



Causal Inference for Social Impact Lab

DATA CHALLENGE

In Spring 2021, CISIL will invite academic teams from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to design and execute an analysis plan for one of two predetermined policy evaluation questions. Unlike most data challenges, the data are real, the answers from the teams will drive policy decisions, and teams are free to use any valid statistical technique they see fit to answer the questions posed to them.



Select policy evaluation questions

In collaboration with the government of King County, Washington, CISIL will select two relevant policy evaluation questions and the administrative data needed to answer those questions.



Provide question & data to teams

CISIL will assign each team one policy evaluation question and provide them with the administrative data necessary to answer it.



Teams return results to CISIL

After executing their analyses, teams will return their code files, which contain their analytic decisions, as well as a short report to CISIL. These decisions will be compiled together into a unique dataset of the researchers' decisions.

Recruit evaluations teams

CISIL will recruit academics with experience in policy evaluations and compose a collection of teams to ensure a diversity of methodological approaches and substantive perspectives.



Teams execute their analysis plans

Each team will have approximately 4 months to execute their analysis. Teams are free to use any valid statistical techniques to answer the question posed to them.



Analyze teams' analysis plans

Utilizing the dataset of teams' analytic decisions and short reports, CISIL will take a mixed-method approach to assess the impact researchers decisions have on their policy evaluations.



Publish results