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Evidence-Based Spectrum Policy Recommended Reading & CLE Resource List

1. CEP Final Report: The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking: https://cep.gov/cep-final-report.html

   Executive Summary and Recommendations: pages 1-6
   Total Length: 128 pages
   Relevancy: This final report from the Evidence Based Policy Commission "envisions a future in which rigorous evidence is created efficiently, as a routine part of government operations, and used to construct effective public policy." The report details numerous ways in which evidenced-based policy could be used to facilitate more effective and fair data privacy protections. There are recommendations for: improving secure, private, and confidential data access; modernizing privacy protections for evidence building; implementing the national secure data service; and strengthening federal evidence-building capacity. The Commission identifies specific problem areas that evidence-based policymaking processes would address, and gives examples of major societal questions that cannot currently be answered without better access to relevant data.

2. What is wrong with evidence based policy, and how can it be improved?: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717300472

   Conclusion: page 70
   Total Length: 8 pages
   Relevancy: Encouraging the widest variety of perspectives in the evidence-based policymaking process is crucial to the success and continued implementation of this approach. In this article, the authors point out that current approaches to evidence-based policy practices are potentially biased, and attempt to correct this methodological bias by focusing on the point in the data-gathering and analysis process where evidence is presented. They highlight certain forms of quantification (like risk analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and extensive mathematical modelling) that tend to be presented in a way that distracts from what the authors call 'alternative readings', which can result in a dramatic narrowing of the wide range of worldviews held by stakeholders, and erodes their trust in the institutions involved. They suggest an alternative approach of 'quantitative story-telling', followed by an attempt to refute each framework in

turn to analyze if it violates constraints of feasibility, viability and desirability. By using this method alongside tools like mathematical models and quantification, scientists can address potential policy biases and avoid prematurely eliminating legitimate policy options from their consideration.

3. Getting evidence into policy: The need for deliberative strategies?: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953611000888

> **Discussion and Conclusion:** pages 1044-1045
> **Total Length:** 7 pages
> **Relevancy:** The authors analyze the implementation of a cancer screening program by the Australian federal government, and identify institutional limitations to incorporating evidence into policy through 'filtering'. They propose that this happens at three levels of national government; at the health department level, between government departments, and across the broader government structure. The authors suggest three alternative models to traditional knowledge utilization approaches based on 'deliberative strategies', which facilitate more participation from a broader range of policy perspectives and increase distribution of decision-making authority. This article highlights the importance of focusing on integrating deliberative strategies into evidence-based policy implementation in order to address issues within an existing system of governance. The authors believe that a stronger sense of 'public reason' will result, allowing for evidence to be better integrated into the policymaking process through improved public trust.

4. Evidence-Based Policymaking: A guide for effective government (Pew-MacArthur): http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/assets/2014/11/evidencebasedpolicymakingaguide foreffectivegovernment.pdf

> **Key Components and Conclusion:** pages 4-18
> **Total Length:** 25 pages
> **Relevancy**: Analytical reports from academic institutions are an important contributor to the ongoing evidence-based policymaking conversation, because these institutions operate as both colleagues and checks to government institutions. This report offers a simple framework for implementing and evaluating evidence-based policy in the federal government within the legislative and executive branches. This framework has five key components; program assessment, budget development, implementation oversight, outcome monitoring, and targeted evaluation. There is a focus on economic factors that drive current barriers to implementation of evidence-based policymaking, and

attempts to use the proposed framework to address each of these barriers. The report also discusses the growing support for evidenced-based policy to reduce spending, expand innovation, and strengthen accountability.

5. Evidence-based policy, democracy, and the coronavirus: Grant Thornton's Robert Shea on Two Think Minimum: https://techpolicyinstitute.org/2020/06/29/robert-shea-on-evidenced-based-policys-impact-and-potential-two-think-minimum/

> **Length:** 25 minutes of audio
> **Relevancy**: This podcast from the Technology Policy Institute (TPI) features Robert Shea, a former Commissioner on the Evidence Based Policy Commission and current policy principal at Grant Thornton. Hosted by TPI president Scott Wallsten, Dr. Shea discusses his personal experience and takeaways on evidence-based policy as it is currently being implemented in the United States. Their discussion touches on evidenced-based policymaking as it relates to relevant, topical events like the U.S. government's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Shea also offers some insight into how politics and procedural architecture impact the implementation of evidence-based policy methods.