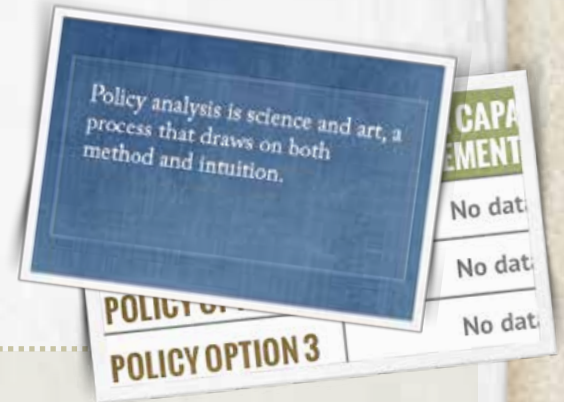


LESSON 6: PRIORITIZING POLICY OPTIONS

In this lesson, you learned how to compare the policy options, and use your professional judgment to apply criteria to them, then select one or more to share with stakeholders and decision-makers.

- **Compare and contrast policy options according to criteria.**
- **Describe the role of the policy analyst.**
- **Select viable policy options or a combination of options for the identified demographic(s).**



KEY POINTS

- Once you've assessed each individual policy option according to public health impact, feasibility, and economic impact (as well as other criteria that you choose to include), you can then use a policy analysis rating table to compare and contrast different policy options by these criteria.
- The policy analysis table is just one way that you can visually illustrate your analysis so that decision makers can arrive at a decision with a clear and organized understanding of risks and benefits. This can be a useful exercise and once you understand the process, you can adapt it for your needs.
- It may be useful to unpack the main criteria categories and conduct analysis on individual components, rather than the criteria as a whole.
- After you have scored the various options, you will rank them according to the scores you assigned; in other words, you will prioritize them.
- Prioritization is an important strategy (rather than simply selecting an option) because there may be an opportunity to move forward with more than one option, or to combine options.
- Combining options is a creative way to pull the highest ranking components from various options and create a better option. When this process is used, existing options can be improved.
- You are responsible for providing a clear and organized structure for analyzing problems and considering solutions. Doing so will assist policy makers, stakeholders, and advocates as they consider various policy alternatives objectively and comprehensively.
- You have to be careful not to create a false sense of certainty when projecting decision outcomes and recommending a course of action.
- You can't let considerations of politics and political risk affects the structure, inputs, and the results of the policy analysis. You must present your policy analysis objectively and comprehensively.

