Tool 4.3 – Program Evaluation Resources

This tool includes selected references to relatively accessible information about various program evaluation topics. The list is neither exhaustive nor intended to include all foundational references to particular topics. Instead, it aims to provide additional “how-to” information and beginning points for further exploration.

A resource that aims to strengthen program managers’ understanding of and readiness for program evaluation is “The Program Manager’s Guide to Evaluation,” published by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) within the Administration for Children and Families. It explains what program evaluation is, its importance, and different steps in the evaluation process, including how to engage an evaluation team, prepare for and design an evaluation, gather credible evidence and analyze data, and share lessons learned.

In addition, OPRE periodically organizes meetings to convene scientists and research experts to advance critical topics in social science research methodology. The meetings provide an opportunity to discuss how innovative methodologies can be applied to policy-relevant questions and help to ensure that government-supported research represents the most scientifically rigorous approaches available. Additional resources on some of the topics listed below can be found under Past Meetings on the OPRE site.

Topics

• Difference in Differences
• Effect Sizes
• Evaluation Design—General
• Interrupted Time Series (ITS) and Comparative Interrupted Time Series (CITS)
• Matching
  • General
  • Propensity Score Methods
  • Synthetic Comparison Methods
• Multiple Hypothesis Testing
• Null Results
• Regression Discontinuity (RD)
• Subgroups
• Theory of Change and Logic Models

Difference in Differences


**Effect Sizes**


**Evaluation Design—General**


**Interrupted Time Series (ITS) and Comparative Interrupted Time Series (CITS)**


Matching

General


Propensity Score Methods


Synthetic Comparison Methods


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Theory Of Change and Logic Models

