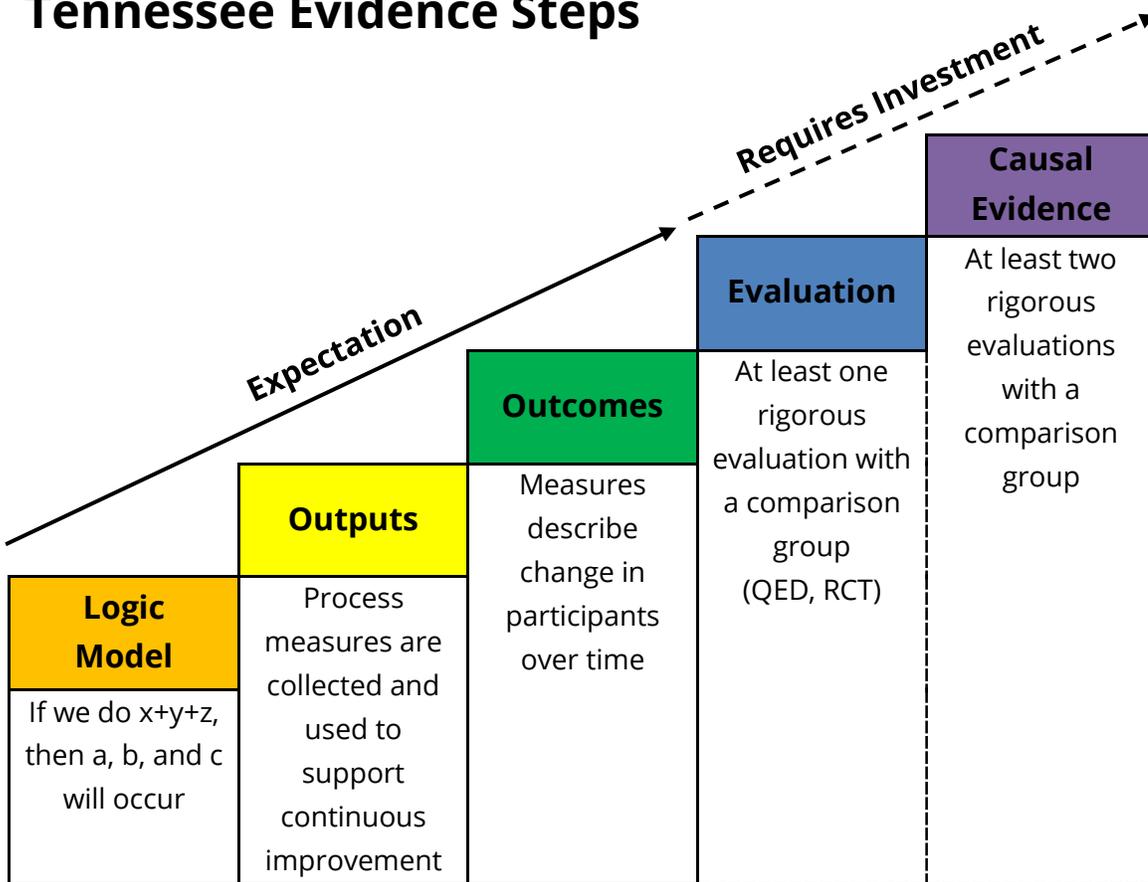


Evidence-Based Budgeting in Tennessee

Evidence-based budgeting is a targeted focus to facilitate the use of research and evidence to inform programmatic funding decisions in a way that improves outcomes for Tennessee citizens. Tennessee, influenced by the [Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative](#), operates an **evidence framework** through which agencies can demonstrate the evidence of both proposed and existing programs during the program inventory process or the budget process.

Tennessee Evidence Steps

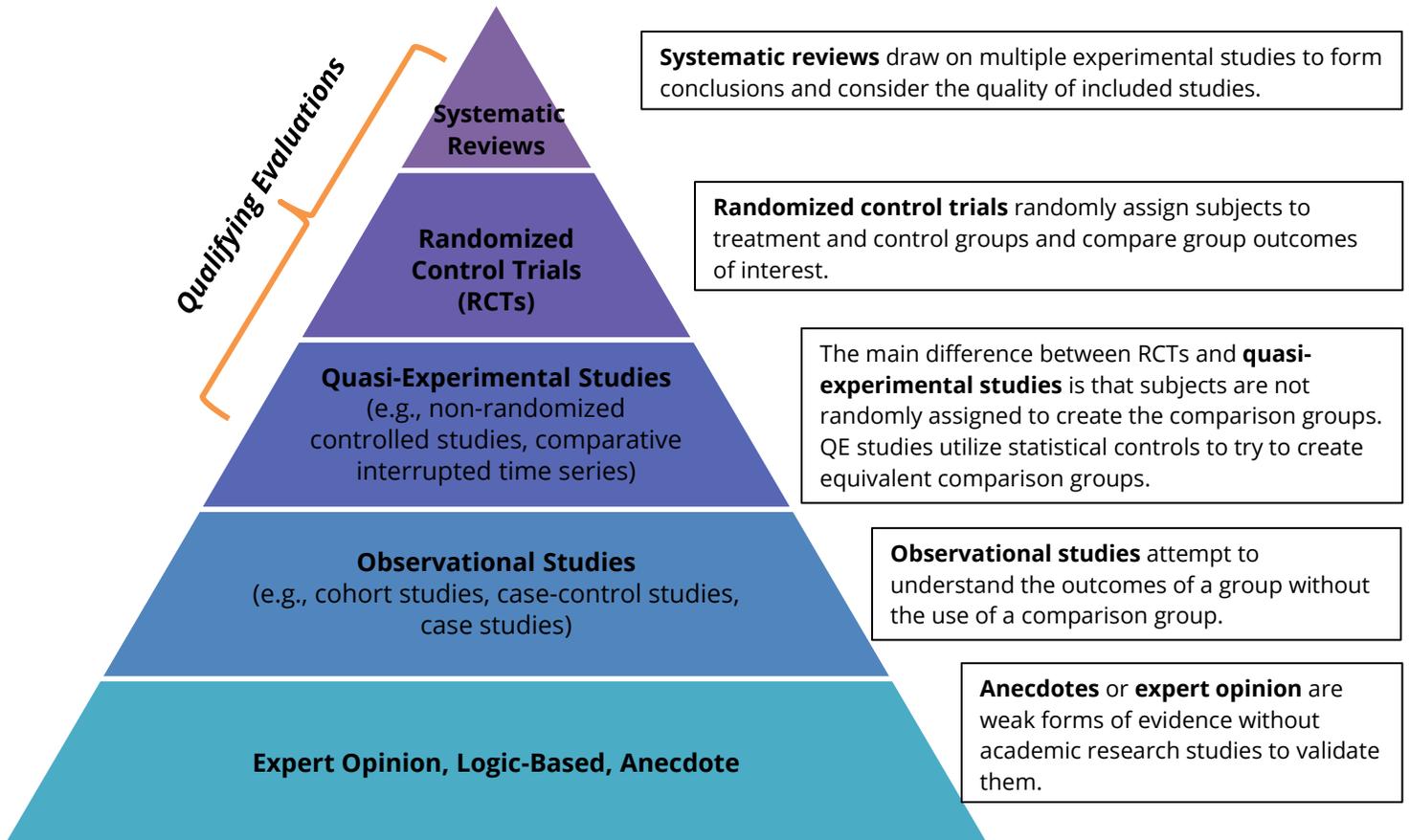


What is considered “evidence-based”?

Determining whether a program is evidence-based involves examining both the quality of evidence and the demonstrated impact on outcomes (i.e., positive, negative, no impact). For purposes of evidence-based budgeting, evidence-based programs are those with one or more rigorous evaluations (in Tennessee or elsewhere). These programs fall on the Evaluation or Causal Evidence steps and receive an impact rating (see symbol key below).

What is considered a rigorous evaluation?

For the purposes of evidence-based budgeting, rigorous evaluations are those that use high-quality experimental or quasi-experimental designs. The graphic below provides further information. Note: It may not be possible or appropriate for some programs to undergo rigorous evaluation.



Evidence clearinghouses collect research on various topics and programs, assigning evidentiary ratings. The [Results First Clearinghouse Database](#) identifies thousands of programs that have been rigorously evaluated by one or more of nine national clearinghouses. Departments may also submit rigorous studies which have not been vetted by clearinghouses for review by a panel.

Building Evidence

Programs not yet meeting the criteria to be considered “evidence-based” fall on the Logic Model, Outputs, or Outcomes steps based on the stage of program implementation and the documentation and collection of program data. All Tennessee programs are expected to build evidence through at least the Outcomes step. Programs at the Outcomes step may be prioritized for rigorous evaluation by the department or designated to stay at the Outcomes step due to the inability for rigorous evaluation of the program.

Reporting Evidence

A program description is paired with the evidence step, symbol, and reported logic model or data. In cases where a program delivers multiple interventions with their own associated evidence, those interventions and their ratings are included in a table below the program description. Initial evidence steps for all department programs are determined through the program inventory process or as part of the annual budgeting process should a program be submitted for a cost increase or reduction plan.

Program Name

Program Description

Provides high-level program detail regarding the population served by the program, its core activities/inputs, and its source of funding.



Outcomes

1. Program Outcome 1
2. Program Outcome 2
3. Program Outcome 3

Program Interventions (if applicable)

Program Intervention Name 1					
Program Intervention Name 2					
Program Intervention Name 3					

Reporting Evidence – Impact Key

Symbol	Meaning	Associated Step(s)
	Additional effort needed to move to outcomes step	
	No expectation to move from outcomes step	
	Prioritized for rigorous agency-level evaluation	
	Impact rated positive according to rigorous evaluation	
	Impact rated negative according to rigorous evaluation	
	Impact rated neutral according to rigorous evaluation	

Who can I contact with more questions?

With additional questions, please contact the office of evidence and impact at OEI.Questions@tn.gov.