

Evaluating Policy

Political Science

Establishing whether a policy actually caused the outcome.

Designs, strongest first.

Designs

Randomised pilot before rollout

Staggered rollout across areas

Difference in differences with controls

Regression discontinuity at a threshold

Before-and-after comparison only

Also required

Process evaluation — was it delivered as designed

Cost analysis alongside effects

Distributional analysis of who gained

Long enough follow-up period

Educational reference. Before-and-after comparison attributes to the policy every other change occurring at the same time.