Cherry-Picked Data

Cherry-picked data refers to the selective inclusion of data points or studies that **support a specific conclusion**, while **omitting** those that do not.

⬛ Key Characteristics

- Selective use of favorable results
- Ignoring contradictory evidence
- Creates a distorted or misleading conclusion
- Can be intentional or unconscious

⚠ Why It Matters

- Undermines scientific credibility
- Misleads clinical decisions and public opinion
- Common in promotional or biased publications
- Violates principles of evidence-based practice

⬛ Examples

Context	Cherry-Picking Behavior
Clinical trials	Reporting positive outcomes but omitting adverse events
Reviews	Excluding neutral or negative studies from analysis
Device reports	Showing only best-case imaging or outcomes
Editorials	Referencing only supporting literature

⬛ Best Practice

- Always present **comprehensive data**, including limitations.
- Acknowledge **conflicting findings** in discussion sections.
- Avoid overinterpreting selectively favorable evidence.

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