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/