USING DATA


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.

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

- **Predisposing Factors**
  - Importance
  - Familiarity

- **Reinforcing Factors**
  - Colleague support
  - Supervisor support
  - Allowed time
  - Resource

- **Enabling Factors**
  - Accessibility
  - Usefulness

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

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.