

# Analysing evidence: effective collaboration

Anyone involved with designing public policy wants their policy to make a difference to society. Good policies need good ideas but, if they are to truly make a difference, they also need strong support in the shape of robust data, evidence and analysis.

Evidence and analysis is therefore a critical component of the policy process and is used to assist with both policy formulation and implementation. By contrast, developing policy without any supporting evidence is decidedly risky. Thankfully, there are a whole range of analytical specialists who can help policy professionals determine whether suitable evidence can be found to support a particular policy recommendation.

## Description

This topic will introduce you to the benefits of evidence-based policy making as well as to the variety of sources from which that evidence can come. You'll understand how evidence is collated and analysed and how best to present it.

To help build more collaborative and effective working relationships, you'll find out about the many analytical professionals who operate within the Civil Service and even within your own department. From statistical sampling through to controlled trials, you'll learn about the techniques and measures these professionals use as well as the limitations of the data they work with. This should be of value to any policy professional requiring an introduction to evidence and analysis, as well as to staff in operational, strategic and corporate functions.

## What does it involve?

A short video and an online tutorial will introduce you to the value of working with both qualitative and quantitative data and the role the different analysts play. You'll also consider the potential pitfalls you may be faced with.

Afterwards, you'll be tasked with reviewing a recent evidence-based policy recommendation from your own department. In conjunction with the analysts who were involved with the project, you'll consider how effectively evidence and analysis was used on that particular recommendation.

## What's the outcome?

After completing this topic, you'll understand the fundamental principles of analysing evidence and the underlying assumptions that research needs to be based upon. You'll be able to work more effectively with your analytical colleagues and use evidence throughout the development of policies.

In turn, this will allow for a more robust appraisal of any competing policy options. The net result should be more high quality policy recommendations emerging as a consequence of analysts and policy professionals collaborating more effectively.

## Learning activities



Online  
resources



Online  
tutorial

**Estimated learning time:**  
2 hours 30 minutes

## How to book

[learn.civilservice.gov.uk](https://learn.civilservice.gov.uk)

**0203 640 7985**  
[support@governmentcampus.co.uk](mailto:support@governmentcampus.co.uk)

**Price:** Free