Results

Overall, 64.8% of studies reported statistical testing of baseline differences (95% CI (59.6, 70.0)).

2005: 67.1%
2015: 64.0%

Methods

REVIEWED TOP 10 HIGHEST-ImpACT FACTOR SPORTS MEDICINE JOURNALS
• According to the 2014 Journal Citation Reports

MEDLINE SEARCH IN PUBMED
• "clinical trial[pt] OR randomly OR randomized OR randomised"

TWO REVIEWERS INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED ARTICLES:
• to identify RCTs, baseline tables, and significance testing of baseline differences
• In either the baseline table or text

Conclusions

OVER 2/3s OF RCTs IN SPORTS MEDICINE JOURNAL ARTICLES
• Still conduct statistical testing for baseline differences

PREVIOUS STUDY:
• (Knol et.al, 2009)
• 7 leading medicine journals from 2008 to 2010
• p values listed in 35% of the studies’ baseline tables

DANGER IN SPORTS MEDICINE:
• Smaller samples sizes = more misleading p-values
• We found 80% of RCT articles n<100

LIMITATIONS:
• Missed RCT articles
• 2005, 2015 may be outliers

WHAT NOW?
• Prior to analysis, authors should select baseline covariates (i.e. sex) thought to affect outcome and adjust for