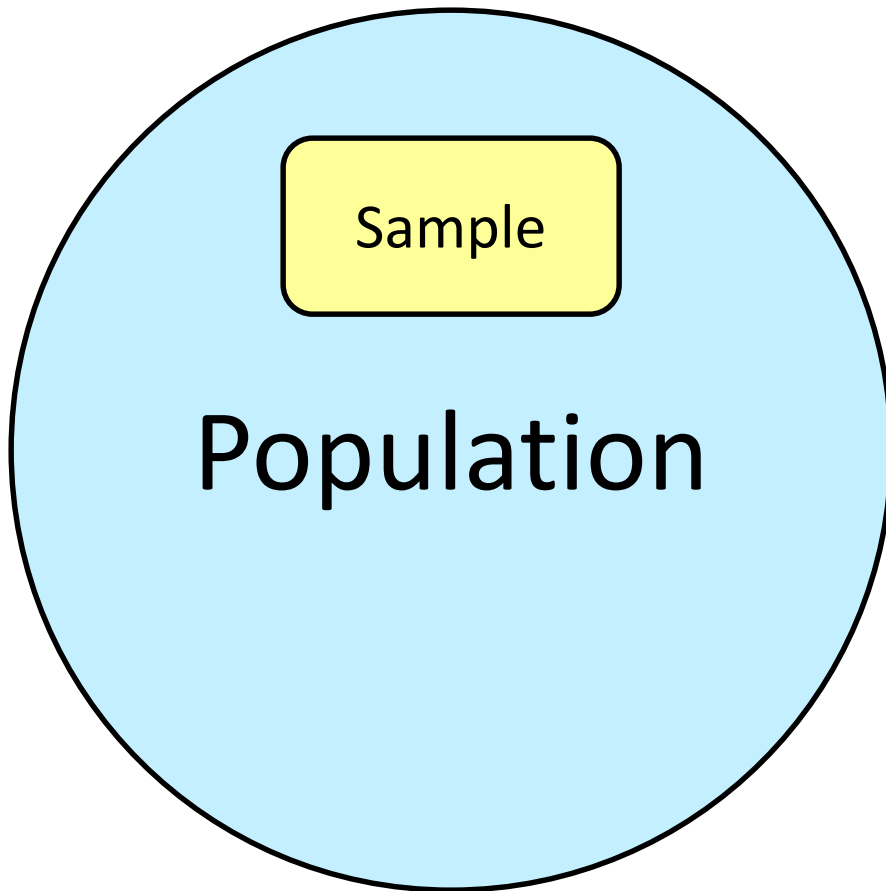
# Week 2: Inferential Statistics

Dan Bronson-Lowe, PhD, CIC

Senior Clinical Manager  
Baxter Healthcare Corporation

No conflicts of interest to disclose.

# Inferential Statistics



The Joint Commission  
Performance Improvement  
Project Guidelines

Population	Sample Size
<30	All
30 - 100	30
101 - 500	50
>500	70

Usselton JP, et al. *Assuring Continuous Compliance with Joint Commission Standards: a Pharmacy Guide*; 2010.

# Steps in Any Hypothesis Test

- Step 1: Determine the null and alternative hypotheses
- Step 2: Choose a significance level (e.g.  $\alpha = 0.05$ )
- Step 3: Select statistical test and verify necessary data conditions
- Step 4: Calculate the appropriate test statistic and p-value
- Step 5: Interpret the results

# Hypotheses

- Null hypothesis: values are equal.
- Alternative hypothesis: values differ.
- These statements are mutually exclusive.
  - They cover all possible outcomes.
  - In the end, only one can be selected.

# Determining Hypotheses #1

Surgeon A has a different infection rate than Surgeon B.

Null

$$A = B$$

$$A > B$$

$$A < B$$

Alternative

$$A \neq B$$

# Determining Hypotheses #2

Surgeon A has a larger infection rate than Surgeon B.

Null

Alternative

$$A = B$$

$$A > B$$

$$A < B$$

# Determining Hypotheses #3

Surgeon A has a smaller infection rate than Surgeon B.

Null

Alternative

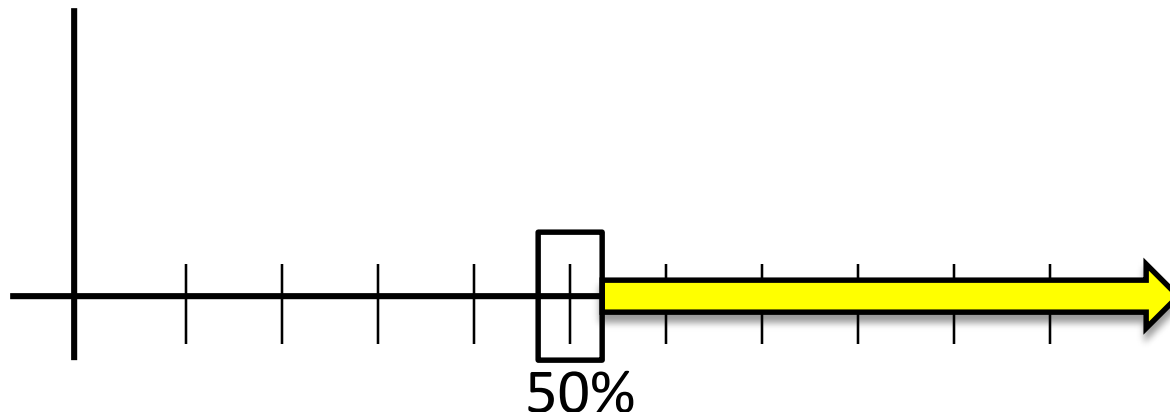
$$A = B$$

$$A > B$$

$$A < B$$

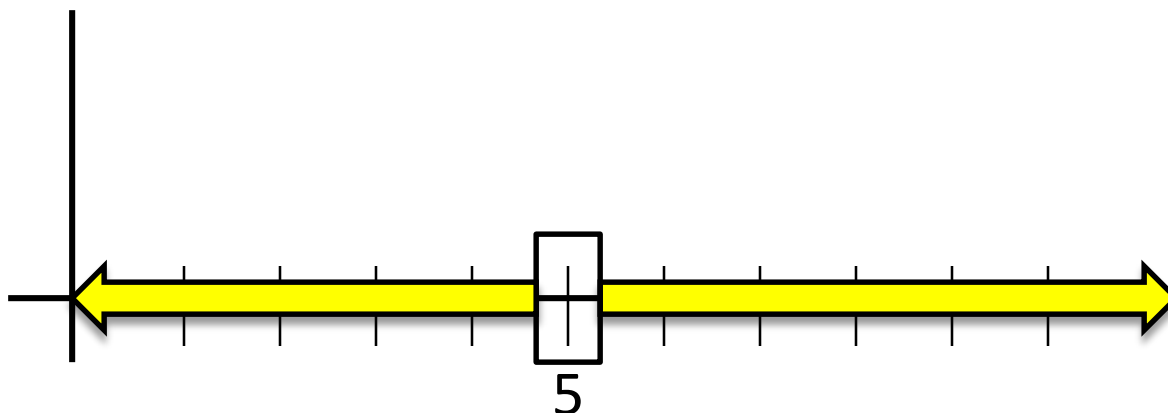
# One-Sided vs. Two-Sided Tests

- One direction = one-sided test
  - A.K.A. One-tailed test
- Example: Mean HH compliance rate  $> 50\%$



# One-Sided vs. Two-Sided Tests

- Two directions = two-sided test
  - A.K.A. Two-tailed test
- Example: Mean CLABSI rate  $\neq 5$



# Quiz Question #1

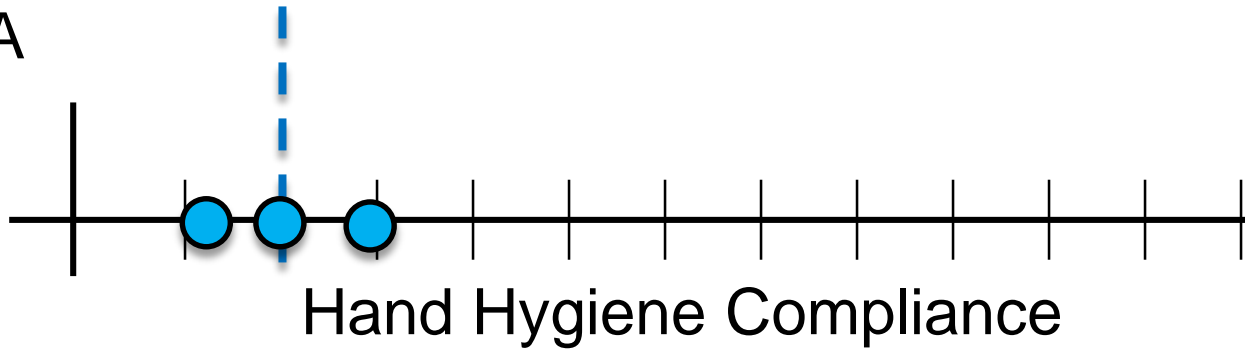
- Which of the following are null hypotheses?
  - A. Unit A's infection rate is the same as Unit B's.
  - B. The CLABSI rate is equal to or higher than the CAUTI rate.
  - C. The SSI rate after the intervention is less than or equal to the SSI rate before the intervention.
  - D. All of the above.

# Hospital A vs. Hospital B

- Null hypothesis:
  - The average levels of hand hygiene compliance at Hospital A and Hospital B are the same.
- Alternative hypothesis:
  - The average levels of hand hygiene compliance at Hospital A and Hospital B are different.

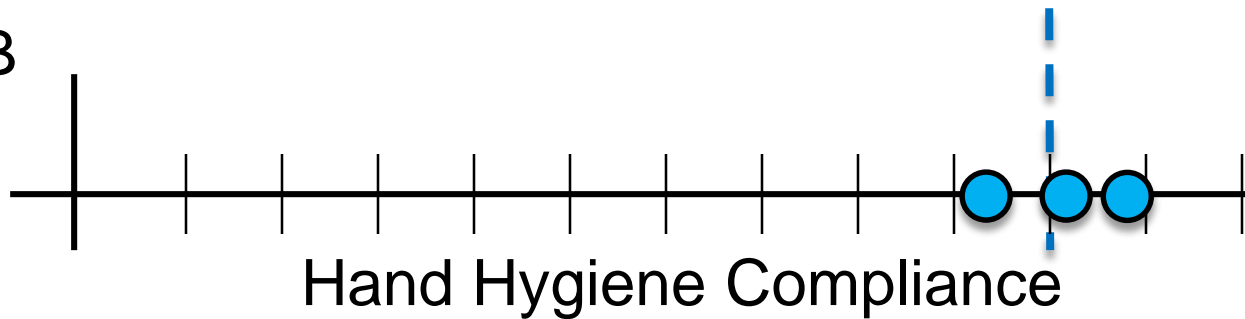
54%

Hospital A

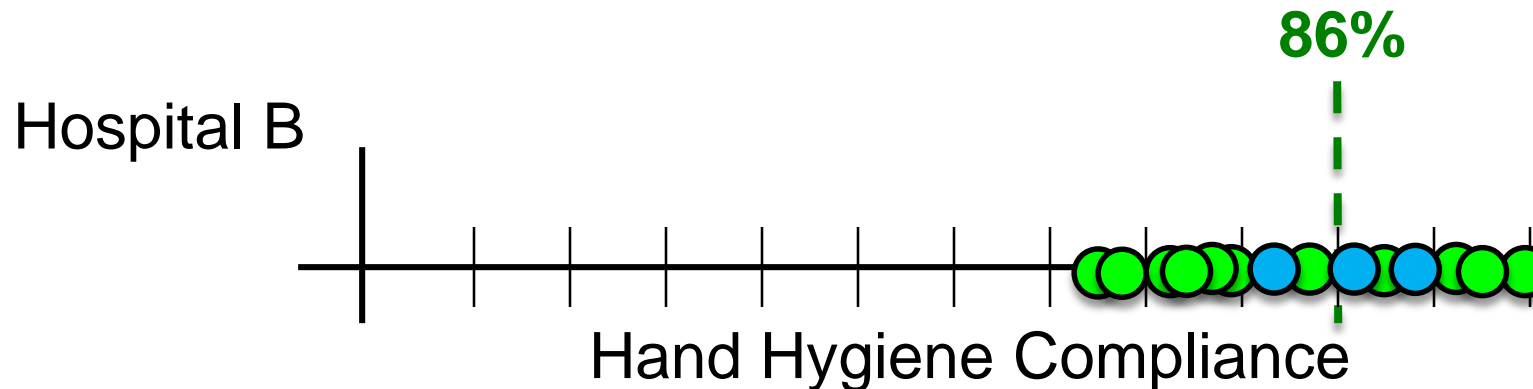
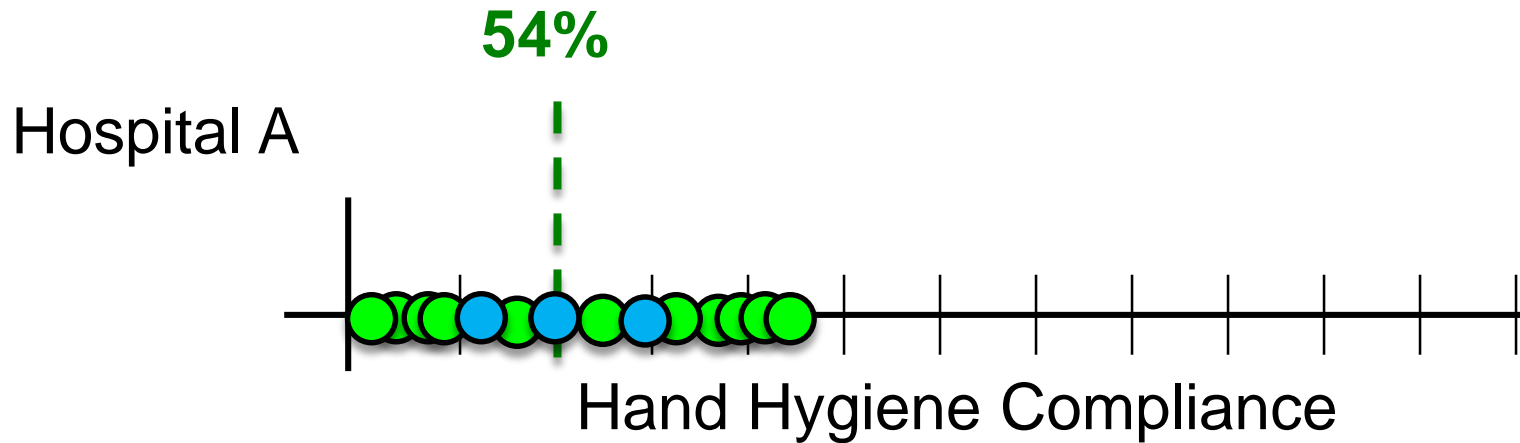


86%

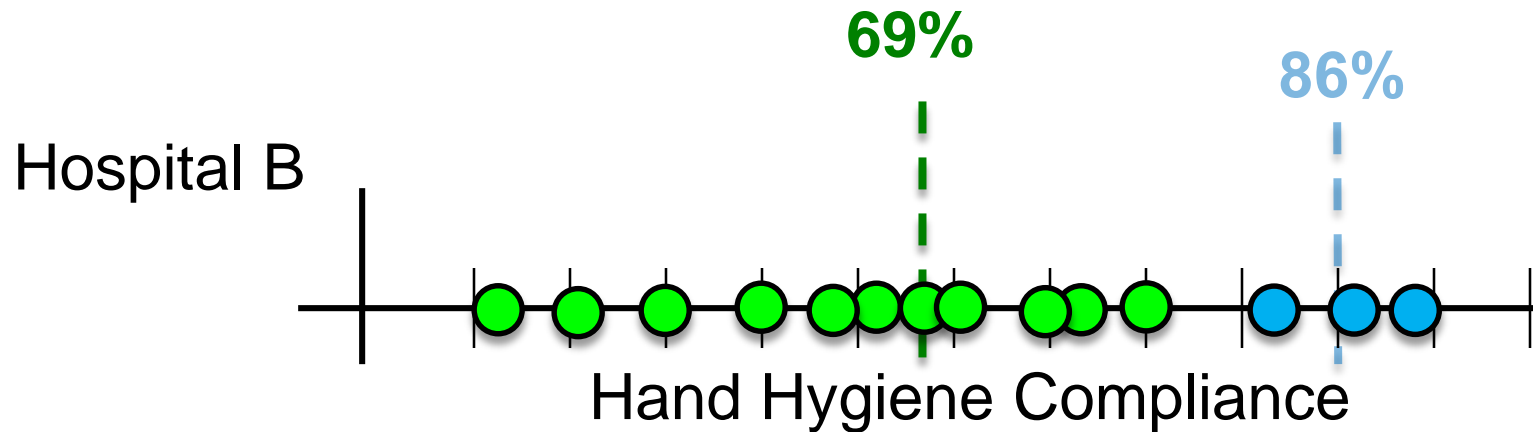
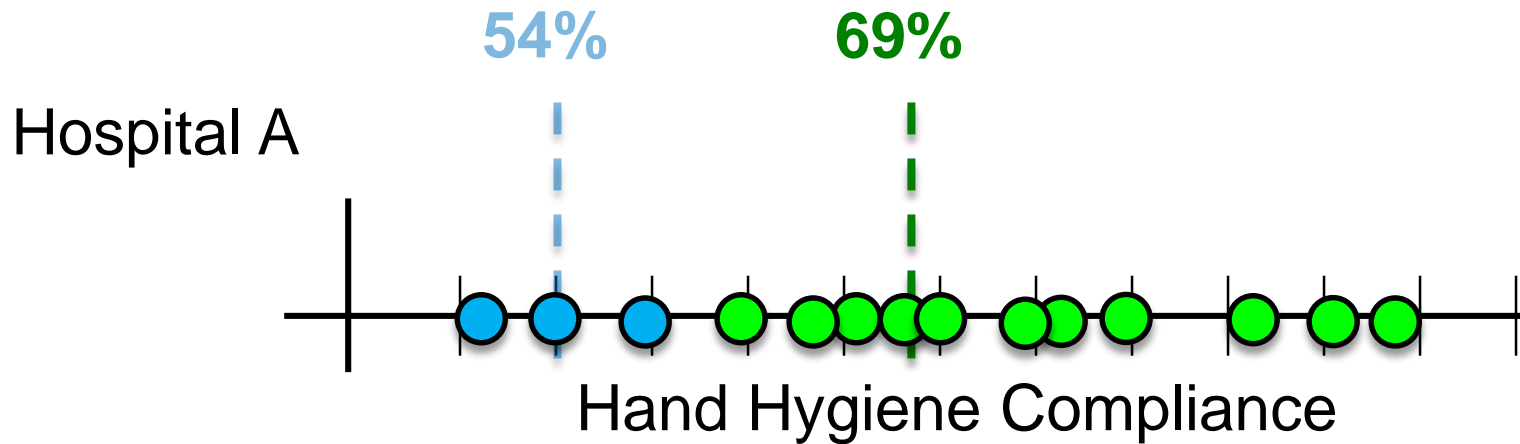
Hospital B



# Alternative Hypothesis



# Null Hypothesis



# Error Options

Reality	Your Conclusion	
	Same (null)	Different (alt)
Same (null)	Correct	False Positive
Different (alt)	False Negative	Correct

## The False **Positive** Scenario (Type I Error)

### Your Conclusion

There is a difference.  
(Alternative Hypothesis)

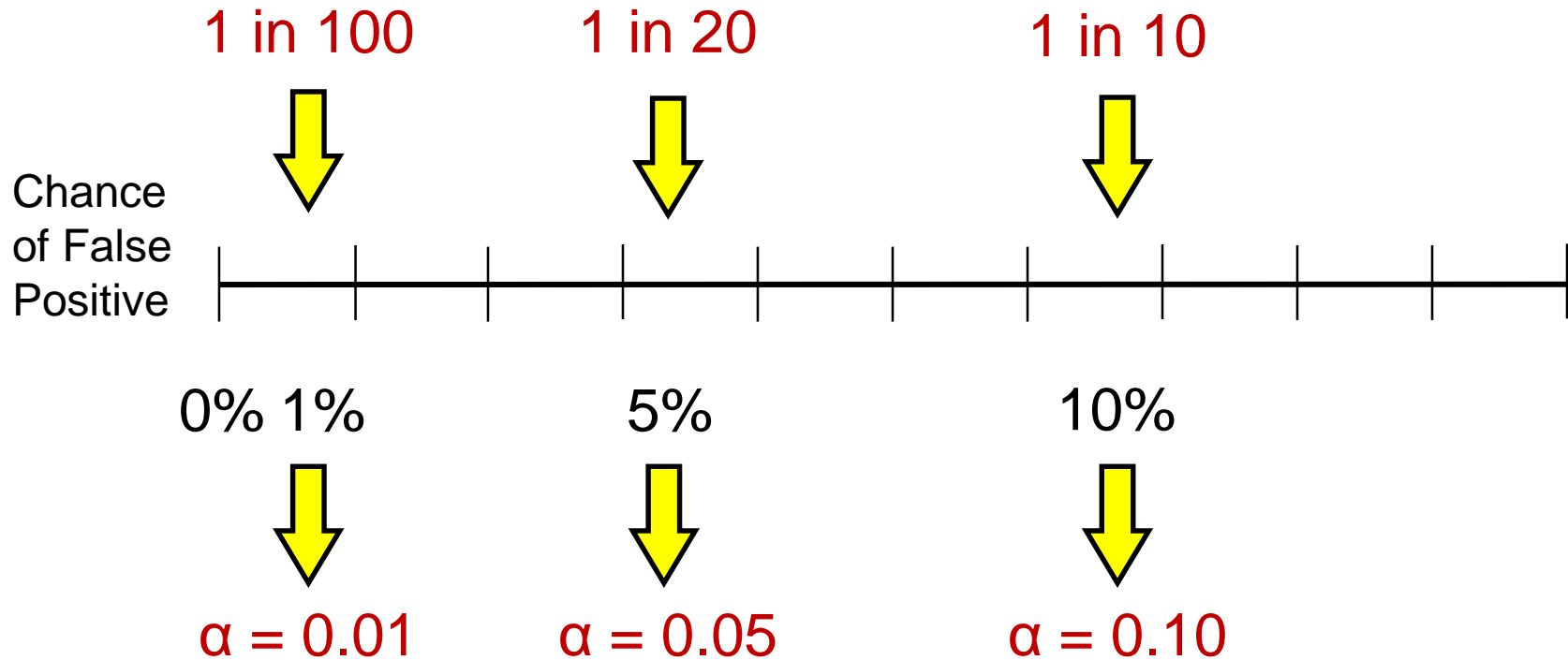
### Reality

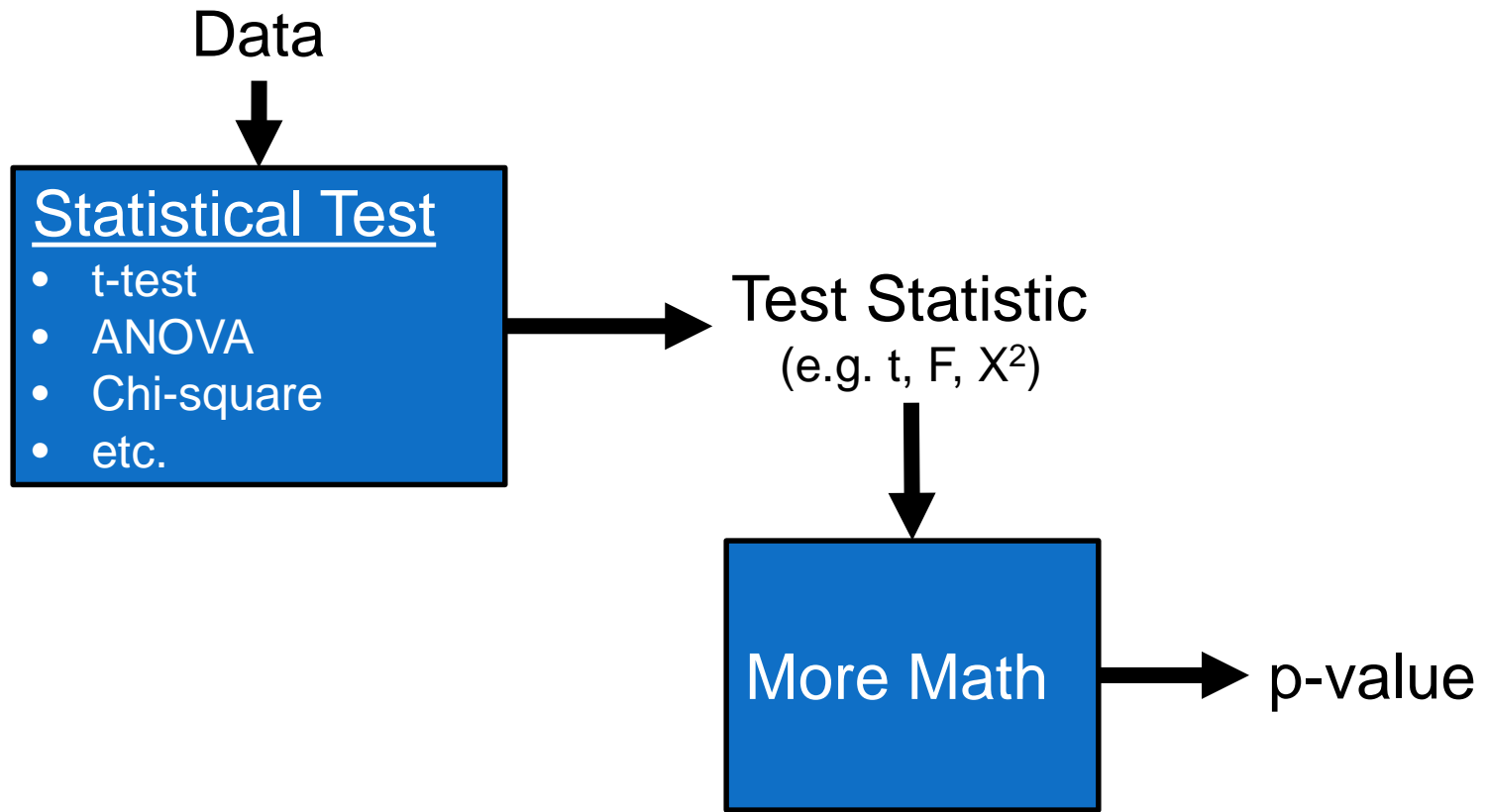
There is NO difference.  
(Null Hypothesis)

# Alpha ( $\alpha$ )

- The probability of concluding a difference is real when it is actually just random variation (a false positive).

# $\alpha$ = Probability of a False Positive





**p-value**: the probability that this difference (or a more extreme one) was caused by random chance if the null hypothesis is true.

# Risk of a False Positive

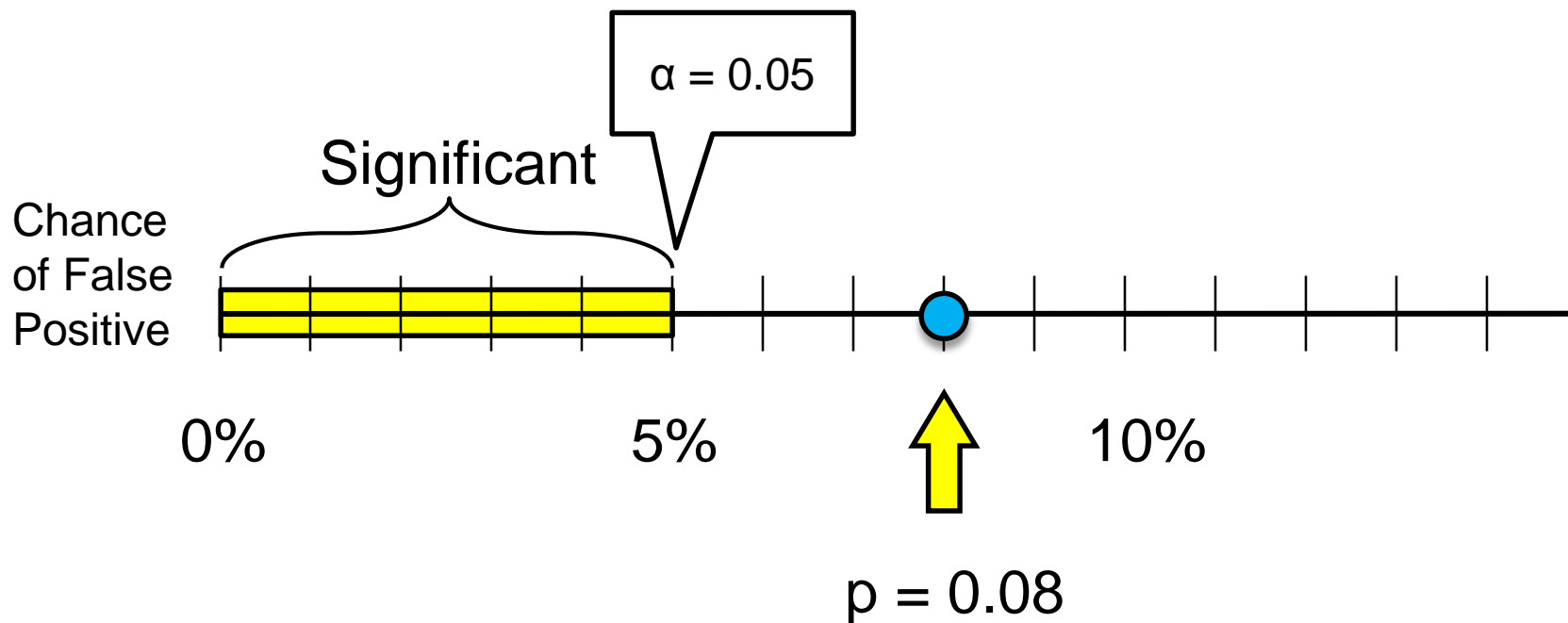
Alpha

vs.

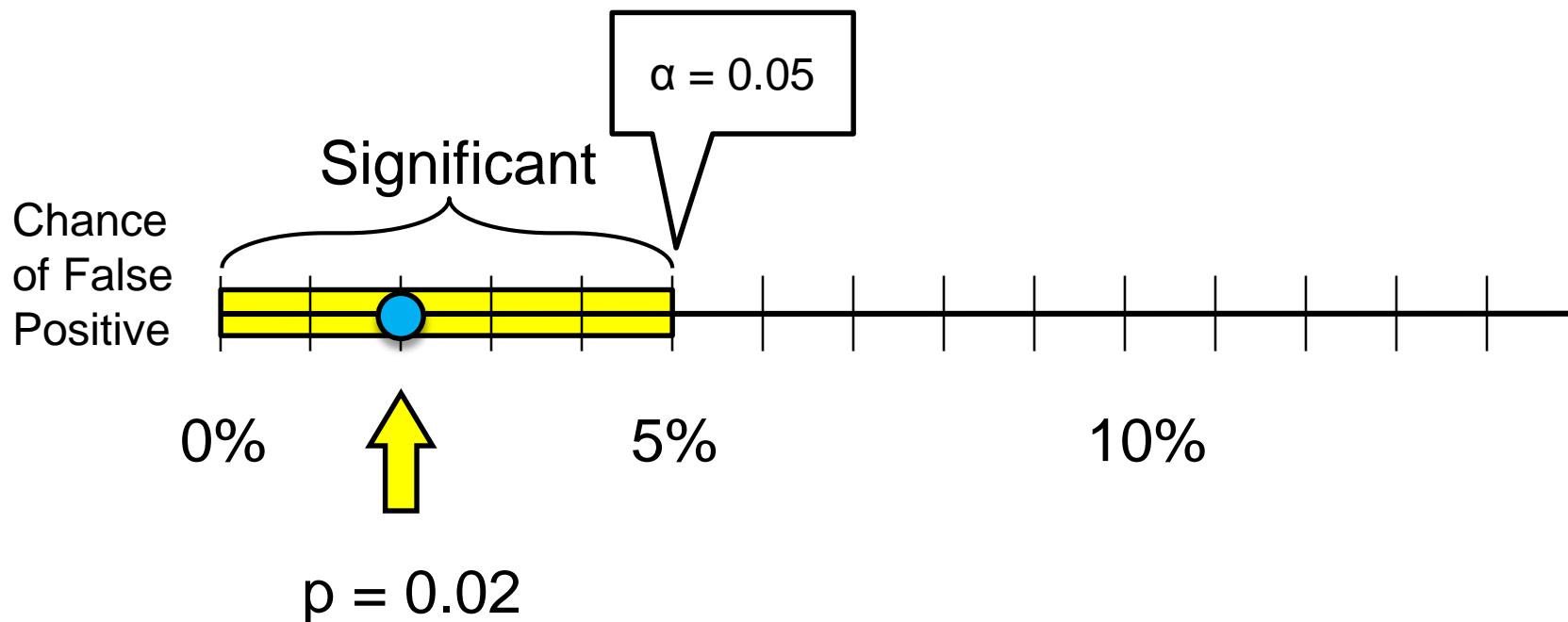
p-Value

- The amount of risk you are willing to accept.

- The amount of risk present.



- p-value  $> \alpha$
- The risk of a false positive is **too high**.
- Conclude there is **no difference**.

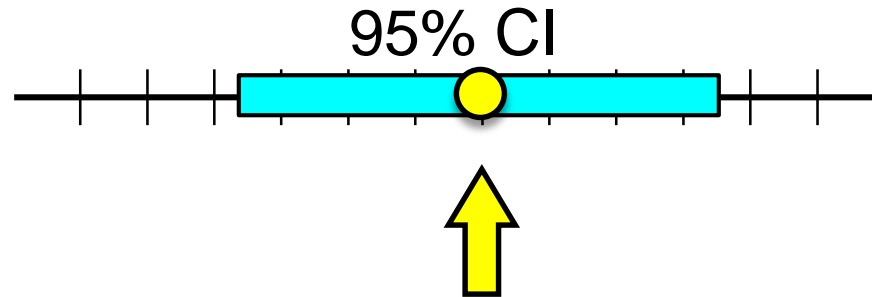


- p-value  $< \alpha$
- The risk of a false positive is **acceptable**.
- Conclude a **difference exists!**

# Quiz Question #2

- You run a statistical test using an alpha of 0.01 and get a p-value of 0.05. Which hypothesis should you go with?
  - A. Null hypothesis
  - B. Alternative hypothesis

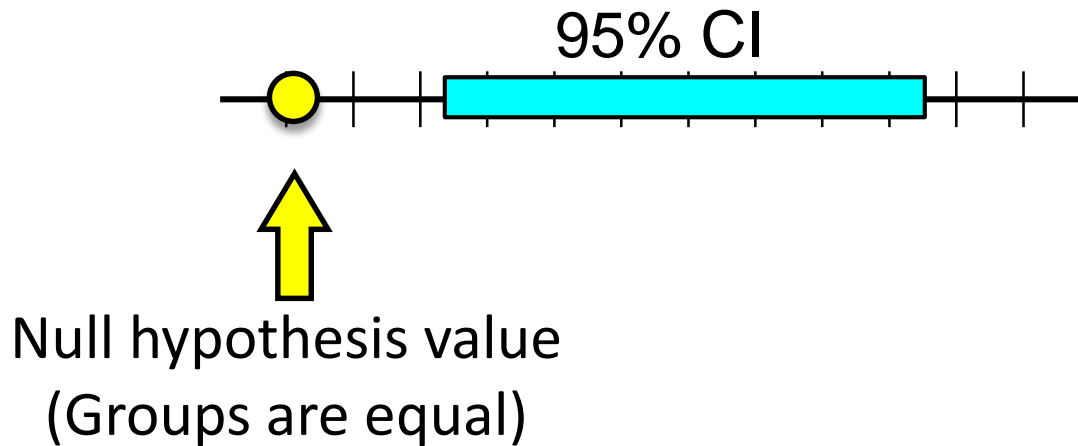
# Confidence Interval (CI)



Null hypothesis value  
(Groups are equal)

- Null hypothesis value **inside** CI.
- Conclude there is **no difference**.

# Confidence Interval (CI)



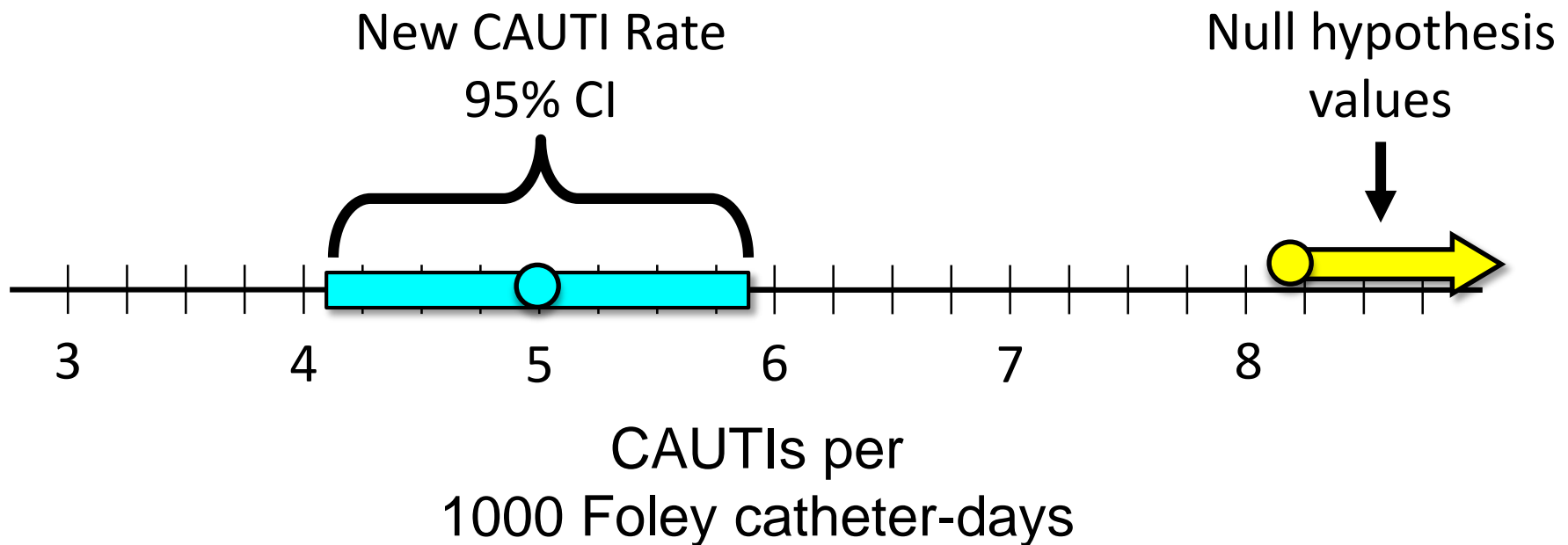
- Null hypothesis value **outside** CI.
- Conclude there is **a difference**.

# CAUTI Reduction Project

## Phase 1 vs. Phase 2

- Null hypothesis:
  - The infection rate with the care bundle in place is equal to or greater than 8.2 CAUTIs per 1000 Foley catheter-days.
- Alternative hypothesis:
  - The infection rate with the care bundle in place is less than 8.2 CAUTIs per 1000 Foley catheter-days.
- Alpha = 0.05 (accepting 5% risk of false positive)
  - Cut-off for p-value
  - Expect 95% confidence interval

# CAUTI Reduction Project Results



- Null hypothesis values **outside** CI.
- Conclude there is **a difference**.

# Confidence Interval Width

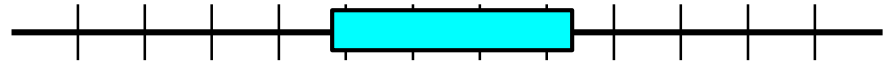
Sample Size

CI

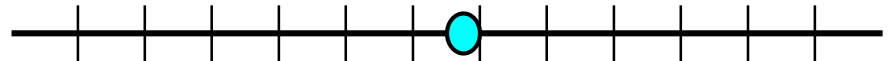
Small



Large



All

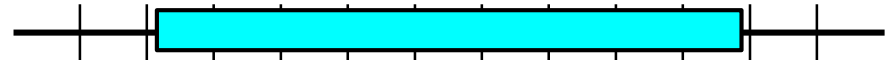


# Confidence Interval Width

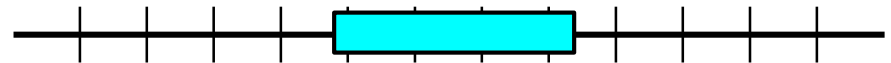
Data Variability

CI

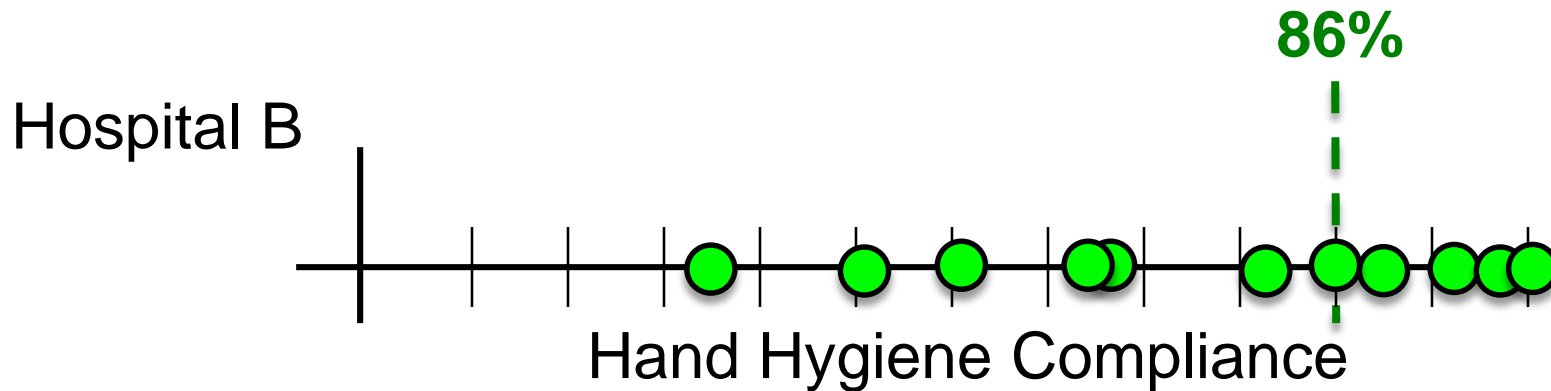
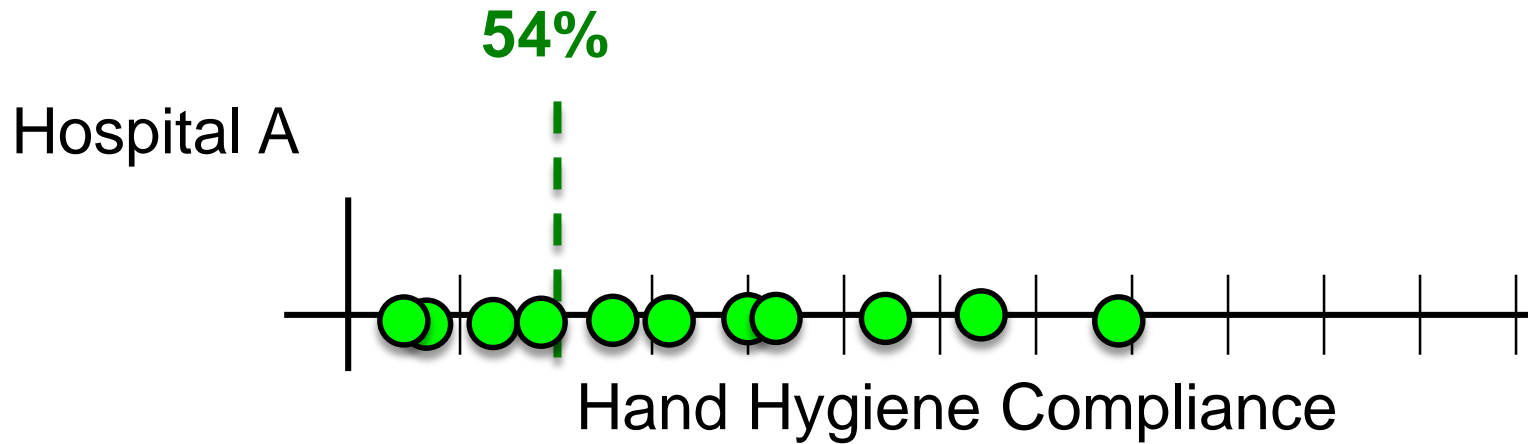
Large Variability



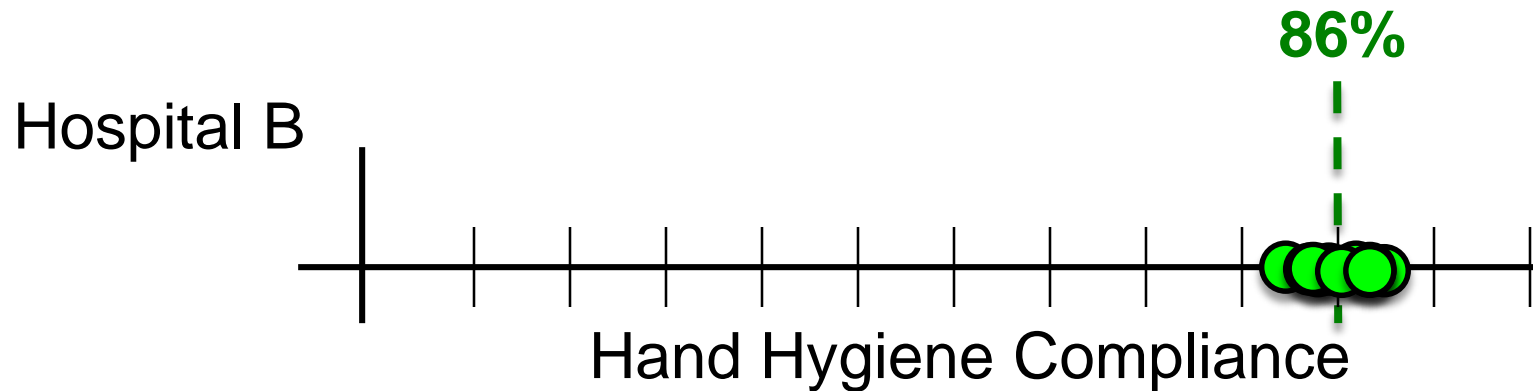
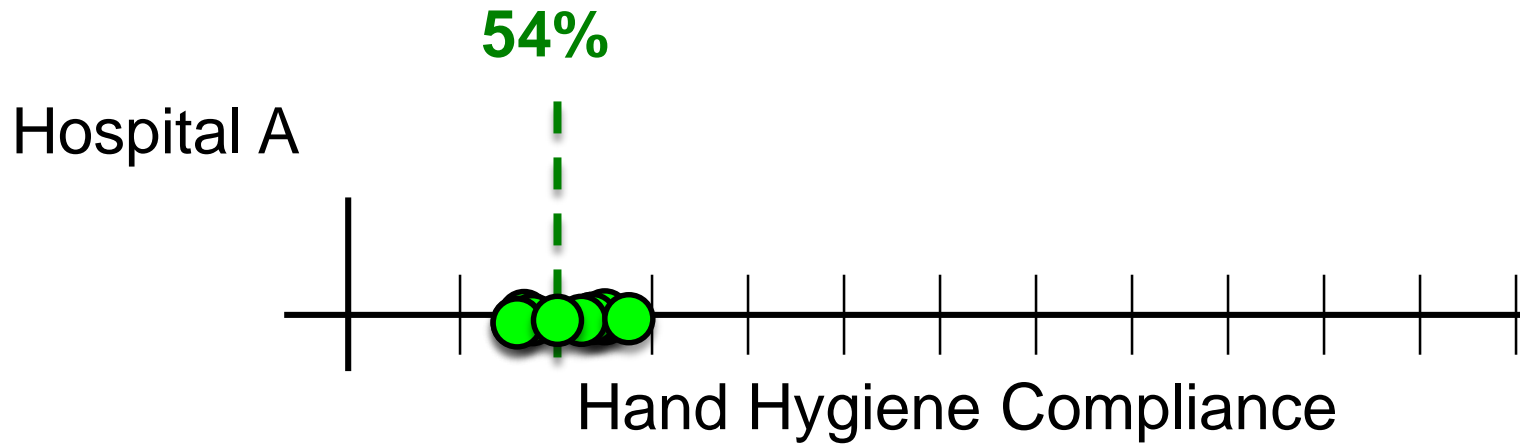
Small Variability



# Large Variability



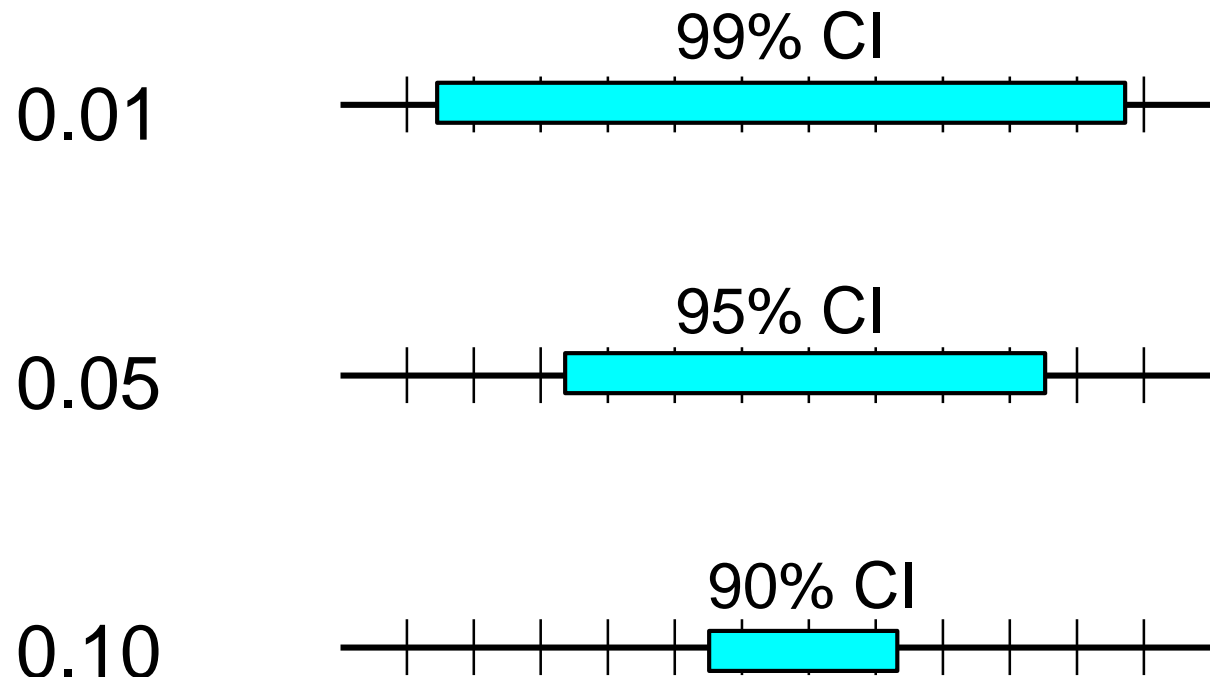
# Little Variability



# Confidence Interval Width

Alpha ( $\alpha$ )

CI



# Error Options

Reality	Your Conclusion	
	Same (null)	Different (alt)
Same (null)	Correct	False Positive
Different (alt)	False Negative	Correct

## The False **Negative** Scenario (Type II Error)

### Your Conclusion

There is NO difference.

(Null Hypothesis)

### Reality

There is a difference.

(Alternative Hypothesis)

# Changing Alpha...

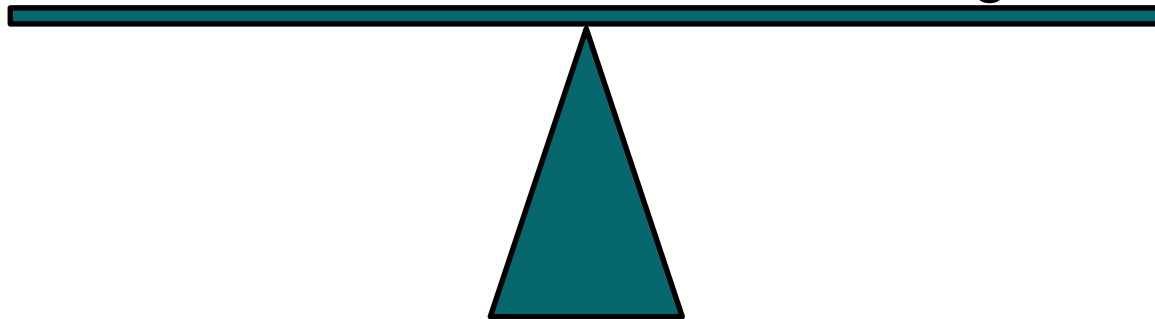
More  
Likely



Less  
Likely

False  
Positive

False  
Negative





# What Drives Power?

- Difference of interest
- Sample size
- Data variability
- Level of significance ( $\alpha$ )
- Test used



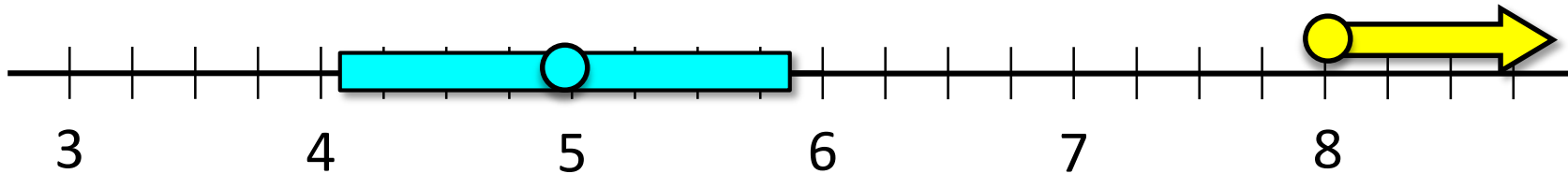
# Quiz Question #3

- Which of the following results can cause the size of the confidence interval to increase?
  - A. Smaller sample size
  - B. Less data variability
  - C. Larger alpha
  - D. All of the above

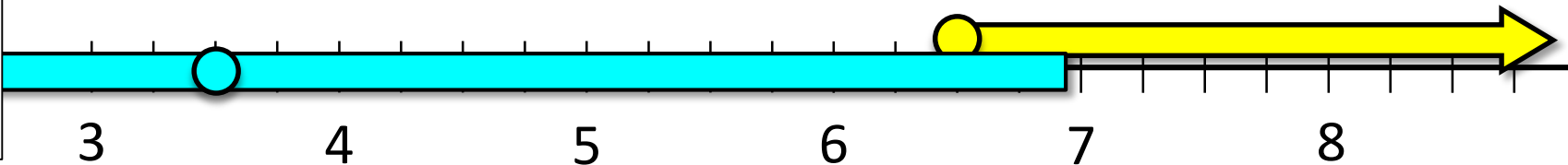
But...

# Clinical Relevance

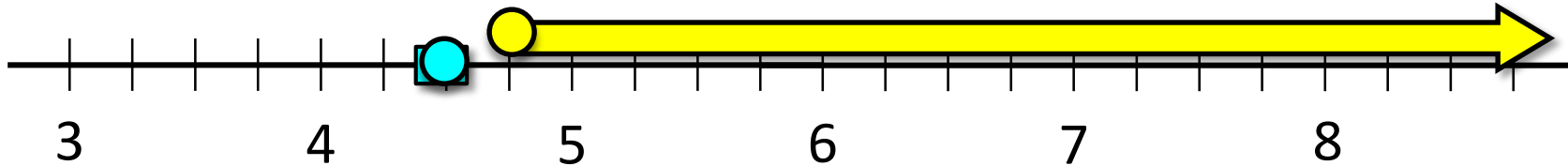
**ICU**  
 $p = 0.010$



**Med**  
 $p = 0.620$



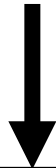
**Surg**  
 $p = 0.003$



CAUTIs per  
1000 Foley catheter-days

# Garbage In, Garbage Out

Bad Data



## Wrong Statistical Test

- t-test
- ANOVA
- Chi-square
- etc.



Test Statistic  
(e.g. t, F,  $\chi^2$ )



More Math



p-value

# Nothing is Certain

- Statistically significant result?
  - Alpha = 0.05
  - Wrong 1 time in 20
- No significant finding?
  - Power = 80%
  - Wrong 1 time in 5

# Module 2 Summary

- Null hypothesis includes “equal”
- Alternative hypothesis looks 1 or 2 directions
- Alpha = acceptable chance of false positive
- p-value = current chance of false positive
- CI and p-value should give same answer
- Statistical significance  $\neq$  clinical relevance
- Inferential statistics are never perfect...



**[www.apic.org/education](http://www.apic.org/education)**

**APIC**

**The Association for Professionals in  
Infection Control & Epidemiology**

1275 K Street, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20005

202-789-1890

202-789-1899 fax

1-800-650-9570