



“We Can’t Do Evidence-Based Policy Without Evidence”: Building a Research Program at the College of Optometrists of Ontario

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#CLEAR2023AEC



Structure

- Define Evidence-Based Regulation
- Suggest some pathways towards developing and implementing it
- Provide example(s)





- Richard Thaler:
American Economist,
Behavioral Scientist
- No Evidence-Based
Policy Without
Evidence
- “Watching Behavior
Before Writing the
Rules,” *NY Times*
(2012)



Test, Learn, Adapt (2012)

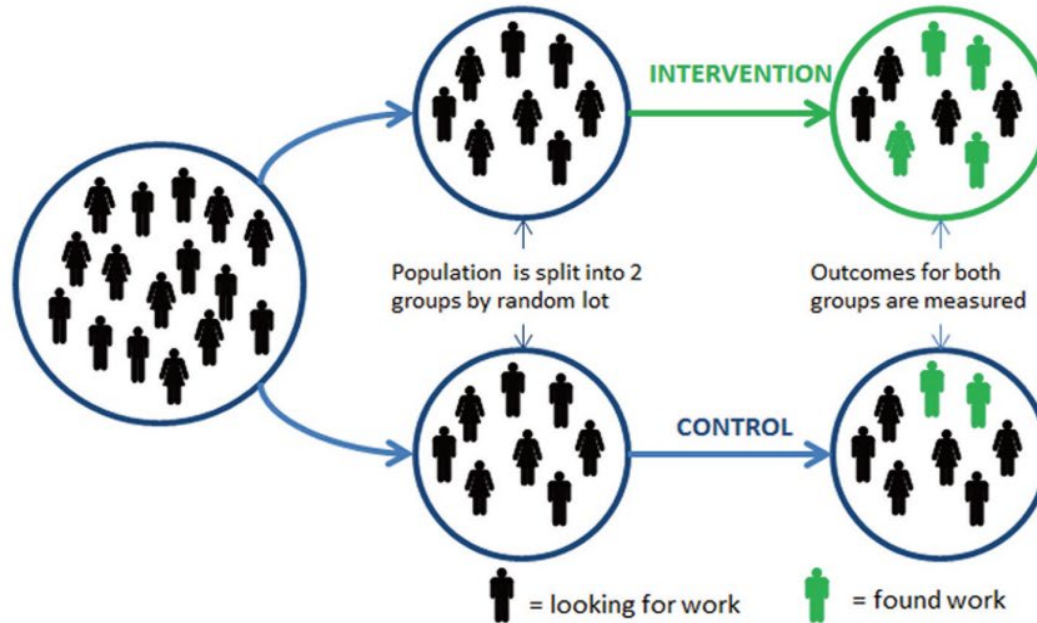


Figure 1. The basic design of a randomised controlled trial (RCT), illustrated with a test of a new 'back to work' programme.



Lower (or adjust) the Ceiling



- Peer-Review
- Stakeholder Input
- Collaborative Models
- Internal Data
- Government Data





“The question is – to what level of data do we wish to stoop.”



Right-Touch Regulation

- 1) Identify the problem before the solution
- 2) Quantify and qualify the risks
- 3) Get as close to the problem as possible
- 4) Focus on the outcome
- 5) Use regulation only when necessary
- 6) Keep it simple
- 7) Check for unintended consequences
- 8) Review and respond to change



Evidence-Based Regulation




The use of research data—ideally peer-reviewed—for the development, implementation, and review of regulatory policy and decision-making



Not Evidence- Based Medicine

Opinion | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 26 April 2017](#)

Evidence-based policymaking is not like evidence-based medicine, so how far should you go to bridge the divide between evidence and policy?

[Paul Cairney](#)  & [Kathryn Oliver](#)

Health Research Policy and Systems **15**, Article number: 35 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

72k Accesses | **207** Citations | **403** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

There is extensive health and public health literature on the ‘evidence-policy gap’, exploring the frustrating experiences of scientists trying to secure a response to the problems and solutions they raise and identifying the need for better evidence to reduce policymaker uncertainty. We offer a new perspective by using policy theory to propose research with greater impact, identifying the need to use persuasion to reduce ambiguity, and to adapt to multi-level policymaking systems.

We identify insights from secondary data, namely systematic reviews, critical analysis and policy theories relevant to evidence-based policymaking. The studies are drawn primarily from countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We combine empirical and normative elements to identify the ways in which scientists can, do and could influence policy.

We identify two important dilemmas, for scientists and researchers, that arise from our initial advice. First, effective actors combine evidence with manipulative emotional appeals to influence the policy agenda – should scientists do the same, or would the reputational costs outweigh the policy benefits? Second, when adapting to multi-level policymaking, should



Pathways



- External research
- Internal research
- Grant Programs
- Consultation
- Collaboration
- More...



Regulatory Research Award



SE.

ABOUT PUBLIC MEMBERS

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

REGULATORY RESEARCH AWARD:

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATION

Application Deadline: November 4, 2022

The College of Optometrists of Ontario is launching a Regulatory Research Award (RRA) to fund innovative and high-quality projects focused on the regulation of optometry and other health professions. Regulatory research is a relatively new field, and the College recognizes its importance in developing an evidence-base for future policies and regulatory structures, especially those that enhance and support public safety.

The award is open to Canadian investigators with project budgets of up to \$40,000 a year for up to 3 years.

All submissions are peer-reviewed by panels formed by the College's Research Steering Group, which oversees all College research funding programs. Panelists adhere to

2023 CLEAR ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



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Review and Funding Structure



- Funding created through dissolution of the Building Acquisition Fund (2021)
- Council Approval

Structural References:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Executive Committee

Developed and approved the framework for the Research Steering Group

- President
- Vice-President
- Chair of Gov-HR
- Chair of AFR
- Member-at-Large



Research Steering Group

Oversees and Manages the fund, ensuring it invests in high-quality, ethical, and mandate relevant research

- Chair (Vice-President)
- Vice-Chair (President)
- Council Member
- Researcher-at-Large



Review Panel(s)

Leveraging a set of guidelines, conducts a comprehensive review of each proposal, which is reported back to the Steering Group

- At least 3 reviewers selected based on current award focus



Focus and Overarching Goals

Strategic Focus:

- Support high-quality research that furthers our understanding of health professions and our knowledge of how to effectively and ethically regulate them in the public interest.

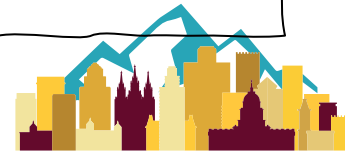
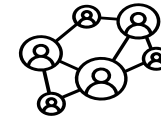


Near Future:

- Complete the funding process for our second investment (research beginning in 2024).

Far Future:

- Secure the long-term sustainability of the program.
- Build a network of panelists and collaborative stakeholders.
- Share findings at conferences, celebrate award recipients in public venues and over social media, engage in broader co-funding initiatives...





Speaker Contact Information

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Thank You

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