

**CLEAR:**  
**Clearinghouse for Labor  
Research and Evaluation**

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# Introduction

- Expanding relevance of evaluation and research for programs and policy
- Improving communication and translation of research findings
- Using technology for clearinghouses—  
Demo of DOL's CLEAR

# Clearinghouses

- Many Federal agencies (originally mainly education and human services) now have evidence-based clearinghouses like CLEAR
  - Summarizing findings
  - Reviewing technical research quality
- Moving towards common guidelines, “coding,” and sharing reviews
  - DOL, Education, HHS, DOJ, NSF

# Evidence-based Clearinghouses

- Synthesize “what works” for policymakers and practitioners
- Review the quality of methodological designs and analysis
  - Standard independent process for reviews
- Rate causal studies
  - Experimental and non-experimental causal designs
  - Transparent process for “ratings”
- Help raise methodological standards for government-sponsored research and evaluations—and capacity of government agencies to review quality

# CLEAR Process

- CLEAR--online clearinghouse of research and evaluation on labor topics.
  - Studies sponsored by DOL and outside organizations, agencies, and universities (articles and reports)
  - Audience includes practitioners, administrators, policymakers, researchers, the media, & the general public.
- Selection process for topics and studies
  - Agency interest in literature and evidence reviews
  - Replications of “proven strategies”, discretionary grant programs
  - Systematic guidelines to initially screen reports and publications
- Topics—agency-specific—first topics:
  - Opportunity and disconnected youth
  - OSHA inspections
  - Disability employment policies
  - Community college training
  - Retirement savings

# CLEAR Review Guidelines

- Systematic guidelines for reviewing the “evidence” quality
  - Causal experimental
  - Causal non-experimental
  - Descriptive statistical
  - Implementation and process analysis
- Trained evaluation analysts screen and review studies according to guidelines
- All guidelines are posted on the website

# CLEAR Content

- All studies in CLEAR have:
  - Full citations and links (or search help)
  - Study evidence review and summary of design and findings
  - Links to other resources
- Causal studies are “rated”—with icon gauge
  - Causal studies analyze outcomes and whether the outcomes are due to, or “caused by,” the intervention or program
- Topical reviews synthesize findings from the body of research on some topic of interest

# CLEAR Reviews

- Study Evidence Reviews
  - Causal evaluations
    - Randomized control trials and random assignment
    - Quasi-experimental impact analysis; no random assignment
  - Non-causal studies
    - Statistical analysis and descriptive studies
    - Implementation and process evaluations
    - Literature reviews and meta-analyses
    - Non-causal studies in CLEAR are not rated (yet)
- Causal studies are reviewed and rated on the quality of the evidence—methodological rigor, credibility of design and analysis



# CLEAR

- Now to the website.....

<http://clear.dol.gov/>

Or

<http://www.dol.gov/>