



10 July 2015

**Memorandum**

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Are NIH-funded trials fewer but bigger?

The question is from a comment by Dan Ford to my memo of 19 February 2015 (*Clinical trials and the NIH*; posted to [trialsmeinertsway.com](http://trialsmeinertsway.com)).

*Interestingly when we bring this trend up to NIH leaders [decline in NIH-funded trials] one of the first comments is that maybe it is good they are no longer funding small clinical trials that do not provide useful information.*

So even if NIH-funded trials are fewer are they getting bigger?

The table below does not support that view. The counts are for trials with NIH-funding, as generated from a downloaded dataset from [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov) 26 June 2015. The counts are for completed trials by year of completion.

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|      | No. trials | Mean SS | Median SS | 25th %ile | 75th %ile | IQ range |
|------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 2006 | 494        | 722     | 80        | 36        | 199       | 163      |
| 2007 | 599        | 323     | 60        | 30        | 150       | 120      |
| 2008 | 593        | 312     | 61        | 30        | 203       | 173      |
| 2009 | 695        | 287     | 72        | 30        | 226       | 196      |
| 2010 | 736        | 284     | 60        | 28        | 168       | 140      |
| 2011 | 762        | 627     | 66        | 31        | 205       | 174      |
| 2012 | 758        | 340     | 72        | 32        | 218       | 186      |
| 2013 | 715        | 232     | 75        | 34        | 200       | 166      |
| 2014 | 635        | 280     | 78        | 30        | 216       | 186      |