

Using CLEAR to inform decision-making (Part 1 video)

Title screen appears presenting CLEAR logo and title: “Using CLEAR to inform decision-making.” This video is the first in a two-part video series.

Welcome to Part 1 of “Using CLEAR to inform decision making.”

“Part 1” is Labeled on screen with screen shot of CLEAR website homepage appearing on left-hand side. “Part 2” is labeled with image of 3 people – two conversing, while one person who we see from behind is looking at computer screen with CLEAR website open.

Part 1 provides an overview of what CLEAR is and the different resources it offers. Part 2 presents two use case examples of how CLEAR can be used to help make informed, evidence-based decisions.

CLEAR website homepage appears. Video scrolls down to see the entire homepage.

The Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research, or CLEAR, is a centralized source of research and information on labor-related topics, designed to make labor research more accessible to audiences both inside and outside of the Department of Labor.

Icon of a “Data Study” with lines and charts appears on screen.

CLEAR makes labor research more accessible through its searchable database, individual study summary profiles, and evidence synthesis reports.

Image of desk appears with person sitting and looking puzzled, examining stack of papers/reports, with question marks floating overhead.

Research and evaluations on labor programs and policies can help practitioners and policy makers make better decisions. But there are many studies, published in different sources, and they vary in quality. These barriers can make it difficult to find research when it’s needed, differentiate between studies, and quickly understand and apply findings in different practical settings.

CLEAR logo appears in center of screen. Multiple (total 6) icons of documents appear surrounding the logo, each with an arrow pointing towards the logo in the center.

With over 1,300 studies—and counting—CLEAR is a central source of research and information on a wide range of labor topics.

CLEAR logo appears on top center of screen. Icon of a Data Study appears on left-hand side of screen. Icon of a Research Study appears on right-hand side of screen. “Information” and “exclamation” icons appear on icon of data study.

By conducting independent evidence reviews, CLEAR identifies, reviews, and summarizes many types of research; but prioritizes causal impact studies that help us find answers to ‘what works?’ questions. CLEAR’s goal is to make credible labor-related research more accessible by highlighting key findings, and providing information about where and how the interventions were tested.

CLEAR website homepage appears.

CLEAR summarizes labor research in several ways.

Example of a study profile pages appear, and the video scrolls down to see the entire page. Several other study profiles appear, overlaying the first study profile shown.

CLEAR’s profiles make studies accessible by providing information about each study’s purpose, context, and findings. Profiles are short summaries that you can use to help understand what the evidence says so you can decide whether it’s relevant for your needs. If you want to learn more, study profiles also link back to the original reports or papers.

Example of a Synthesis report appears

Synthesis reports provide a short, high-level overview of the evidence base in a given topic area. Synthesis reports generally include key takeaways, an overview of findings, and gaps where additional research is needed.

Example of CLEAR’s searchable database is presented, and page scrolls down to show how to Search for Studies

CLEAR’s searchable database contains all study profiles and syntheses housed on the website. You can use the database to search for studies, and refine your search by keywords, outcomes or populations of interest, evidence rating, and more.

Main CLEAR website page appears

CLEAR can also help you develop higher quality studies by examining or following the standards CLEAR’s independent contractors use when reviewing studies. These standards include guidelines for reviews of different study types, descriptions of the criteria used to determine a study’s strength of causal evidence, and summaries of review procedures. They also describe how CLEAR selects research topics, identifies studies, and conducts other operations. These reference documents are publicly available and help ensure CLEAR’s evidence reviews are independent, rigorous, and transparent.

“Part 2” label appears on center of screen, and below is an image of 3 people – two conversing, while one person who we see from behind is looking at computer screen with CLEAR website open.

This concludes the brief introduction to CLEAR, Part 1 of “Using CLEAR to inform decision making.” We hope you found it useful and informative! Part 2 of this video series shows how CLEAR can be used in different situations to help make informed, evidence-based decisions. To view Part 2, visit the Resources page of the CLEAR website.