

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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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 Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. 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

52	55	5	143
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

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.

96.2% independent of 52 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	50
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	2

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 developed a seminal global measure of perceived stress, establishing a foundational tool for health and social behavior research with widespread independent adoption.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a global measure of perceived stress, introduced in a 1983 paper published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior. This work stands as a singular, foundational achievement in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author building directly upon it in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the need for a standardized, comprehensive instrument to assess stress across diverse populations. By proposing a 'global measure,' the researcher likely sought to overcome limitations of earlier, more fragmented approaches, offering a unified framework that could be applied broadly within health and social behavior contexts.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with the core paper accumulating over 47,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 96.2% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the tool has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[A global measure of perceived stress](#)

1983 · Journal of Health and Social Behavior · 47,563 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 30,407 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1983 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Gut-microbiota-targeted diets modulate human immune status (2021)	Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University	United States	Influential
2	Dealing with information overload: a comprehensive review (2023)	Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research	Germany	Methodology
3	Teacher well-being: A systematic review of the research literature from the year 2000–2019 (2021)	University of Bern	Switzerland	—
4	Social support and mental health: the mediating role of perceived stress (2024)	Central Luzon State University, De La Salle University	Philippines	Methodology
5	Use of ChatGPT in academia: Academic integrity hangs in the balance (2023)	Curtin University, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Utara	Malaysia	—
6	Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study (2020)	Texas A&M University	United States	—
7	Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students (2021)	Florida Atlantic University, Marquette University	United States	Methodology
8	Emotional distress in young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence of risk	Integrierte Psychiatrie Winterthur – Zürcher Unterland,	Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom	Methodology

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	and resilience from a longitudinal cohort study (2020)	University of Bern, University of Cambridge		
9	Circulating myeloid-derived MMP8 in stress susceptibility and depression (2024)	Federal University of Santa Catarina, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Trinity College Dublin	Brazil, Ireland, United States	Methodology
10	Neuroanatomical changes observed over the course of a human pregnancy (2024)	National Institute of Mental Health, University of California, Irvine, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Dealing with information overload: a comprehensive review

“(2020) *Quant Netherlands, Economy Wait-control group; pre-post-follow-up design (N = 150) Positive effects of mindfulness training on stress (measured by the Perceived Stress Scale, PSS; Cohen et al. 1983), work engagement, and “Checklist Individual Strength”; but not directly related to information overload.*”

METHODOLOGY Social support and mental health: the mediating role of perceived stress

“The PSS-10 (Cohen et al., 1983) was used to assess participants perceived COVID-19 stress levels.”

METHODOLOGY Gender differences in perceived stress and coping among college students

“The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) measured the degree to which one’s life situations are appraised as stressful [37].”

METHODOLOGY Emotional distress in young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence of risk and resilience from a longitudinal cohort study

“Perceived stress during the past 2 weeks was assessed using four items from the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen, Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983).”

METHODOLOGY Circulating myeloid-derived MMP8 in stress susceptibility and depression

“The Perceived Stress Scale 27, a 10-item self-rating scale, was used to determine perceived stress levels.”

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established the buffering hypothesis framework, demonstrating how social support mitigates the adverse health effects of stress, a seminal contribution to health psychology.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the formulation of the buffering hypothesis, articulated in the seminal 1985 paper ‘Stress, Social Support, and the Buffering Hypothesis’ published in *Psychological Bulletin*. This work stands as a foundational text in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the core paper itself serves as the definitive statement of this theoretical framework.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the mechanisms through which social environments influence individual health outcomes under stress. By proposing that social support acts as a buffer rather than a direct effect, the researcher introduced a nuanced theoretical model that redefined how psychologists and medical professionals conceptualize the interaction between psychosocial factors and physiological stress responses.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating over 33,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 96.2% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader academic community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 13

CORE PAPER

Stress, Social Support, and the Buffering Hypothesis

1985 · Psychological Bulletin · 33,841 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 17,968 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1985 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Social support and mental health: the mediating role of perceived stress (2024)	Central Luzon State University, De La Salle University	Philippines	—
2	Rethinking minority stress: A social safety perspective on the health effects of stigma in sexually-diverse and gender-diverse populations (2022)	University of Utah	United States	—
3	AI Companions Reduce Loneliness (2025)	Harvard Business School, Marsdata Academic, University of Pennsylvania	United States	—
4	Student psychological well-being in higher education: The role of internal team environment, institutional, friends and family support and academic engagement (2024)	FLAME University, International Management Institute, Narayana Health	India	—
5	Conservation of Resources in the Organizational Context: The Reality of Resources and Their Consequences (2018)	Rush University Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour	France, Israel, United States	—
6	Artificial intelligence is the magic wand making customer-centric a reality! An investigation into the relationship between consumer purchase intention and consumer engagement through affective attachment (2024)	Anhui Polytechnic University, RMIT University	China, Vietnam	—
7	Women's experiences of social support during pregnancy: a qualitative systematic review (2023)	Bangor University	United Kingdom	Background
8	The relationship between social support and academic engagement among university students: the chain mediating effects of life satisfaction and academic motivation (2023)	Jimei University, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, Teachers College, Jimei University	China	—
9	Elevated depression and anxiety symptoms among pregnant individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)	Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute, University of Calgary, University of Calgary	Canada	—
10	Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System (2020)	National Academies Press	United States	—
11	Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System (2020)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
12	The relationship between social support and mental health problems during pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis (2021)	Hawassa University, University of Technology Sydney	Australia, Ethiopia	Background
13	Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System (2020)	National Academies Press	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established the theoretical framework for positive events and social supports as buffers against life change stress, a seminal contribution widely adopted across social psychology.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 1983 paper 'Positive Events and Social Supports as Buffers of Life Change Stress,' published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology. This work appears to define a specific mechanism by which positive experiences and social resources mitigate the impact of stressful life changes.

This line of work addresses a critical gap in stress research by shifting focus from purely negative stressors to the protective role of positive events. The title suggests an original conceptualization of buffering effects, proposing that social support and positive occurrences actively counteract life change stress rather than merely co-occurring with it.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 5995, indicating widespread influence. Furthermore, analysis of 52 citing papers reveals that 96.2% originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been broadly adopted and validated by the wider scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Positive Events and Social Supports as Buffers of Life Change Stress](#)

1983 · Journal of Applied Social Psychology · 5,995 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,940 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1983 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Elevated depression and anxiety symptoms among pregnant individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)	Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute, University of Calgary, University of Calgary	Canada	—
2	Social Relationships and Mortality Risk: A Meta-analytic Review (2010)	Brigham Young University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	—
3	No More FOMO: Limiting Social Media Decreases Loneliness and Depression (2018)	University of Pennsylvania	United States	Methodology

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Illusion and Well-Being: A Social Psychological Perspective on Mental Health. (1988)	Southern Methodist University, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	Background
5	COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown Measures Impact on Mental Health Among the General Population in Italy. (2020)	Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, University of L'Aquila, University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy	Methodology
6	Mental Health Outcomes Among Front-line and Second-Line Health Care Workers During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic in Italy. (2020)	University of L'Aquila, University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy	—
7	Social motivations of live-streaming viewer engagement on Twitch (2018)	Tampere University, University of Canberra	Australia, Finland	—
8	Social benefits of living in the metaverse: The relationships among social presence, supportive interaction, social self-efficacy, and feelings of loneliness (2022)	CHA University, Hanyang University	South Korea	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY No More FOMO: Limiting Social Media Decreases Loneliness and Depression

“They were told they would be doing this each night for the next four weeks.”

METHODOLOGY COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown Measures Impact on Mental Health Among the General Population in Italy

“(%) respondents reported severe insomnia symptoms, with ISI median total score of 10 (range 0-28, IQR=12); PSS total score median was 25 (range 4-44, IQR=13), 75th percentile was 31, with 3,933 (21.9)”

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	3
University of L'Aquila	Italy	SCImago #3016 · THE 601–800	2
University of Bern	Switzerland	SCImago #600 · THE =108 · QS =184	2
University College Cork	Ireland	SCImago #1176 · THE 351–400 · QS 246	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Tel Aviv University	Israel	SCImago #507 · THE 201–250 · QS 223	2
University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy	SCImago #1290 · QS =355	2
National Academies Press	United States	—	2
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	THE 78 · QS =140	2
University of Toronto	Canada	SCImago #39 · THE 21 · QS 29	1
RMIT University	Vietnam	THE 251–300 · QS 125	1
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	SCImago #63 · THE =3 · QS 6	1
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	1
Hawassa University	Ethiopia	SCImago #6413	1

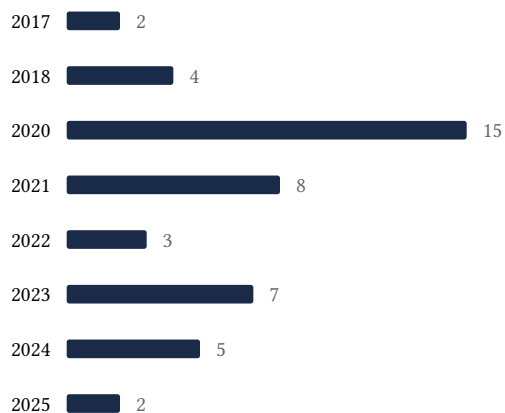
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	23
Canada	6
Switzerland	5
Italy	5
China	4
Ireland	3
Germany	3
Finland	3
United Kingdom	3
France	2
Australia	2
South Korea	2

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	A global measure of perceived stress	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Stress, Social Support, and the Buffering Hypothesis	13	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Positive Events and Social Supports as Buffers of Life Change Stress	8	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)