



USING DATA

Lee, S.J., Bright, C.L., & Berlin, L.J. (2013). Organizational influences on data use among child welfare workers. *Child Welfare*, 92(3), 97-118.

WHAT IS THIS RESOURCE?

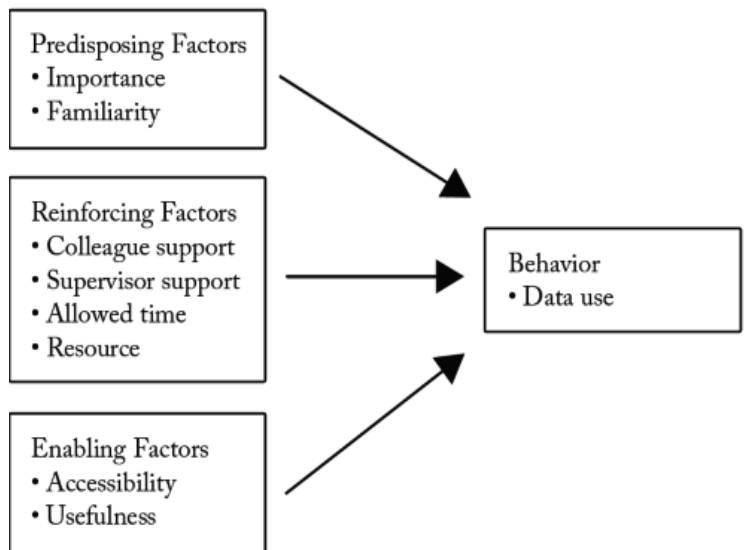
- This journal article highlights the findings of a study identifying the organizational factors that influence data use among child welfare employees in their day-to-day work and decision-making.

WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL FINDINGS?

Results from this study highlight that **supervisor support and familiarity with data are predictive of data use**. The factors that influence data use can be described in a variety of ways to include, the following: predisposing factors, reinforcing factors, and enabling factors.

Predictors of data use

- Familiarity with child welfare outcomes data and knowledge of how apply the information strategically
- Encouragement and support from a supervisor competent in the use of child welfare data
- At least 6 years or more of working at the agency AND in a supervisor and administrator position (non-frontline position)
- However, with training on the use of data and supervisory support, all frontline staff can learn to use data in their day-to-day decision making.



Note: Perceived importance, support from colleagues, allowed time, available resources, accessibility, and usefulness did not significantly predict data use.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR WORK?

This study highlights the value of child welfare organizations in (a) facilitating workers' familiarity with child welfare data and data use and (b) training or educating supervisors so that they can best support workers' use of data. Organizational investment in developing these areas may lead to improved efficiency and effectiveness and, in turn, may provide greater services to and outcomes of those served by child welfare agencies