

# What Works Clearinghouse Statistics, Website, and Training Memorandum

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**Date:** July 29, 2021  
**To:** Erin Pollard, & Jonathan Jacobson, Institute of Education Sciences  
**From:** Josh Polanin, Lisa Shimmel, Melissa Callaham, Jenni Fipaza and Cora Goldston, AIR  
**Subject:** Final Summary for January 13, 2021 Webinar – Updates to the Version 4.1 Online Study Review Guide

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## Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Institute of Education Sciences Contracting Officer’s Representatives with the final summary for the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) webinar “Updates to the Version 4.1 Online Study Review Guide,” hosted on January 13, 2021.

The WWC team is also sending the following files for COR review. Due to the targeted audience of reviewers, this video will remain unlisted on YouTube and will be linked through the OSRG:

- Recording video file
- Caption file
- Keywords and description for the recording
- Section 508-compliant PDF of the slides
- Compiled answers to the attendee questions (will be turned into a Section 508-compliant PDF after IES approval)

## Summary

This webinar provided an overview of recent OSRG updates that align with version 4.1 of the *WWC Standards Handbook* and *WWC Procedures Handbook*. The webinar presenters provided an overview of critical changes related to this update, as well as live demonstrations of changes to the OSRG, such as changes to aggregating main findings within a study.

The webinar was broadcast live on January 13, 2021. Due to the nature of the webinar and the specific target audience, the recorded webinar and Section 508-compliant slides will be archived on the WWC website but will remain a private video instead of being shared publicly on the IES YouTube channel. In total, 74 participants attended the webinar for an average of 52 minutes (the webinar was approximately 90 minutes long).

The anticipated goals for the event and a summary of the webinar content are presented below.

- **Presenters will provide a clear and detailed demonstration of critical updates and changes for the version 4.1 OSRG, including entering effect size and standard error**

**information into the OSRG; aggregating main findings within studies (including the correlation matrix); and synthesizing findings across studies.**

- **Entering Effect Size and Standard Error Information into the OSRG:** Dr. David Miller, Researcher at AIR, provided context about the OSRG and changes to the OSRG from in the version 4.1 updates. Additionally, Miller discussed entering regression coefficient information and ANCOVA information; handling cluster design studies; and handling cluster assignment studies.
  - **Aggregating Main Findings Within Studies:** Dr. Joshua Polanin, Principal Researcher at AIR, discussed version 4.1 improvements related to aggregating multiple findings in a study. Polanin then performed a live demo on a prepared study example that had one outcome domain with two main findings and another outcome domain with three main findings.
  - **Synthesizing Findings Across Studies:** Dr. Miller described the fixed-effects meta-analysis approach used in version 4.1 instead of the previous vote-counting approach under version 4.0. Additionally, Miller described the three determinants of the version 4.1 intervention ratings.
  - **Other Miscellaneous Changes:** Dr. Miller discussed how the choice of the optimistic versus cautious attrition boundary is now determined at the finding-specific level, rather than the review protocol level. Additionally, Miller noted how to apply the cautious boundary, which should be clearly documented in the OSRG study notes. Finally, Miller described the version 4.1 Study Review Protocol, which provides guidance on choosing the attrition boundaries.
- **Presenters will provide opportunities for OSRG users to ask questions and receive additional supports.** Dr. Lyzz Davis, Principal Researcher with AIR, moderated a discussion of questions from participants for the presenters. Davis also reminded contractors to send OSRG error or enhancement requests to the WWC Help Desk.

A full-length webinar recording, a Section 508-compliant PDF of the slides, and a PDF containing responses to attendee questions are resulting products from the event.