

Project and program analysis tools

| Analysis tool/ <i>Evaluation most useful for</i> | Overview/description | Benefits (+) and shortcomings (-) | Additional information |
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| <p>Statistical analysis</p> <p><i>Use for</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Efficiency</i> • <i>Effectiveness</i> | <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> |
| <p>Case studies</p> <p><i>Use for</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effectiveness</i> | <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> |

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| <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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