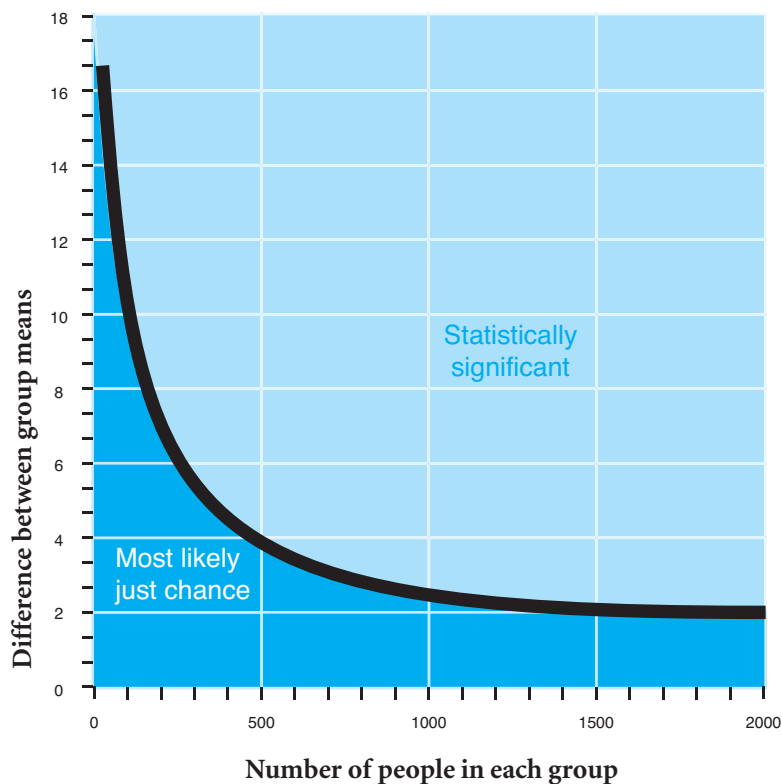


## Comparing Group Scores on the SAT—For Colleges and Universities

Use this table to determine when a difference between two group mean scores is statistically significant and when it is not.



### How to Use This Graph

- Use this graph when comparing the mean scores of similar groups of students across different years or within a given year.
  1. First determine the average size of the two groups for which you are comparing scores, then locate that point on the horizontal axis.
  2. Next locate the point on the vertical axis corresponding to the difference in the mean scores of the groups being compared.
  3. Locate the point where the two values intersect. Score differences that lie in the area to the left and beneath the curve are most likely due to chance; i.e., the chance of the two mean scores being different is 5 percent or less. Those that lie in the area to the right and above the curve are considered statistically significant.

### Points to Note

- Many of the small year-to-year changes in the mean scores of a particular group (e.g., entering freshmen) are not statistically significant; i.e., they are probably the result of chance.
- When comparing group mean scores, note that the significance of a change in scores depends on the average size of the groups. Small groups require a large change in order to be significant; large groups require smaller changes.
- A table with additional data on score change is available at [www.collegeboard.com/satdata](http://www.collegeboard.com/satdata).