

[Population Validity](#) [1]

[Martyn Shuttleworth](#) [2] 68.8K reads

Population validity is a type of external validity which describes how well the sample used can be extrapolated to a population as a whole.

It evaluates whether the [sample population](#) [3] represents the entire population, and also whether the [sampling method](#) [4] is acceptable.

For example, an educational study that looked at a single school could not be [generalized](#) [5] to cover children at every US school.

On the other hand, a federally appointed study, that tested every pupil of a certain age group, will have exceptionally strong population validity.

Due to time and cost restraints, most studies lie somewhere between these two extremes, and researchers pay extreme attention to their [sampling techniques](#) [6].

Experienced scientists ensure that their sample groups are as representative as possible, striving to use [random selection](#) [7] rather than [convenience sampling](#) [8].

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