

Types of Evaluation Research Studies

Impact studies determine if an intervention is having an effect on a desired outcome. They include a comparison or control group of participants whose characteristics are initially similar to those in the treatment group. Impact studies generally have a randomized controlled trial design, a quasi-experimental design or a mixture of the two.

Implementation studies describe and analyze program operations and program-related outcomes. Generally, these types of studies do not have a comparison or control group. This type of evaluation research focuses on "What is happening?" in the design, implementation, administration and outcomes of programs.

Descriptive studies examine participants' characteristics and/or outcomes.. These studies can demonstrate associations or relationships between programmatic activities and outcomes. They can also demonstrate associations between participant characteristics and program involvement. This type of evaluation research does not use research methods that allow causal conclusions to be made with confidence.

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