

CMF Clearinghouse Webinar – February 23, 2021

Understanding & Navigating the CMF Clearinghouse Rating System Changes for Researchers

Audience Questions with CMF Clearinghouse Team Responses

**Some questions have been reworded for clarity.*

Question: Will the CMF Clearinghouse keep old ratings for CMFs or only new one?

The CMF Clearinghouse will only display the updated star ratings in the search results and the CMF details pages. However, we have made available a comparison spreadsheet (http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/collateral/Ratings_Comparison.xlsx) that provides both the legacy and the new ratings for all CMFs (prior to the rating transition) and is a tool you can use to identify any star rating changes to your CMF of interest.

Question: Are CMF IDs constant over time or change for a particular CMF when new CMFs are added to CMF Clearinghouse?

The convention has been that CMF ID numbers are unique and do not change. New CMF's added to the CMF Clearinghouse would receive new ID numbers, in the order they are added.

Question: If a study just falls below the threshold of a star rating (for example: a point short of a certain star rating), do you consider getting more information from the researchers to see if the ratings can be improved?

In the past, we usually did not contact the researchers for more information. However, going forward, with all the details needed under this new rating system, we may contact researchers (on a case-by-case basis) to inquire if they have a more recent or complete document that may have information that was not included in the paper/report that is being reviewed.

Question: Why does the CMF Clearinghouse only includes studies based on infrastructure?

This decision to include studies based only on infrastructure was made when the CMF Clearinghouse was initiated. The primary reason being that in most cases the rating criteria used for infrastructure countermeasures would not fit well for evaluating behavioral countermeasures. We plan to discuss if/how we might include behavioral countermeasure effectiveness information in the CMF Clearinghouse in the future. For now, we provide links to resources for behavioral countermeasures at http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/resources_countermeasures.cfm.

Question: How does this rating transition affect States with pre-selected CMF lists?

Due to changes in the star ratings for many CMFs, we recommend that State DOTs with State CMF lists review the new rating criteria and individual CMF ratings to determine if there is a need to update their State CMF list.

Question: Can following CMF development guidelines lead to estimation of high-quality CMFs under the new rating system?

The new rating criteria is more rigorous and objective than the legacy rating system. Following CMF development guidelines can lead to the estimation of robust CMFs; however, certain factors such as the data (the number of miles/sites and the number of crashes) used to estimate the CMF can contribute heavily to the overall CMF rating in the CMF Clearinghouse.