

CHOOSING AN IMPACT EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Using the summary table as a reference, discuss how your group could use each of the rigorous impact evaluation methodologies. Here are some points you should consider:

1. Is the methodology feasible? (e.g. Is it possible to randomize? Will it be possible to collect pre- & post-intervention data? Does your program have an eligibility threshold that could be exploited in a regression discontinuity design? Would it be possible to find a matched control unit for units in the treated group?)
2. Is the methodology's identifying assumption reasonable? Is there anything you can do to make it more reasonable?
3. Are there likely to be spillover effects from treated to control? If so, what are the implications for the methodology? Can this methodology account for spillover effects? If not, is your estimate of the program impact likely to be under- or over-stated?
4. What are there ethical or political issues that could make the methodology difficult to implement? If there are concerns, how will you address them?
5. What are the data requirements of this methodology? Will the necessary data be affordable? Are there scheduling considerations that make this methodology more or less attractive?
6. Would the estimated impact from this methodology be generalize-able to the population that will ultimately receive the program?

After reflecting on these points and weighing the pros and cons of each methodology against the others, describe your ideal impact evaluation design. Remember that it is sometimes possible to combine methodologies in order to relax assumptions.