Group Evaluation Comparison Chart

How participants are chosen for treatment and comparison groups.

**Randomized Controlled Trials**
Participants are randomly assigned to participate (the treatment group) or not to participate (the comparison group) in a program.

**Regression Discontinuity Design**
Participation in a program is determined by a cutoff point (like a student test score or income level). The participants closest to the cutoff point—above and below—are included in the study.

**Matched Comparison Design**
Program participants receive program services. A different group of participants, who are as similar as possible on important characteristics, is chosen as the comparison group.