

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

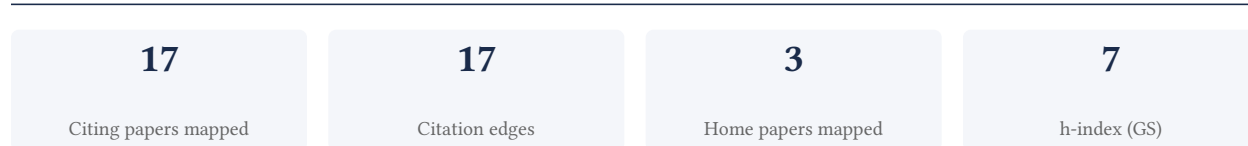
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement



Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

82.4% independent of 17 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	14
Self-citation	2
Co-author	1
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding drug abuse patterns and perceptions in Syria, subsequently extending this analysis to assess prevalence and risk among university students in the region.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2020 paper examining drug abuse in Syria, specifically focusing on usage patterns, causes, and addict perceptions. This core work serves as the foundation for a subsequent 2023 study that applies similar analytical lenses to substance abuse among university students, assessing prevalence, risk factors, and preventive measures.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in regional public health literature by providing empirical insights into substance abuse dynamics in conflict-affected or under-researched Middle Eastern contexts. The progression from a general population study in Syria to a targeted analysis of university students in Jordan suggests an original effort to map the epidemiology of addiction across different demographic segments and national settings within the region.

The significance of this research is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community. The core paper has garnered 22 citations, while the follow-up study has received 8 citations. Notably, 88.2% of the citing papers are from independent researchers, indicating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate circle and contributed meaningfully to the broader discourse on substance abuse in the region.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

[Drug abuse in Syria: pattern of use, causes and perception as perceived by Syrian addicts](#)

2020 · 22 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Pharmacists on the Frontline: Medication Misuse and Abuse During Violent Conflict in Four MENA Countries (2025)	Middle East University	Jordan	—
2	Drug Addiction Clinical Study Among Patients Admitted to the Alqana Center for Social Rehabilitation (2024)	Alqana Center for Social Rehabilitation	Iraq	—
3	Literature Review: Persepsi Residen Pecandu Narkoba yang Menjalani Rehabilitasi terhadap Program Therapeutic Community (2021)	Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur	Indonesia	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Substance Abuse among University Students: Assessing Prevalence, Risk and Preventive Measures](#)

2023 · Jordan Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences · 8 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Prevalence and Correlates of Substance Abuse Among Healthcare Students (2025)	—	—	—
2	Epidemiology of Substance use Among the University Students in South India: an Exploratory Study (2025)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	Factors influencing substance use preventive behavior among university students in Eastern Thailand. (2025)	Burapha University, Srisavarindhira Thai Red Cross Institute of Nursing	Thailand	—
4	Alcohol and substance use and associated risk factors in nursing undergraduates at a South African university. (2025)	University of the Western Cape	South Africa	—
5	Validación a Nivel Local de Herramientas Psicométricas Para Medir Afrontamiento y Consumo de Sustancias: un Estudio Correlacional en Chile. (2025)	Universidad del Bío-Bío	—	—
6	Regional perspectives on substance use, substance use-related problems and policy: The case of Jordan. (2026)	The University of Jordan	Jordan	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher provided early empirical insights into public psychological responses and behavioral changes during the COVID-19 outbreak in the Middle East.

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2021 paper titled ‘Public knowledge, beliefs, psychological responses, and behavioural changes during the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Middle East,’ published in Pharm Pract (Granada). This work stands as the core piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding how populations in the Middle East processed information and adapted behaviors during the initial phases of the pandemic. By focusing on public knowledge and psychological responses, the research suggests an effort to capture the socio-behavioral dynamics of the crisis in a region that was often underrepresented in early global health literature.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community. With 16 citations, the work has attracted attention from independent researchers, who account for 88.2% of the citing papers. This high degree of independent citation indicates that the findings have been recognized and utilized by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network, validating the work’s relevance to broader public health and behavioral science discussions.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Public knowledge, beliefs, psychological responses, and behavioural changes during the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Middle East](#)

2021 · Pharm Pract (Granada) · 16 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Consumers' knowledge, attitude and practice of respiratory symptoms self-medication in community pharmacy during COVID-19 pandemic. (2023)	University of Surabaya	Indonesia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	The Impact of Working from Home during Covid-19 on Females Productivity (2021)	—	—	—
3	Stability and bifurcations of a two-patch SIS model with delayed surveillance feedback (2025)	Yuncheng University	China	—
4	Correlation studies among Morphological traits providing Natural Resistance against Insect, pest and yield in Upland Cotton (Gossypium hirsutum L.) (2023)	—	—	—
5	IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: EVIDENCE FROM JORDAN (2022)	Applied Science Private University	—	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Applied Science Private University	Jordan	SCImago #6627 · THE 401–500	3
Mersin University	Turkey	SCImago #7139 · THE 1501+	2
The University of Jordan	Jordan	SCImago #2830 · THE 601–800 · QS =324	2
Alqana Center for Social Rehabilitation	Iraq	—	1
University of Surabaya	Indonesia	SCImago #4859	1
Midocean University	Comoros	—	1
Yuncheng University	China	SCImago #10773	1
Burapha University	Thailand	SCImago #6638 · THE 1501+	1
Srisavarindhira Thai Red Cross Institute of Nursing	Thailand	—	1
Universidad del Bío-Bío	Chile	SCImago #7072 · THE 1501+ · QS 1401+	1
Gulf Medical University	United Arab Emirates	SCImago #8242	1
University of the Western Cape	South Africa	SCImago #4397 · THE 601–800 · QS 951-1000	1
Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur	Indonesia	—	1
Middle East University	Jordan	SCImago #7639	1

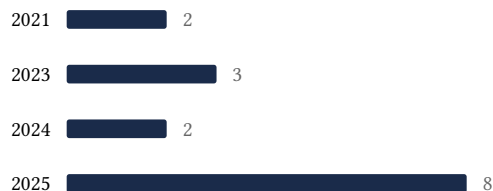
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Jordan	4
Turkey	2
Indonesia	2
Thailand	1
China	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Iraq	1
South Africa	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition’s merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition’s exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Drug abuse in Syria: pattern of use, causes and perception as perceived by Syrian addicts	9	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Public knowledge, beliefs, psychological responses, and behavioural changes during the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Middle East	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5