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ACF Evaluation Policy

Rigor ←

Relevance ←

Transparency ←

Independence ←

Ethics ←

Seven main points

1. Data are necessary but not sufficient to create evidence.
2. Administrative data and ongoing surveys are important resources, but specialized data collected for the purposes of specific evaluations will also continue to be important.
3. Easier accessibility of administrative data would greatly streamline evaluation activities.
4. Implementation & descriptive studies are just as important as impact or outcome evaluations; relevance is just as important as rigor.
5. Prerequisites for federal evaluation include statutory authority, funding, a skilled federal workforce, and a robust private sector.
6. Several bureaucratic challenges pose substantial barriers to federal evaluation efforts, in the areas of procurement, information technology and security, and information collection.
7. The federal evaluation enterprise lacks many elements of the infrastructure that supports & protects the federal statistical system.