



# Legislative Program Evaluation in the American States

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John Risley

Western Michigan University



# Background

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- Basis of knowledge of state LPE
  - Performance Audits and Evaluations
  - What are the states doing
- Henry and Mark (2003)
  - Research concerning evaluation
  - Metaevaluation (one of six areas)
- Funkhouser (2005)
  - Examination of performance audit content
  - Difference in audit unit structures



# LPE Literature

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- Growth, survey, description of units
  - Growth of units
  - Characteristics of staff
  - Organizational structure
- Limited review of evaluations and audits conducted
  - Case studies
  - Review of multiple reports



# Metaevaluation Literature

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- Metaevaluation theory
  - Extensive metaevaluation
  - Limited metaevaluation
  - Use of standards and Guiding Principles
- Metaevaluation of multiple reports
  - Standards-based criteria
  - Limited classification (met/unmet)

# Metaevaluation Literature: Multiple Studies

Author(s)	Year	Number of Reports	Random Sample	Relied Solely on Reports	Other Data Examined
Bollen, Paxon, & Morishima	2005	25	No	Yes	None
Chatterji	2005	4	No	No	Interviewed evaluator, reviewed documents
Cooksy & Caracelli	2005	87	No	Yes	None
Leeuw & Cooksy	2005	3	No	Yes	None
Kruse	2005	~200	No	Yes	None
Scott-Little, Haman & Jurs	2002	23	No	Yes	None
Bickman	1997	56	No	Yes	None
Forss & Carlsson	1997	277	No	Yes	None
Hoogerwerf	1992	15	Yes	Yes	None
Larson, et al.	1979	200	No	Yes	None



# Methodology: LPE Units and Reports

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- LPE units selected
  - LPE units under legislative control
  - NLPES members
  - Search of states and statutes for others
- Reports
  - Other than strictly financial audits
  - Classification issues



# Methodology: Metaevaluation Criteria

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- Combination of GAGAS for performance auditing, PES, and KEC
- Concise criteria with three ratings (met, partially met, and failed to meet)
- Recognition of limitations
  - Limited information in reports
  - Limited ability for confirmation
  - Limited by selected criteria



# Findings

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- High percentage meeting criteria
- Performance Audits vs. Evaluations
  - Standards (GAGAS vs. PES)
  - Comparisons
  - Stakeholder identification
- Lack of information on some criteria
  - Timeliness, Quality Control, Human Subjects' Rights





# Issues

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- Revision of criteria
  - Drop criteria with little evidence in reports
  - Different categories (poor, fair, etc. vs. met, unmet)
- Focus on generalizability and comparisons
- What is being evaluated
  - Agencies/boards vs. programs and policies
- Unit structure and report content
  - Units with a financial focus vs. nonfinancial
- Goal-based vs. needs-based