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While countless programs aim to address these issues, their effectiveness is often not clear. IPA's governance research investigates ways to increase the performance of the government institutions that serve as the foundation for development. Our research teams have shed light on pressing questions including how to reduce vote-selling, how to increase the demand for government accountability, how technology can be used to reduce corruption, and how information can improve voting behavior, but many unanswered questions remain.

Key Governance Policy Lessons	
1. Informing citizens about policy positions and quality/qualifications of political candidates can change voter behavior.	2. Well-designed financial incentives can increase performance.

Policy Influence: Using Evidence for Crime Reduction in Bogotá, Colombia

The city government of Bogotá worked with an IPA research team to develop affordable, innovative policies and to rigorously evaluate their impact on lower-level street-level crime. The study found that cleaning up streets and replacing lights led to a reduction in crime on the streets that worsened the service, and appeared to have modestly reduced crime on nearby streets as well. Doubling police patrols in high-crime areas led to a reduction in crime in those areas, but crime spilled over to surrounding areas. The report's offer is now being used by the city government to inform its own policy-making process—such as installing police cameras—to discover their effect on crime.

Governance Program Area Brief

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