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EXPERIMENTAL POLICY INITIATIVE: THE DIPRES MODEL

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DIRECCIÓN DE PRESUPUESTOS

Experimental Policy Initiative: The DIPRES Model

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SUMMARY

The generation of evidence on the cost effectiveness of public initiatives, policies, and programs is key for making fiscal spending decisions and, therefore, for countries' social and economic development. However, the complexity of generating that evidence means that it is also very scarce. Until 2018, the Budget Office (Dirección de Presupuestos, DIPRES) carried out impact assessments mainly by outsourcing their implementation via public tenders, which generally used quasi-experimental designs. To obtain more reliable information on the efficacy of public policies for a more efficient budget allocation and greater social innovation, DIPRES created the Experimental Policy Initiative in 2018.

The model behind this initiative consists mainly in the application of two complementary strategies aimed at reducing the complexity of evidence generation: (1) an internal process, where a DIPRES team works with external academics to design and implement randomized controlled trials or take advantage of natural experiments to evaluate public policies and programs; and (2) an Impact Evaluation Fund, which uses public tenders to gather ideas on experimental policy from researchers outside DIPRES. Between 2018 and 2021, the DIPRES Experimental Policy Initiative launched 20 impact assessments (12 randomized controlled trials and 8 natural experiments).

1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2019, the Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, and Michael Kremer for expanding and diffusing the global generation of policy evidence through randomized controlled trials and for the importance of their work for public policy in terms of improving people's welfare and reducing poverty. In October 2021, the same prize was given to Joshua Angrist, David Card, and Guido Imbens for their contribution to applied economic sciences through the use of natural experiments. These awards highlight the role of experimental impact evaluations in facilitating decisionmaking in the definition of public policies, as well as its expansion in the last decades.

The importance of incorporating scientific evidence in decisionmaking lies in the opportunity to increase the efficacy and efficiency of public spending, through the reallocation of resources to the most effective programs and policies. The programs also benefit from feedback with useful causal information, which can lead to improvements in program functioning through adjustments in design or management models. Finally, the evidence facilitates innovation, allowing to discover new, more effective, and more efficient ways of pursuing social objectives. This is particularly important for initiatives, programs, or policies that are financed with public resources.

However, the recent Nobel Prizes in Economics also communicate concern for the very limited production and consumption of scientific evidence worldwide on the part of governments and the private sector. In her TED Talk, "Social Experiments to Fight Poverty," Esther Duflo compares public policies of the twentieth century with medieval medicine, stating that many or almost all public policy decisions were based on intuition, ideas, and inertia, rather than on the use of scientific evidence, in contrast to practices in the field of modern medicine.

Aware of this diagnosis, the Budget Office (Dirección de Presupuestos, DIPRES) decided to redesign its impact assessment approach in 2018, with the goal of strengthening the production of rigorous evidence for budget allocation and the design of public policies. Two strategies were developed. First, an internal program impact assessment approach, in which a DIPRES team works with external researchers to evaluate new and existing programs prospectively, through the implementation of both randomized randomized controlled trials and natural experiments. Second, an Impact Evaluation Fund (IEF), whereby researchers in Chile and around the world can submit rigorous experimental and non-experimental evaluation proposals for different public programs in Chile. To date, work has begun on developing 20 evaluations, with technical support from expert researchers affiliated with renowned universities and institutions such as the Catholic University of Chile, the University of Chile, Princeton, Berkeley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, the World Bank, Warwick, and University College London.

This article describes the current model implemented in DIPRES (henceforth "the model"), highlighting its strategic design elements. Section 2 discusses the challenge for the social sciences to produce evidence on the cost effectiveness of public policies, while section 3 provides the historical and institutional context of the model. Section 4 describes the current model, highlighting its link to the budget cycle. Section 5 details the challenges for the model and its consolidation. Finally, the appendix presents a summary of the different initiatives being developed and their status to date.

2. THE CHALLENGE OF GENERATING EVIDENCE ON THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC POLICIES

2.1. Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)

Producing evidence on the cost effectiveness of public programs and policies is not a trivial matter in the social sciences. In contrast to the natural sciences, where it is often possible to isolate causal effects in a laboratory, in the social sciences, researchers need to analyze causal phenomena in the “real world,” where multiple variables move simultaneously.

Consequently, when non-experimental retrospective methods are applied to measure the causal effects of public programs and policies, the results are usually questionable. It is therefore necessary to carry out experimental evaluations, in which the researcher generates similar conditions to a laboratory¹. It is also important to be very selective and restrictive with any non-experimental evaluations that will be used to generate relevant evidence to support decisionmaking.

What are the necessary laboratory conditions? First, it takes time to design prospective evaluations. On the one hand, program implementation should be coordinated with the design of the impact evaluation; on the other, there has to be a willingness to wait for mature results (one to two years, on average), with the understanding that causal evidence is generated through a medium- to long-term process. The most important factor to produce a reliable impact assessment is to synchronize the start of the evaluation with the start of the intervention for a specific cohort of subjects, thereby aligning the design of the evaluation with the design of the intervention. This condition is central to the experiment, and it requires time. In a retrospective evaluation, the assessment is often carried out some time after the start of the intervention; in contrast, a prospective evaluation is designed in conjunction with the implementation of the program, so it is necessary to wait for mature results before they can be analyzed.

Second, the technical team needs to have the ability to talk to the people in charge of public programs and policies, so as to reach an agreement on using an experimental design for their evaluation.

Third, financial resources must be available for data collection and/or there must be existing administrative data that can be used to measure the potential effects.

Fourth, academic experts must be involved either directly or as consultants, to ensure a rigorous design and analysis.

2.2. Natural Experiments

A potential solution to the problem of generating reliable causal evidence on public policies involves the use of natural experiments, where the researcher identifies a particular characteristic of the nature or the institutional rules of a public program or policy (for example, geographic variation in setting the minimum wage within the country, program selection mechanisms that generate discontinuity in the probability of being a beneficiary, etc.) that allows comparing groups of people, firms, or educational establishments that have similar characteristics, with the exception that one group has a higher

¹ One of the best-known papers on this problem is LaLonde (1986), which uses both an experimental and quasi-experimental design to measure the impact of an employment program, finding significant divergences in the results.

probability of receiving the program than the other(s).

This type of research design is called a natural experiment, and its development and influence in economics in the 1990s and 2000s motivated the choice for the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2021.

The problem with natural experiments is that this type of setting is not always available to answer a specific public policy question. Therefore, a working strategy that combines controlled and natural experiments should be optimal for generating the greatest quantity of reliable evidence on the cost effectiveness of public policies.

3. HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

In 2001, through its Public Management and Control Division, DIPRES created a program impact evaluation approach.

This approach consisted in non-experimental retrospective evaluations that were awarded through public tender. In most cases, these evaluations aimed to identify comparison groups that approximated the estimation of the counterfactual of interest.

These evaluations not only provided a non-experimental quantification of the program impact, but also analyzed other dimensions such as the program design, processes, organization, and management. In terms of results, they studied program performance at the product level and focused on intermediate and final results.

This approach represented an innovation at the time, in that few governments in the world sought to carry out impact evaluations. However, in general, the effort did not lead to the production of precise evidence, since existing conditions did not support the development of experimental prospective evaluations. Nor were there efforts to exploit natural experiments, with a few exceptions.

The previous system had two disadvantages that motivated the shift to the new impact evaluation model. First, only retrospective evaluations were carried out, which represents a major obstacle to the possibility of isolating the causal effects of the program through an adequate estimation of the counterfactual of interest. Second, program selection lacked a careful evaluability assessment. Given that some programs can be evaluated and others cannot, it is important to consider evaluability when deciding which programs to study². Consequently, impact assessments were sometimes forced onto programs that could not be adequately evaluated through that prism.

Nevertheless, the institutional framework created in 2001 and consolidated over the course of 17 years facilitated the creation of the new model, since the new ideas could be hitched onto existing institutional elements (formalization of new evaluations and relations with different public agencies; formalization of the definition of counterparties; protocols for database requests, the publication of results, and their linkage to the budget process; etc.). The existence of a serious and stable institutional framework for the generation of impact evaluations substantially facilitated the creation and operation of the new model of evidence production starting in 2018.

Finally, it is important to mention that in 2009 there was an attempt to create a new program evaluation approach with the objective of implementing prospective evaluations. This initiative did not come to fruition, however, mainly because work began by trying to evaluate only large programs, which made it difficult to coordinate the design and implementation of the programs with the design of the assessment. This constituted an important learning experience for the development of the current model.

² A program is evaluable when it is possible to carry out a study to identify the causal relationship between the intervention and the result. In most cases, this occurs with a prospective experimental design, or when it is possible to identify a good comparison group due to the existence of a natural experiment, or when there is information on the program and the results of interest that allow the application of a non-experimental method and where the implicit assumptions of the method are clearly justifiable. The evaluability assessment is the analysis to determine whether a program meets the conditions for being evaluated.

4. THE EXPERIMENTAL POLICY INITIATIVE IN THE BUDGET OFFICE

As discussed in detail in section 2, a model that adequately implements experimental evaluations must have at least the following characteristics:

- Medium- and long-term focus, and flexibility in terms of the choice of programs and interventions to evaluate;
- A team trained to dialogue with government agencies and reach agreements in terms of the program and evaluation design;
- Resources for data collection or access to existing administrative data; and
- Involvement of academic experts, to ensure a rigorous design and analysis.

The following strategies were defined to create an institutional framework with the above features:

a. Internal program impact evaluation process: This strategy consists in the development of impact evaluation by a DIPRES technical team, with support from external academics. Programs are selected based on the feasibility of evaluation, mainly promoting the development of prospective evaluations through the use of experimental designs. The fact that the impact evaluations are designed and conducted by DIPRES provides an initial advantage in terms of obtaining the necessary conditions for the application of experimental designs. In particular, new and pilot program evaluations facilitate the compatibility between program implementation and the evaluation design. The internal evaluation process involves various aspects, including the following:

Selection of programs to evaluate: During the annual ex ante evaluation and monitoring processes carried out jointly by the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MDSF) and DIPRES, public agencies present the design of new programs or the reformulation of existing ones, as well as general information on the performance of programs already underway. The DIPRES evaluation team analyzes this information to determine whether the program design (objective, component mechanics, selection criteria, coverage, etc.) is (i) relevant for public policy (in terms of potential plans for expansion, the existence of prior evidence on the efficacy of this type of intervention, and/or the potential innovative nature of the program from a public policy perspective) and (ii) viable for applying an experimental evaluation design or, if not, an evaluation using a natural experiment.

Design coordination and program agreements for applying the experimental method: Once the programs to be evaluated have been selected, the DIPRES impact evaluation team meets with the people in charge of the programs to define an evaluation strategy, prioritizing experimental designs. In the event of excess demand for the program³, an experimental impact assessment is proposed, where a lottery is used to select program recipients from within the program's target population. However, for various reasons, it could be necessary to explore the possibility of carrying out the evaluation using a natural experiment. In these cases, and generally taking into account aspects of the selection criteria established for the programs, the proposal is to perform a quasi-experimental evaluation, generally exploiting the variation provided by these criteria, which act as a natural experiment.

³ Excess demand generally constitutes a key condition for the application of an experimental evaluation, because it means that at a given point in time, there is insufficient budget and/or logistical capacity to serve the number of people (businesses, schools, etc.) who are eligible for the program. In this case, the use of a lottery is not only the best technical solution for the assessment, but also the fairest method of delivering the service because everyone who is eligible has the same probability of participating.

Basic evaluation protocols: To the extent possible, every experimental evaluation undertaken by DIPRES should be listed in the American Economic Association's Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Registry⁴. Additionally, for each evaluation, a pre-analysis plan is drawn up, which defines the design and the expected data analysis plan ex ante. These two actions are taken to avoid possible data mining and publication bias problems.

Academic consultants: Each evaluation has academic consultants with experience in impact evaluation, the specific methodology to be used, and the issue of interest in the evaluation. This ensures the technical accuracy of the evaluation and provides external validation for the institution.

Databases: An effort is made to mainly use existing administrative records, which reduces the time and cost of the evaluations. In some cases, data are collected in the field, which is outsourced via a tender process led by the agency responsible for the program being evaluated.

Publication of results: The results of all impact assessments are published, first as public policy papers on the DIPRES website and second in academic journals, so as to diffuse the results of the DIPRES evaluations beyond our borders and thus inform the design of public policy in other countries and contribute to the development of impact evaluation policies.

b. Impact Evaluation Fund: With the objective of expanding and complementing the research agenda, and given that there are many innovative ideas on public policy evaluation outside DIPRES, a fund was created in the 2018 Budget Law to finance impact evaluation proposals on public policies, initiatives, or programs submitted by national and international researchers, called the Impact Evaluation Fund (IEF). The general elements of this fund include the following:

Financing: The maximum amount that can be requested is subject to the availability of the information needed to carry out the evaluation. In the 2021 process, in cases where the analytical work could be based on information available from public or private institutions, such that it was not necessary to collect data, the maximum was CLP 20,000,000. In the event that data collection was required, the maximum that could be requested was CLP 100,000,000.

Candidates: Proposals can be submitted to the IEF by any natural or legal person, Chilean or foreign national with residency in Chile, or public or private entity with an interest in doing so. Proposals are only accepted from entities that are not part of the state administration, with the sole exception of institutions of higher education or research centers.

Commitment of the institution in charge of the program: All submissions must include a letter from the Head of Service of the Institution in charge of the program or from the respective Minister or Undersecretary, expressing formal support for the evaluation. In the letter, the public agency commits to at least the following:

- Facilitate information on the program to be evaluated and cooperate in data gathering and/or collection as needed, throughout the period considered for the evaluation.
- Facilitate the application of the evaluation design throughout the period considered for the evaluation.
- In the case of a proposal for an experimental impact evaluation, the agency commits to applying the experimental design (randomization as appropriate).

⁴ <https://www.socialscienceregistry.org>.

The letter requested from the agency is an important strategic element, given the crucial role that the person in charge of the program generally has for a rigorous impact assessment, in terms of coordinating the program and evaluation designs in the case of experimental evaluations, validating the evaluation assumptions for non-experimental cases, and cooperating in the provision of quantitative and qualitative data.

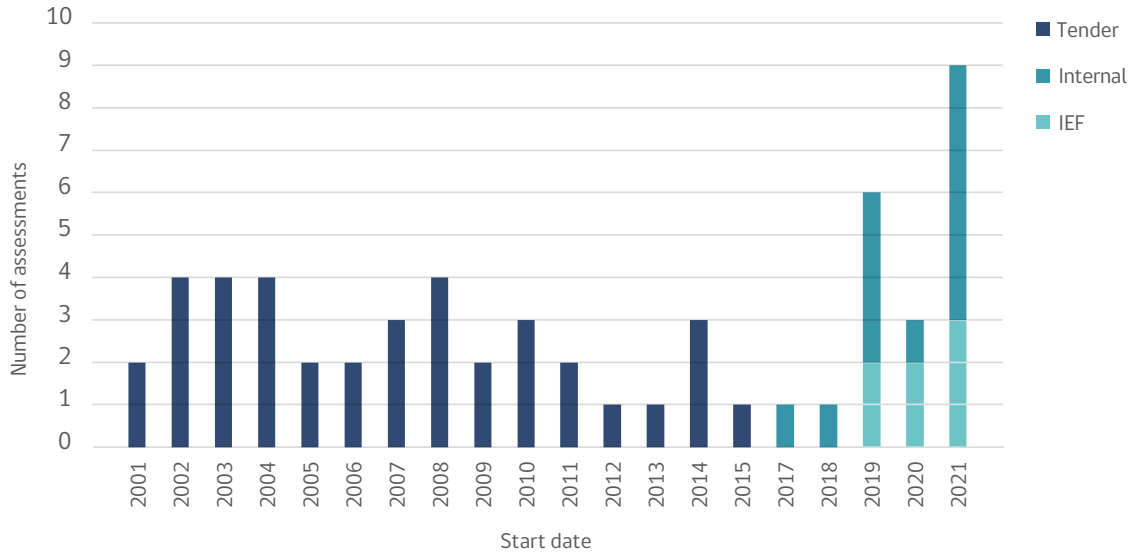
Selection criteria: The proposals are evaluated by a Selection Committee made up of the following DIPRES staff members: the Deputy Budget Director, the Head of the Public Transparency and Evaluation Department, and the Head of the Research Department, or their legally appointed surrogates in the event they are unavailable. The committee's most important role is to balance technical criteria and the government's priorities, in order to analyze the proposals and ensure that the selected projects answer relevant public policy questions. The following selection criteria are used in the selection process:

- Causal identification strategy and statistical power (20%): The Committee examines the theoretical/conceptual framework, objectives, empirical methodology, and potential impact.
- Relevance for public policy (30%): The Committee determines whether the question(s) addressed by the proposal are relevant for public policy, considering the importance of the issue at the national level, the strategic value of the program, policy, and/or intervention, the magnitude of the proposal, and the beneficiary population in terms of current size (both in levels and in relation to the managing agency) or the potential for expansion. They also look at whether the issue in question has already been addressed by other studies.
- Viability and timeliness (25%): The Committee considers the feasibility of implementing the proposed evaluation, data access, the production of evidence in a reasonable time frame, coherence between the work plan, the methodology, and the objectives, the costs, the implementation period, and so forth.
- Academic training and scientific productivity (25%⁵): The academic training and scientific productivity of the main researcher and coresearcher(s) are taken into account, based on their education history and a review of their academic articles.

Publication of results: As in the case of internal program evaluation processes, the results of all completed evaluations are published on the DIPRES website, and the researchers in charge of the evaluations are encouraged to publish their findings in academic journals.

Figure 1 shows the impact assessments performed by DIPRES since 2001.

⁵ 20% for the scientific productivity of the main researcher and 5% for the coresearcher(s).

Figure 1: Impact Assessments by Type of Strategy, 2001–2021.^{6 7}

Source: DIPRES.

Model linkage with the budget cycle and relevance for public policy

Once the evaluations are finalized, the results are analyzed in meetings with the Finance Ministry's Budget Director, with participation by professional staff from the Public Transparency and Evaluation Department and the DIPRES Budget Sectors, so that the information generated serves as an input for the budget formulation process. Additionally, the evaluation reports are sent to Congress to inform the discussion of the Budget Bill.

The evidence produced by the assessments also provides feedback for the operation of the evaluated programs. Furthermore, it constitutes a public good that is available to contribute to the design of other public policies in Chile and the world.

Based on the work carried out in the last four years using the two strategies described above, the DIPRES Experimental Policy Initiative has launched 20 experimental evaluations (12 randomized controlled trials and 8 natural experiments). This effort builds on the continuous work since 2001, and it will continue to grow going forward, in order to generate significant evidence on the effectiveness of public policies and programs.

⁶ In late 2021, funding was allocated to three evaluations through the Impact Evaluation Fund, but they will start in 2022.

⁷ In 2017, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) launched the experimental impact assessment of the Program for Support and Effective Access to Higher Education (*Programa de Acompañamiento y Acceso Efectivo a la Educación Superior, PACE*). The DIPRES technical team joined the evaluation team in 2018 and has been an important actor in the development of the project.

5. CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW EVIDENCE GENERATION MODEL

The model has had to face a series of challenges, and there are additional challenges pending. Currently, the main challenge is to grow to a scale that will allow more significant production of evidence to inform public policy and budget decisions in the country. That will require efficient mechanisms for generating databases and access protocols, continued investment in qualified human resources for the development of evaluations, and coordination with the public agencies in charge of the programs, as well as efforts to train more people in the design, implementation, and analysis of impact evaluations.

Another priority challenge is the promotion of a culture of experimental evaluation in the different public agencies. While the logic of having a rigorous evaluation prior to implementing a program is an easy idea to communicate and understand, being on the front line of treating urgent needs naturally makes it difficult to implement prospective approximations that take time to deliver definitive conclusions.

Additionally, it is essential to present the resulting evidence to decisionmakers in a simple and transparent manner, so that it will be taken into account, along with other relevant factors, in the definition of public policy.

Finally, given that impact evaluations are long-term processes, there is a risk that the knowledge generated will be lost if there is excessive turnover within the teams. It is therefore necessary to implement registration and monitoring systems that guarantee the continuity of the evaluation process.

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APPENDIX: IMPACT EVALUATIONS UNDER THE DIPRES EXPERIMENTAL POLICY INITIATIVE

This section presents fact sheets summarizing some of the main impact evaluations implemented under the DIPRES Experimental Policy Initiative.

1. Program Evaluation: Yo Emprendo

AGENCY IN CHARGE	SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (FOSIS)																												
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	9,887,907																												
Program launch year	2003																												
Intervention	<p>The program supports people living in poverty and extreme poverty who carry out economic activities in precarious conditions and have little or no access to funding and training, which makes it difficult for them to generate a stable, quality income that would contribute to a better quality of life for them and their family group. The program thus provides funding, training, and technical support either individually or by group.</p> <p>The experimental impact evaluation design considered three interventions and a control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Funding + Traditional training. • Group 2: Funding + Training in soft skills. • Group 3: Funding. • Control. <p>The three interventions included technical support for the program users.</p>																												
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for businesses. • Traditional training (in business skills). • Consulting and support on the entrepreneurial process. 																												
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the Yo Emprendo Program on the success of businesses, measured mainly in terms of existence, duration, sales, and earnings.																												
Evaluation launch year	2018																												
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.																												
External researchers	Edgar Kausel (PUC), Claudia Martínez (PUC), Esteban Puentes (UCh), Jaime Ruiz-Tagle (UCh).																												
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).																												
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence and duration of the business. • Sales. • Earnings. • Employability. • Satisfaction with quality of life. 																												
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization based on a municipality scrupulousness index.																												
Sample (beneficiaries)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Region /Group</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Group 1</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Group 2</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Group 3</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Control</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Metropolitan</td> <td>345</td> <td>345</td> <td>340</td> <td>385</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O'Higgins</td> <td>47</td> <td>48</td> <td>45</td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valparaíso</td> <td>125</td> <td>125</td> <td>126</td> <td>188</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>517</td> <td>518</td> <td>511</td> <td>629</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Region /Group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Control	Metropolitan	345	345	340	385	O'Higgins	47	48	45	56	Valparaíso	125	125	126	188	Total	517	518	511	629
Region /Group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Control																									
Metropolitan	345	345	340	385																									
O'Higgins	47	48	45	56																									
Valparaíso	125	125	126	188																									
Total	517	518	511	629																									
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection: January–March 2022. • Public Policy Report: September 2022. 																												

2. Impact Evaluation: Report to Taxpayers

AGENCY IN CHARGE	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.
Program launch year	2019
Intervention	Provides taxpayers with information on the distribution of public expenditures made with their taxes.
Components	<p>The experimental impact evaluation design considered three interventions and a control group. The three interventions corresponded to the delivery of reports, structured into the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1: Information on the taxpayer's income tax payment and an estimate of how much value added tax (VAT) he or she paid. • Section 2: Distribution of how this tax revenue was used. • Section 3: Breakdown of the central government's total tax revenues and expenditures, together with information on the fiscal deficit/surplus. <p>The difference between the three interventions consisted in different versions of the second section, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment 1: Graph of proportional spending by area of expenditure. • Treatment 2: Summary of the biggest expenditures in certain areas at the national level. • Treatment 3: Summary of the biggest expenditures in certain areas at the regional level. <p>Additionally, a fourth treatment, involving feedback on public spending, was implemented evenly among individuals in the three interventions above.</p> <p>Finally, the control group did not receive any treatment.</p>
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of providing taxpayers with different reports, containing information on their individual income tax and VAT payments in the previous period and the use of those resources, on citizens' perception of government transparency and confidence in the state.
Evaluation launch year	2019
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.
External researchers	Lucie Gadenne (Warwick), Edgar Kausel (PUC).
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of government transparency. • Confidence in the state, measured through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the state's competence. • Perception of the state's benevolence. • Perception of the state's honesty. • Perception of the state's reliability. • Time of payment, probability of nonpayment, amount of tax paid, and amount of tax refund.
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by type of taxpayer, risk of nonpayment, and income quintile.

Sample
(taxpayers)

Groups	With treatment 4	Without treatment 4	Total
Treatment 1	6,090	6,064	12,154
Treatment 2	6,069	6,103	12,172
Treatment 3	6,151	6,178	12,329
Control			60,970
Total	18,310	18,345	97,625

Main results

- Receiving one of the three reports significantly increases the perception of transparency, by 16% on average, and confidence in the state, by 8% (relative to people who did not receive the report).
- The results are largest in the case of the statistical report (treatment 1), which on average increases the perception of transparency by 20% and confidence in the state by 10% (although the difference in estimates of the effectiveness of the different reports is not statistically significant).
- The report had heterogeneous effects in relation to the income quintiles, with a larger impact in higher income quintiles and no impact in lower income quintiles.
- No significant impact was recorded on the time of payment, the probability of nonpayment, the amount of taxes paid, and the amount of tax refunds.

Public Policy Report [here](#).

3. Program Evaluation: Mi Abogado

AGENCY IN CHARGE	SECRETARIAT AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE																										
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	22,996,255																										
Program launch year	2017																										
Intervention	The Mi Abogado Program consists in the provision of specialized, interdisciplinary, and independent legal defense to children and adolescents in alternative care settings, with the fundamental objective of ensuring a specialized technical defense constructed with the professional support of a triad composed of an attorney, a psychologist, and a social worker, thereby exercising the corresponding judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms to safeguard the effective protection of children's and adolescents' rights and promoting their return to family life (whether the family of origin, a foster family, or an adoption process) and access to services that enable compensation for damage caused.																										
Components	Legal representation by an attorney, with psychosocial support from a psychologist and social worker.																										
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the Mi Abogado Program on the time it takes for children and adolescents to return to their families of origin (or the extended or adoptive family), criminal cases, school attendance, and school performance.																										
Evaluation launch year	2019																										
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.																										
External researchers	Joseph Doyle (MIT), Andrés Hojman (PUC).																										
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).																										
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to return to family of origin (or the extended or adoptive family). • Criminal cases involving children and adolescents over 12 years of age. • School attendance. • School performance. 																										
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by region (Metropolitan, Maule, Biobío, and Valparaíso), age group (over/under 12 years), and gender.																										
Sample (NNA)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #c6e0b4;"> <th>Region</th> <th>Controls</th> <th>Treated</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Metropolitan</td> <td>424</td> <td>200</td> <td>634</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maule</td> <td>76</td> <td>375</td> <td>451</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biobío</td> <td>355</td> <td>23</td> <td>378</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valparaíso</td> <td>385</td> <td>34</td> <td>419</td> </tr> <tr style="font-weight: bold;"> <td>Total</td> <td>1,240</td> <td>632</td> <td>1,872</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Region	Controls	Treated	Total	Metropolitan	424	200	634	Maule	76	375	451	Biobío	355	23	378	Valparaíso	385	34	419	Total	1,240	632	1,872
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Biobío	355	23	378																								
Valparaíso	385	34	419																								
Total	1,240	632	1,872																								
Main results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistically significant increase in the probability of returning to the family of origin (or the extended or or adoptive family) by 127% after eight months from the start of participation in the program. • Statistically significant reduction in criminal cases against youth over the age of 12 years by 74% after eight months from the start of participation in the program. • Statistically significant increase in in school attendance by 18%, on average, in the first four and a half months of participation in the program. • No effect was found on the school performance of children and adolescents in alternative care homes. • The disaggregation by gender shows that the program is effective in the male population but not the female. The one exception is class attendance, where Mi Abogado has a positive effect on both boys and girls, although the impact is larger in the first group. 																										

4. Impact Evaluation: Efficient Spending Initiative for Public Procurement

AGENCY IN CHARGE	BUDGET OFFICE (DIPRES) AND CHILE COMPRAS											
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.											
Program launch year	2019											
Intervention	Provides information to public purchasers and department heads on their public procurement spending level relative to other departments.											
Components	<p>The experimental impact evaluation design considered two interventions and a control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on cost overruns. • Information on cost overruns + Information on DIPRES's estimate of the level of cost overruns in the department. • Control. 											
Objective of the evaluation	Evaluate the effects of efficient spending intervention on the level of overspending and overpricing of public purchases.											
Evaluation launch year	2020											
Implementation modality	2019 Impact Evaluation Fund.											
External researchers	Pablo Celhay (PUC), Paul Gertler (Berkeley), Marcelo Olivares (UCh), Raimundo Undurraga (UCh).											
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).											
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost overruns. • Excessive prices. 											
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by level of cost overruns.											
Sample (public agencies)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Groups</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Departments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Treatment 1</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treatment 2</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Control</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>184</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Groups	Departments	Treatment 1	61	Treatment 2	61	Control	62	Total	184	
Groups	Departments											
Treatment 1	61											
Treatment 2	61											
Control	62											
Total	184											
Main results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In public service departments where the directors receive information on cost overruns broken down by purchaser and where the purchasers are aware that the directors receive that information, cost overruns declined by 33% and excessive prices by 19%, both results significant at 1%. • Considering only the set of standardized products in the evaluation, the estimated savings from the program are USD 752,840 a year, with an annual cost effectiveness of USD \$6.54 for every dollar used. 											

5. Impact Evaluation: Business Innovation Promotion Programs

AGENCY IN CHARGE	INNOVA CHILE COMMITTEE
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	15,128,485
Program launch year	2004
Intervention	Promotes initiatives that develop innovation projects in firms, from the early phases through validation and packaging and for national and international markets, by providing technical support services and funding in the form of nonrepayable subsidies.
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy for innovation projects in the start-up phase. • Subsidy for innovation projects in the validation and packaging phase. • Subsidy for business R&D&I projects.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the business innovation promotion programs on a set of indicators of the additionality of results and the financial performance of the firms.
Evaluation launch year	2019
Implementation modality	2019 Impact Evaluation Fund.
External researchers	Matías Cattaneo (Princeton).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earnings. • Sales. • Patent applications and registrations. • Trademark applications and registrations. • Number of employees.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design.
Main results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the short term, the business innovation program does not increase the probability that firms formalize or apply for trademarks or patents for their potential innovations. • Due to problems with the availability of firms' financial information, it is not possible to reach conclusions on the effect of the program on firms' economic and financial performance.

6. Impact Evaluation: Advanced Human Capital Scholarship Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ANID)
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	77,463,216
Program launch year	2008
Intervention	Contributes to increasing advanced human capital for the development of science, technology, and innovation in the country, by funding scholarships in Chile and abroad.
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships to study for a master's degree abroad. • Scholarships to study for a PhD abroad. • Scholarships to study for a master's degree in Chile. • Scholarships to study for a PhD in Chile.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the Advance Human Capital Scholarship Programs on the labor market, the generation of entrepreneurship, and scientific production.
Evaluation launch year	2019
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.
External researchers	Sebastián Gallegos (UAI), Federico Huneeus (BCCh), Christopher Neilson (Princeton).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive margin (employment) and intensive margin (wages) in the labor market, including in the public sector. • Participation in companies. • Creation of companies. • Publications in scientific journals. • Citations in scientific journals.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design.
Estimated timeline	• Policy Report: May 2022.

7. Impact Evaluation: Yo Elijo mi PC (YEMPC) Computer Provision Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL BOARD FOR STUDENT AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS (JUNAEB)
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	32,969,994 ⁸
Program launch year	2009
Intervention	The initiative seeks to contribute to reducing the digital gap among students in Chile, understood as the dividing line between the population group that has access to ICT tools (hardware, software, digital content, and connectivity) and the group that does not have access.
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a computer kit to 7th grade students (who were selected in the 6th grade), which includes 12 months of wireless broadband service, free educational programs, technical service, etc.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the YEMPC program on academic performance
Evaluation launch year	2019
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.
External researchers	Sebastián Gallegos (UAI).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades and performance on standardized tests (SIMCE). • School attendance. • Variables related to noncognitive skills (such as responsibility, motivation, and perseverance). • Use of the technology in the study.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design.
Main results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the program seeks to contribute to reducing the digital gap among students, JUNAEB does not have baseline information that identifies this gap at the student level, so the eligibility and selection criteria do not include this dimension. • Using information provided in the SIMCE questionnaires and by JUNAEB, the evaluation shows that there is a positive correlation with the student's prior academic performance—used as a selection criterion—and with the household's access to the Internet and household income, even when only considering the vulnerability status used as an eligibility criterion. This suggests that the program's eligibility and selection criteria could have targeting problems from the perspective of reducing the digital gap. • No effects were found on students' academic performance between 7th and 10th grades, nor on their school attendance in the same period. • Additionally, no program effects were found on noncognitive skills (such as responsibility, motivation, and perseverance) and technology use.

⁸ This budget includes resources allocated to both the "Yo Elijo Mi PC (YEMPC)" program and the "Me Conecto Para Aprender (MCPA)" program. The difference between the two programs lies in the target population: the YEMPC program is for students in subsidized private schools, while the MCPA program is for students in public schools. However, due to the different start dates of the two programs, this evaluation could also study the effect of the YEMPC program on students in public schools, since in 2015 the program operated in both public and subsidized private schools. The results found among students in the different establishments are qualitatively equivalent.

8. Impact Evaluation: Obesity Pilot Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL BOARD FOR STUDENT AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS (JUNAEB)			
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	559,219			
Program launch year	2020			
Intervention	The objective of the Obesity Pilot Program is to contribute to the educational and health development of pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade students with overweight and obesity, enrolled in public and government-subsidized private educational establishments, through detection, medical care, and education for the students and their parents or guardians.			
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening for the early detection of malnutrition, applied to all pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade students in a given school. • A medical consultation for parental orientation and education in the case of students with the greatest nutritional damage (25% with obesity or severe obesity on average). • Control and follow-up (evaluate and monitor the status of the treatment). 			
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the Obesity Pilot Program on the nutritional status of children with overweight or obesity and on the behavior of their parents or guardians in relation to the children's eating habits.			
Evaluation launch year	2020			
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.			
External researchers	Pablo Celhay (PUC), Sebastián Gallegos (UAI).			
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).			
Variables to be measured	<p>Main variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional damage. • Anthropometric measurements of weight and height. • The parents' perception of their children's weight problem, as well as the parents' role in their children's eating habits. <p>Secondary variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance and academic performance. 			
Identification strategy	Cluster randomization (schools) and stratified randomization by total obesity ranking in schools for the Araucanía and Biobío regions and by obesity status in the Aysén region.			
Sample	Educational establishments			
	Region	Controls	Treated	Total
	Biobío	24	109	133
	Araucanía	36	153	189
	Aysén	12	19	31
	Total	72	281	353

Children

Region	Controls	Treated	Total
Biobío	364	2,124	2,488
Araucanía	419	2,077	2,496
Aysén	462	358	820
Total	1,245	559	5,804

Estimated timeline

- Data collection 1: October 2022.
- Data collection 2: May 2023.
- Public Policy Report: September 2023.

9. Impact Evaluation: Neighborhood Quality Initiative For The Rent Subsidy Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	UNDERSECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	41,918,616
Program launch year	2013
Intervention	Information is provided to rent subsidy beneficiaries on neighborhood quality, so they can make informed decisions about where to live.
Components	<p>The experimental impact evaluation design considered three interventions and a control group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Program information. 2. Program information + Information on the importance of the neighborhood for family well-being. 3. Program information + Information on the importance of the neighborhood for family well-being + Information on neighborhood characteristics. 4. Control.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the neighborhood quality initiative on the decision of where to live, satisfaction with neighborhood quality, and other variables of interest.
Evaluation launch year	2020
Implementation modality	2020 Impact Evaluation Fund.
External researchers	Pablo Celhay (PUC), Javiera Selman (NYU), Hugo Silva (PUC).
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).
Variables to be measured	<p>Intermediate variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of the neighborhood choice set. • Beliefs about the characteristics of the neighborhood. • Mobility preferences. • Beliefs about the importance of the neighborhood for well-being. <p>Final variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy use rate. • Residential mobility. • Satisfaction with the neighborhood.
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by region, by application segment, by households with co-resident families, by families with school-age children, by baseline survey response condition rate.
Sample (Individuals)	• 6,000 program beneficiaries, who will be randomized into the different intervention groups.
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Final Report: 5 April 2022. • Definitive Final Report: 9 July 2022.

10. Impact Evaluation: Preventive Patrolling Initiative of the National Police Force

AGENCY IN CHARGE	CARABINEROS DE CHILE
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.
Program launch year	2000
Intervention	The national police force (Carabineros de Chile) carries out preventive patrols in hotspots (i.e., areas with a disproportionately higher crime level) and harmspots (i.e., areas with a disproportionately higher level of harm from crime).
Components	Preventive patrolling in hotspots and harmspots.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the Preventive Patrolling Initiative of the Carabineros de Chile on the quantity and severity of delinquency and crime in the Santiago Metropolitan Region.
Evaluation launch year	2020.
Implementation modality	2020 Impact Evaluation Fund.
External researchers	Barak Ariel (Cambridge), Cristóbal Weinborn (Fundación Paz Ciudadana).
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported crimes, disaggregated by type.
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by geographic quadrant, quantity, and severity of delinquency and crime.
Sample (Areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined.
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Report: 28 February 2022. • Preliminary Final Report: 6 September 2022. • Definitive Final Report: 18 January 2023.

11. Impact Evaluation: Direct Payment of the Family Allowance

AGENCY IN CHARGE	SUPERINTENDENCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY																																
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	99,567,813																																
Program launch year	1937																																
Intervention	This Intervention consists in paying the family allowance directly to workers, whereby the Family Compensation Fund (or the Social Security Institute, IPS) deposits the amount directly into a worker's bank account. In contrast, under the current system, payments to workers who are eligible to receive the family allowance are made indirectly through their employer.																																
Components	Direct payment of the family allowance to workers.																																
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the direct payment of the family allowance ⁹ to workers affiliated with the "18 de Septiembre" Family Compensation Fund (Caja 18), who currently receive the payment indirectly from the Social Security Institute (IPS), on the workers' wages, satisfaction, and bank account balances.																																
Evaluation launch year	2020.																																
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.																																
External researchers	Eliana Carranza (Banco Mundial - Harvard).																																
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).																																
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the family allowance. • Wages. • Workers' satisfaction with the family allowance. • Workers' bank account balances (due to fraud potential). 																																
Identification strategy	Cluster randomization (employer) and stratification by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caja 18: area (Metropolitan, other regions), firm size by number of workers, average income group, and whether the intervention is in September or November. • IPS: area (Metropolitan, other regions), average income group. 																																
Muestra (Empleadores)	Caja 18: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Region</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Controls</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Treated</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Metropolitan</td> <td>424</td> <td>200</td> <td>634</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otras regiones</td> <td>1,895</td> <td>1,893</td> <td>3,788</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,163</td> <td>1,165</td> <td>2,328</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> IPS: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Region</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Controls</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Treated</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Metropolitan</td> <td>10,006</td> <td>10,006</td> <td>20,012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otras regiones</td> <td>18,686</td> <td>18,686</td> <td>37,372</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>28,692</td> <td>28,692</td> <td>57,384</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Region	Controls	Treated	Total	Metropolitan	424	200	634	Otras regiones	1,895	1,893	3,788	Total	1,163	1,165	2,328	Region	Controls	Treated	Total	Metropolitan	10,006	10,006	20,012	Otras regiones	18,686	18,686	37,372	Total	28,692	28,692	57,384
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Fechas de Interés Estimadas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caja 18 Public Policy Report: March 2022. • IPS pilot experimental intervention: March–April 2022. • IPS Public Policy Report: July 2022. 																																

⁹ A description of the family allowance is available at the following link (in Spanish): <https://www.suseso.cl/606/w3-propertyvalue-528.html>.

12. Impact Evaluation: Labor Grant Program (ex-Tax Deduction)

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (SENCE)
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.
Program launch year	1999
Intervention	The Labor Grant Program is a set of opportunities offered by the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE), with the objective of contributing to improving the productivity of workers and businesses, thereby promoting the country's economic and social development.
Components	The state provides a tax incentive to help finance the training and/or evaluation and certification of labor competencies of men and women over 15 years of age, including both employees and people who are not affiliated with the company, thereby contributing to their sustainability and growth.
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the tax deduction program on the level of training and on the employability of workers.
Evaluation launch year	2021
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.
External researchers	Jorge Fantuzzi (FK Economics).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor training. • Employability of workers.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design.
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Policy Report: June 2023.

13. Impact Evaluation: Consolidate and Expand Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CORFO)																											
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	7,439,903																											
Program launch year	2018																											
Intervention	The program supports the national and/or international scaling up, at the commercial and/or industrial level, and the validation and packaging in destination markets of a marketable technology product, via a total maximum subsidy of up to CLP 40,000,000, with co-funding of up to 30% for large companies, 40% for medium-sized businesses, and 50% for micro and small enterprises.																											
Components	Funding for business ventures.																											
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the effects of the Consolidate and Expand Program on business success, measured mainly in terms of the duration, sales, and earnings of the venture.																											
Evaluation launch year	2021.																											
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.																											
External researchers	Lelis Dinarte (Banco Mundial), Michael Leatherbee (PUC), David McKenzie (Banco.Mundial).																											
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).																											
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration of the venture. • Earnings. • Sales. • Employees. 																											
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by prior sales ranking.																											
Sample (ventures)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Region / Group</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Treatment</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Control</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Round 1</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Round 2</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Round 3</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remaining rounds (2022)</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">85</td> <td style="text-align: center;">85</td> <td style="text-align: center;">170</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Region / Group	Treatment	Control	Total	Round 1	10	10	20	Round 2	15	15	30	Round 3	15	15	30	Remaining rounds (2022)	45	45	90	Total	85	85	170
Region / Group	Treatment	Control	Total																									
Round 1	10	10	20																									
Round 2	15	15	30																									
Round 3	15	15	30																									
Remaining rounds (2022)	45	45	90																									
Total	85	85	170																									
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection: January–December 2022. • Public Policy Report: July 2023. 																											

14. Impact Evaluation: Own-Consumption Support Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	UNDERSECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL SERVICES			
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	2,814,004			
Program launch year	2006			
Intervention	The program aims to increase the availability of healthy foods for vulnerable families in the Chile Solidario Subsystem or the Security and Opportunities Subsystem.			
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and nutrition education. • Self-provision (food production). 			
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the Own-Consumption Support Program on the availability of healthy foods and on the family's economic situation after participating in the program.			
Evaluation launch year	2021			
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.			
External researchers	David Bravo (PUC), Jere Behrman (UPenn), Petra Todd (UPenn).			
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).			
Variables to be measured	<p>Main variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of healthy food for the family. • Spending on food. • Weight, height, and body mass index. <p>Secondary variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance and academic performance. • Employability. 			
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by community and enrollment in the subprograms.			
Sample (families)	Level	Controls	Treated	Total
	National	4,543	4,241	8,747
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randomization date: 2020 and 2021. • Data collection: May 2022. • Public Policy Report : First half of 2023. 			

15. Impact Evaluation: Habitability Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	UNDERSECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL SERVICES			
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	15,215,711			
Program launch year	2004			
Intervention	The program seeks to improve habitability conditions, helping to solve the needs of families in extreme poverty or poverty and vulnerability that are enrolled in the Security and Opportunities Subsystem.			
Components	Set of comprehensive solutions for habitability conditions. Habitability assistance.			
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the Habitability Program on the material living conditions and economic situation of beneficiaries after participating in the program.			
Evaluation launch year	2021			
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.			
External researchers	David Bravo (PUC), Jere Behrman (UPenn), Petra Todd (UPenn).			
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).			
Variables to be measured	<p>Main variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to electricity and basic services. • Structural condition of the home. • Domestic appliances. • Characteristics of the environment. <p>Secondary variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance and academic performance. • Employability. 			
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by community and by enrollment in the subprograms and the Chile Crece Contigo Program.			
Sample (families)	Level	Controls	Treated	Total
	Nacional	4,103	3,167	8,747
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randomization start date: 2020 and 2021. • Calculation of impact results: Second half of 2022. • Public Policy Report: First half of 2023. 			

16. Impact Evaluation: Instant and Ultra-Accelerated Depreciation Policies

AGENCY IN CHARGE	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.
Program launch year	2014 ¹⁰
Intervention	<p>Law N° 20,780 introduced changes to the tax system, including specific changes to the Income Tax Law (ITL) to provide investment incentives through the depreciation of fixed assets.</p> <p>The tax reform added paragraph 5° bis to Article 31 of the Income Tax Law, which authorizes micro, small, and medium-sized firms to shorten the “normal” years of an asset’s useful life and thus to “accelerate” depreciation. Taxpayers with an average income of 25,000 UF or less in the three years prior to the year in which the asset comes into use can apply “instant depreciation,” which consists in applying the depreciation considering a useful life of one year for all tangible fixed assets acquired. Taxpayers with an average income of over 25,000 UF and less than 100,000 UF can opt for “ultra-accelerated depreciation” of the new or imported asset, which considers the asset’s useful life to be one-tenth of the established useful life.</p>
Components	Instant depreciation for micro and small businesses. Ultra-accelerated depreciation for medium-sized enterprises.
Objective of the evaluation	To determine the effects of the instant and ultra-accelerated depreciation policies on the performance and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, respectively ¹¹ .
Evaluation launch year	2021
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.
External researchers	Jorge Fantuzzi (FK Economics).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment. • Sales. • Income. • Number of employees.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design, difference in differences, and difference in discontinuities.
Estimated timeline	• Final Report: July 2022.

¹⁰ The year Law N° 20,780 was passed and published.

¹¹ Hypothesis: The higher the depreciation rate (or the shorter the years of useful life allocated to a given asset), the greater the spending level that can be deducted from taxable income.

17. “Nudges” to Reduce the Fraudulent Use of Medical Leave in the Public Health System.

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL HEALTH FUND (FONASA)
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	N.A.
Program launch year	2022
Intervention	This initiative gives doctors information on the excessive issuance of online medical leave prescriptions, together with recommendations on giving them, based on the history of medical leave prescriptions issued.
Components	<p>This evaluation consists in two experiments. The first, which targets the 3% of doctors who issue the most medical leave prescriptions at the national level, includes two interventions and a control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a message, at the start of the day, with information on the individual's relative position among doctors who issue the most medical leave prescriptions in the country. • Delivery of a message, at the start of the day, with information on the individual's relative position among doctors who issue the most medical leave prescriptions in the country + a reminder on the potential civil and criminal penalties for issuing fraudulent medical leave prescriptions. • Control group. <p>The second experiment, targeting doctors who are not among the biggest issuers, has three interventions and a control group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of regulatory information on the duration of medical leave by diagnosis. • Delivery of information on the average duration of medical leave by diagnosis, based on historical records. • Delivery of information on the average duration of medical leave by diagnosis, based on historical records + relative ranking of the length of the medical leave prescription being submitted based on historical records for the same type of leave. • Control group.
Objective of the evaluation	Reduce the number of medical leave prescriptions by doctors who issue the most prescriptions and reduce the number of days per leave for the diagnoses that account for the largest share of prescriptions.
Evaluation launch year	2022
Implementation modality	Impact Evaluation Fund.
External researchers	Pablo Celhay (PUC), Nicolás Figueroa (PUC).
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of medical leave prescriptions by doctor. • Number of days of leave per prescription issued. • Distribution of types of diagnosis by doctor. • Distribution of days of leave by type of diagnosis.
Identification strategy	Stratified randomization by place of employment.
Fechas de interés estimadas	• To be determined.

18. Impact Evaluation: Long-Term Effects of Protection Residences for Abused Children

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL SERVICE FOR MINORS (SENAME)
2021 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	16,748,214
Program launch year	2005
Intervention	The program seeks to address the situation of children and adolescents whose rights have been seriously violated and who have been institutionalized for years (moving from residence to residence).
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential rehabilitative care for all children and adolescents in the system. • Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation to prepare an Intervention Plan at the individual, family, and community levels. • Specialized outpatient intervention, through a plan implemented in state-run rehabilitation centers (CREAD) or developed in conjunction with other specialized programs in the network of collaborators that work with the National Service for Minors (SENAME).
Objective of the evaluation	To measure the impact of staying in SENAME care and protection residences on different outcomes for children and adolescents, including school, health, and judicial aspects.
Evaluation launch year	2022
Implementation modality	Impact Evaluation Fund.
External researchers	Joseph Doyle (MIT), Andrés Hojman (PUC), Eduardo Undurraga (PUC).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental.
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights abuses. • Cases of adolescent criminal liability. • Discharge with family of origin and adoption. • School attendance and grades. • Enrollment in higher education. • Teenage pregnancy.
Identification strategy	Instrumental variables, using the judge's prior propensity to send a child or adolescent to a residence as the instrument.
Estimated timeline	• To be determined.

19. Impact Evaluation: Digital Talent Program

AGENCY IN CHARGE	NATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (SENCE)
2021 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	20,203,748
Program launch year	2019
Intervention	<p>The program evolved out of a public-private initiative aimed at accelerating Chile's transition to the digital economy and urgently addressing the demands of a new market, by expanding the opportunities for both people and firms to reach their maximum potential. The program brings together a wide range of national and international institutions, including the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Labor and Social Security; the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation; the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE); the Economic Development Agency (CORFO); the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (InvestChile); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Confederation of Production and Trade (CPC); the Federation of Chilean Industry (SOFOFA) and its Intermediate Technical Training Organization (OTIC-SOFOFA); and the Chilean Association of Information Technology Companies (ACTI). The program is implemented by an Administrative Unit composed of two foundations, namely Fundación Chile and Fundación Kodea, with offices in Fundación Chile.</p>
Components	<p>The program has two components: (i) Training processes aimed at increasing people's skills in line with the demands of the digital economy, through the announcement of different labor grants; (ii) The generation of actions aimed at providing access to high-quality jobs and producing more opportunities in this area.</p>
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of Chile's Digital Talent Program on graduates and their labor market outcomes.
Evaluation launch year	2022
Implementation modality	2021 Impact Evaluation Fund
External researchers	Pablo Egaña (UAI), John Humphries (Yale), Christopher Neilson (Princeton).
Type of evaluation	Quasi-experimental
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability. • Wages. • Degree of re-skilling (learning a new set of skills, usually for a new job) or up-skilling (deepening skills). • Productivity of businesses.
Identification strategy	Regression discontinuity design.
Estimated timeline	To be determined.

20. Impact Evaluation: Program for Support and Effective Access to Higher Education (PACE)¹²

AGENCY IN CHARGE	SUBSECRETARIAT OF EDUCATION												
2022 Program budget (thousands of pesos)	17,952,626												
Program launch year	2014												
Intervention	The program seeks to address the issues of youth in more economically vulnerable sectors who face obstacles to academic formation, low expectations, little vocational information, and a lack of funding, all of which excludes them from access to higher education. Therefore, the program supports these students during high school with a preparatory process for admission to higher education. It also offers youth with a high academic performance, who attend vulnerable educational establishments in the country, the possibility of being admitted to a higher education program without necessarily meeting the minimum entrance exam score set by each institution.												
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed admission for students in the top 15% of academic performance in high school. • Information on and preparation for the university admission process. 												
Objective of the evaluation	To evaluate the impact of the PACE program on the academic performance of high school students and, in particular, to estimate the program's effect on the students' enrollment and retention in higher education.												
Evaluation launch year	2017												
Implementation modality	DIPRES team and external academic consultants.												
External researchers	Michela Tincani (UCL).												
Type of evaluation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).												
Variables to be measured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School performance. • Enrollment in higher education, disaggregated into universities, professional institutes, and technical institutes. • Evolution of enrollment in higher education, including dropout and change of major. 												
Identification strategy	Simple cluster randomization (vulnerable schools in Chile).												
Estimated timeline	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Unit</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Controls</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Treated</th> <th style="background-color: #c6e0b4;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Establishments</td> <td>156</td> <td>64</td> <td>220</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Students</td> <td>9,980</td> <td>4,956</td> <td>14,936</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Unit	Controls	Treated	Total	Establishments	156	64	220	Students	9,980	4,956	14,936
Unit	Controls	Treated	Total										
Establishments	156	64	220										
Students	9,980	4,956	14,936										
Estimated timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimation of the program's impact on intermediate results indicates that it does not have an effect on students' academic performance when they graduate from high school. • On aggregate, the PACE program did not have an impact on the probability of entering an institution of higher education. 												

¹² In 2017, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) launched the experimental impact assessment of the Program for Support and Effective Access to Higher Education (Programa de Acompañamiento y Acceso Efectivo a la Educación Superior, PACE). The DIPRES technical team joined the evaluation team in 2018 and has been an important actor in the development of the project.

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- However, the program is found to increase the probability of enrolling in a university, especially those affiliated with the Single Admissions System (SUA).
 - At the same time, the PACE program reduces the probability of entering a professional or technical institute. This implies that there is substitution between programs, with a shift away from professional or technical programs and toward universities.
 - The program increases the students' expected return, that is, they are taking majors with a better financial outlook and attending universities with a better ranking.
 - The estimation of heterogeneous effects shows that the program only has an impact on students in the top 15% of grade point average in their sophomore year of high school, the majority of whom are in the population that does not need to achieve the minimum score on the entrance exam to get into a program at one of the universities affiliated with the SUA.

Public Policy Report [here](#).



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