

Project and program analysis tools

Analysis tool/ Evaluation most useful for	Overview/description	Benefits (+) and shortcomings (–)	Additional information
Statistical analysis <i>Use for</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency • Effectiveness 	<p>Statistical analysis is a set of tools and techniques used for describing, organising and interpreting information or data.</p> <p>May be applied to performance indicators against targets or to assess financial information, as well as survey information to provide quantitative results from qualitative data.</p>	<p>+ With good data and sound techniques, clear answers within definable levels of confidence will be achieved</p> <p>+ Unbiased results from observed information</p> <p>– Analysis, especially of biological information, may need to be done by a specialist statistician</p> <p>– Expense of employing a statistician</p> <p>– Requires reliable and trustworthy data which can be difficult to access</p>	<p>National Statistical Service: www.nss.gov.au</p>
Case studies <i>Use for</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness 	<p>Case studies are relatively small-scale but focused investigations where the results of the studies are used to infer conditions, management consequences or relationships for a broader geographic areas or social groups.</p>	<p>+ Cost-effective collection of data or information</p> <p>+ Able to infer relationships and outcomes</p> <p>+/- Can use a range of techniques so pros and cons of methods used need to be considered</p> <p>– Interpreting results of a case study too literally or too broadly could result in false assumptions</p>	<p>Case studies in sustainability from Western Australia: www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/building_stronger/enterprise/cs_wa.html</p>

<p>Checklists</p> <p><i>Use for</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriateness</i> 	<p>Checklists are lists designed to remind or inform an evaluator about things that need to be considered in an evaluation.</p> <p>List items may be weighted and responses scaled to semi-quantitatively compare alternatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Simple to develop and use and easy to understand + Provides an auditable and systematic method of evaluation – Lists may be too general or too specific – Results may be reliant on additional expert input 	<p>Evaluation checklists site: www.wmich.edu/evalctr/checklists/</p>
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