

Code of Practice Guide for Policy Professionals

Policy Profession Standards – a framework for professional development sets out the skills and knowledge required by policy professionals at all stages of their career, and provides a framework for professional development. **EVIDENCE – Analysis and use of evidence** includes competencies related to **Statistics and Data Analysis**.

This *Code of Practice Guide for Policy Professionals* helps policy professionals understand which principles in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) are relevant to specific competencies in **Statistics and Data Analysis** to support their professional development and use of evidence.

Check out the **matrix** (overleaf) which shows how each competency relates to the Code, as well as links to further guidance (below).

The Role of Policy Professionals

[Policy professionals](#) bring together evidence, politics and delivery to support Ministers in achieving outcomes for government:

1. Advise ministers, honestly, impartially and objectively, on the options that will work to help ministers make informed choices
2. Consider and balance all three elements – evidence, politics and delivery – at whatever the stage of the policy
3. Bring together often discordant information, manage the constraints of a given area and produce the ‘best available’ option

Evidence: Developing and using a sound evidence base

Investigate, assess and advise on the political and practical implications of government policy using evidence and ideas from a wide range of sources to meet required outcomes:

1. Compile, assimilate, distil, interpret and present a strong evidence base from a wide range of types of evidence and opinions to form a sound and compelling base to inform coherent policy making
2. Understand and apply approaches, techniques and tools that draw on a wide range of inputs and improve the quality and pace of the analysis stage of policy making where it is appropriate

Further help on using data and statistics:

Here is a guide on using data and statistics from the GSS Good Practice Team: [Statistics for policy professionals: things that you need to know](#)

