CLEAR 10 Year Anniversary Series: Strategies to Find Evidence that Addresses Equity
Questions and Answers

QUESTION: How does the CLEAR "search for studies" function work? And how does CLEAR tag the studies?

ANSWER: When using the Search for Studies page, it is possible to conduct a search using one or more keywords. Consider different aspects relevant to the topic of interest when selecting keywords. For example, keywords can be related to the population of interest (e.g., workers with disabilities) specific programs of interest (e.g., apprenticeship, low income), or a specific author. Keywords can also be synonyms (e.g., Hispanic, Latino, Latinx)or other related terms (e.g., work-based training, SNAP). In addition, it is possible to restrict or narrow the search for studies by the years of publication and to use the "Refine By" filtering options. The CLEAR website includes a Topic Tagging Protocol, which can be accessed through the More About Tags link, and provides information about how topics are categorized in CLEAR and how the filtering categories are defined. Topic tags indicate the subject of the intervention, program, or policy examined in a publication. They are distinct from the target population and the outcome tags. Reviewers assign at least one tag to each study summarized in CLEAR. As evidence reviews are completed, the CLEAR team consistently adds to the collection. We continually review our tags and filters and may create additional tags and filters as appropriate. The search function also has Quick Help and Glossary links which provide more information and tips for finding what you need. Finally, the CLEAR website has a link through which users can contact the team to submit questions, suggestions, or resources for consideration.

QUESTION: What are the sources of the research summarized in CLEAR? Is it only DOL-sponsored studies?

ANSWER: CLEAR's evidence reviews include studies from multiple public sources, including those published in or by independent research firms, Federal reports sponsored or released by multiple agencies (not limited to the Department of Labor), and grey literature, like dissertations. The sources vary by the evidence review as well. Each of our evidence reviews have protocols that are publicly posted on the CLEAR website, and they provide transparency into how the literature search is conducted. The CLEAR team searches multiple databases and include custom Google searches to capture a wide range of literature. If you know of a study that might be eligible to include in a CLEAR evidence review, please contact us for more information.

QUESTION: How does CLEAR aim to include the most up-to-date evidence?

ANSWER: CLEAR conducts evidence reviews to identify labor-related research published in a specific time period (such as the most recent calendar year), which systematically finds the most up-to-date literature on topics of interest to CLEAR audiences, regardless of evidence

base size, and across all topics of interest to CLEAR users[1]. Eligible studies will appear in the topic area lists, in CLEAR's [searchable database](#), and by year on the website. In addition, when an evidence review requires an update, we will consider those on a case-by-case basis. The CLEAR team conducts [Rapid Evidence Reviews](#), which pull together the best available or emerging research and evaluation evidence on pressing or trending labor topics, such as equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

QUESTION: How long does it take to conduct a systematic evidence review and how long does it take to make a synthesis report?

ANSWER: Systematic evidence reviews and associated synthesis reports typically take from 9-24 months to complete[2]. The timeline for CLEAR's systematic evidence reviews is driven by the volume of available literature in a topic. Systematic evidence reviews seek to capture all eligible research as defined by the appropriate review protocol, often finding tens of thousands of potential studies to screen. CLEAR's Rapid Evidence Reviews are streamlined reviews and take about 3-6 months to produce a synthesis of the evidence; therefore, these reviews use a different process than CLEAR's documented systematic approach.[3] Each are useful to answer different types of research questions.

QUESTION: The Equitable Recovery Rapid Review focused on women and BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color), where can users find more information on other groups such as older workers or workers with disabilities?

ANSWER: CLEAR is continually searching for additional research and evaluation evidence on strategies that are effective for different populations of interest. CLEAR's [Search for Studies](#) page allows users to filter by target population (e.g., older workers, workers with disabilities, youth). CLEAR includes evidence reviews for each: [Older Workers](#), [Disability Employment Policy](#), and [Opportunities for Youth](#). The search for studies function has [Quick Help](#) and [Glossary](#) links which provide more information and tips for using the search tool.

QUESTION: If someone wants to recommend a publication for CLEAR review, what is the process?

ANSWER: In addition to identifying studies as part of our evidence reviews, CLEAR conducts limited "flash reviews" of single studies that meet eligibility criteria. You can suggest a study for review through the [Contact Us](#) section of the CLEAR website. The CLEAR team will screen the nominated research to assess eligibility. Specifically, the team will determine whether the research focuses on a labor-related intervention of interest to CLEAR audiences [4].

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[1] Please see CLEAR's [Systematic Annual Search and Review (SASR)](#) protocol for more information.

[2] Please see CLEAR's [Policies and Procedures](#) for more information.

[3] Please see [Rapid Evidence Review](#) for more information on how CLEAR conducts Rapid Evidence Reviews.

[4] Please see CLEAR's [Policies and Procedures](#) for more information.

QUESTION: Is there a way to export the list of findings from a search?

ANSWER: Yes! You can click on the "Export Results" icon on any page with search results to download them to a .CSV file in Excel.

QUESTION: Does CLEAR have resources that would be particularly useful in assisting small businesses?

ANSWER: CLEAR includes an evidence review on Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment, that includes individual studies of different programs and strategies. A synthesis of the evidence base is also available. The Equitable Recovery Rapid Review synthesis also includes a section highlighting supports for small businesses. Users can also filter a search for studies by Firm Characteristics, including small business size. You can find evidence reviews by topic on the Topic Areas landing page, or search for studies to look across the evidence reviews included in the database.