

* **BIG DATA** = Volume, Velocity and Variety

Digital Inclusion

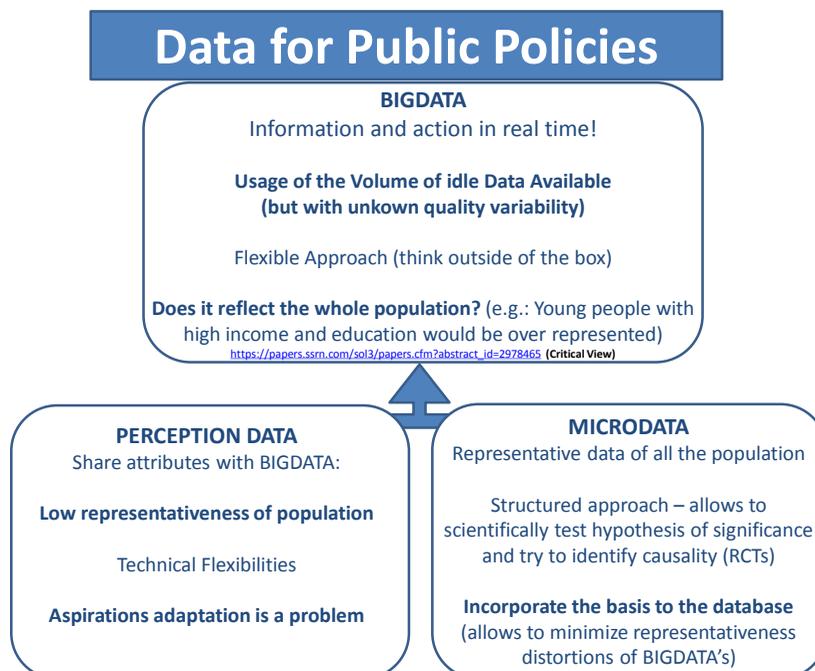
Coverage, Consistency, Convergence, Conectivity

Who? How much? How? Where?

Content and Capabilities:

For what?

The harmonious sum of these vectors keep the promise of reducing costs and broadening the possibilities on our everyday activities (including the design and application of urban policies) but **sets challenges to BIGDATA sample statistical representation.**



RCTs is key to verify causality <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/handbook-field-experiments> but is not everything (see last slide)

**Understanding and misunderstanding randomized controlled trials (RCTs)

Angus Deaton and Nancy Cartwright (critical view) <http://www.nber.org/papers/w2259>

RCTs are valuable tools whose use is spreading in economics and in other social sciences. They are seen as desirable aids in scientific discovery and for generating evidence for policy. Yet some of the enthusiasm for RCTs appears to be based on misunderstandings: that randomization provides a fair test by equalizing everything but the treatment and so allows a precise estimate of the treatment alone; that randomization is required to solve selection problems; that lack of blinding does little to compromise inference; and that statistical inference in RCTs is straightforward, because it requires only the comparison of two means. None of these statements is true. RCTs do indeed require minimal assumptions and can operate with little prior knowledge, an advantage when persuading distrustful audiences, but a crucial disadvantage for cumulative scientific progress, where randomization adds noise and undermines precision. The lack of connection between RCTs and other scientific knowledge makes it hard to use them outside of the exact context in which they are conducted.

Yet, once they are seen as part of a cumulative program, they can play a role in building general knowledge and useful predictions, provided they are combined with other methods, including conceptual and theoretical development, to discover not “what works,” but why things work. Unless we are prepared to make assumptions, and to stand on what we know, making statements that will be incredible to some, all the credibility of RCTs is for naught. ***Video on Barnajee x Deaton at NYU

<http://int.search.myway.com/search/video.jhtml?m=7839a0aa&p2=%5EBYU%5Exdm119%SELMPTBR%5Ebr&pg=video&pn=1&ptb=57353D8E-1A15-43BE-A271->



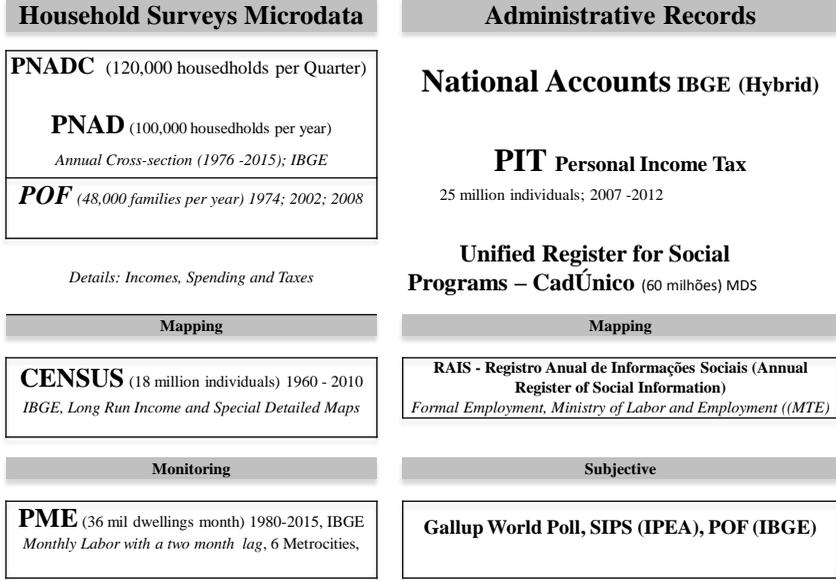
Ask

Act

Bigdata + Microdata + Perceptions = Better Data

Brighter Policies

Map of Brazilian Public Use Databases Discussed



Thank you!

Channels of Impact of Various Types of Policies (means approach)

