

determine the effects of the enforcement program on crime rates in their pre-enforcement pollution levels. A discontinuity analysis is more readily visualized if we use a graph. In Figure 6.15, a discontinuity between the two groups is evident. The analysis is a useful technique for monitoring the effects of an intervention. The analysis involves the distribution of some scarce resource, such as the allocation of police officers. The example illustrates some of the complications. The analysis requires a much larger number of cases than a regression analysis just described. The need for a relatively large number of cases is because the regression analysis requires that the data be normally distributed, which includes variables that are normally distributed, such as income.

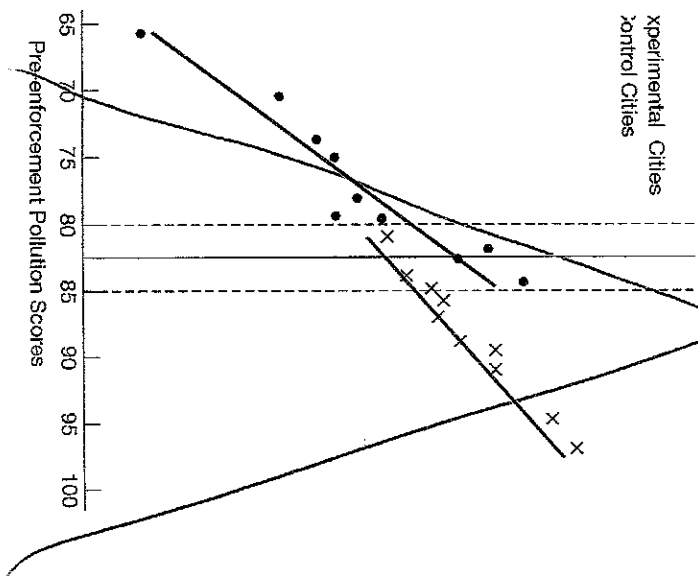


Figure 6.15: Discontinuity in crime rates between experimental and control cities.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter has provided an overview of the nature and functions of monitoring in policy analysis, compared and contrasted four approaches to monitoring—social systems accounting, social auditing, social experimental

monitoring, and research and practice synthesis—and described and illustrated the application of techniques used in conjunction with these four approaches.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is monitoring related to forecasting?
2. What is the relationship between ill-structured problems and approaches to monitoring?
3. What is the relationship between monitoring and the four strategies of policy analysis discussed in Chapter 1 (Figure 1.2)?

4. Construct constitutive and operational definitions for any five of the following action and outcome variables:

Program expenditure
Personnel turnover
Health services
Quality of life
Satisfaction with municipal services
Income distribution

Equality of educational opportunity
National security
Work incentives
Pollution
Energy consumption
Rapport with clients

5. The following table lists several policy problems. For five of these problems, provide an indicator or index that would help determine

whether these problems are being solved through government action.

Work alienation
Crime
Energy crisis
Inflation

School dropouts
Poverty
Fiscal crisis
Racial discrimination

6. The following table reports the number of criminal offenses known to the police per 100,000 population. Known offenses are broken down into two categories—violent crimes against persons and crimes against property—from

1985 to 2009. Construct two curved-line graphs that display trends in crime rates over the period. Label the two graphs appropriately. What do these graphs suggest about crime as a policy problem?

Table 6.1: Crime Rates in the United States: Offenses Known to Police per 100,000 Population, 1985–2009

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009
Violent	556	730	685	507	469	430
Property	4,651	5,079	4,591	3,618	3,432	3,036

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.