Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Maria del Carmen Bisi Molina

Professora Visitante - UNIFAL

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

26	26	4	48
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.

73.1% independent of 26 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	19
Self-citation	0
Co-author	7
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 the foundational design and objectives for the ELSA-Brasil longitudinal study, a seminal framework for adult health research in Brazil that has garnered over 1,000 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution is the establishment of the methodological framework for the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health (ELSA-Brasil), as detailed in the 2012 core paper. This work defines the study's objectives and design, serving as the authoritative reference for the cohort's structure and scientific rationale.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for a robust, large-scale longitudinal infrastructure to investigate adult health outcomes in Brazil. By publishing the study's design and objectives, the researcher provided a standardized blueprint that enabled consistent data collection and analysis, filling a gap in the region's epidemiological resources.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its high citation count of 1,031, indicating widespread reliance on this framework. Furthermore, the fact that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the work's broad impact and acceptance across the global scientific community, rather than limited internal circulation.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Brazilian longitudinal study of adult health (ELSA-Brasil): objectives and design

2012 · 1,031 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 302 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Changing from NAFLD through MAFLD to MASLD: Similar prevalence and risk factors in a large Brazilian cohort (2024)	Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Instituto Nacional de Infectologia Evandro Chagas, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)	Brazil	—
2	Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA): JACC Focus Seminar 5/8. (2021)	Johns Hopkins Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease	United States	—
3	Adherence to the EAT-Lancet sustainable reference diet and cardiometabolic risk profile: cross-sectional results from the ELSA-Brasil cohort study. (2023)	Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, University of São Paulo, University of Zaragoza	Brazil, Spain	**Methodology**
4	Silenced Knowing: An Intersectional Framework for Exploring Black Women's Health and Diasporic Identities. (2020)	Manchester Metropolitan University	United Kingdom	—
5	Association of hypertension and insulin resistance in individuals free of diabetes in the ELSA-Brasil cohort (2023)	Federal University of Minas Gerais	Brazil	—

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Adherence to the EAT-Lancet sustainable reference diet and cardiometabolic risk profile: cross-sectional results from the ELSA-Brasil cohort study.

"The BMI was calculated as weight (kg) divided by squared height (m2) [13]."

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational link between salt intake and hypertension in urban populations through a seminal 2003 study that has garnered over 300 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on a seminal 2003 paper titled 'Hipertensão arterial e consumo de sal em população urbana,' which investigates the relationship between salt consumption and hypertension within urban settings. This work stands as a core reference in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the critical public health need to understand dietary determinants of cardiovascular risk in urban environments. By focusing specifically on salt intake, the research likely provided early or distinct empirical evidence linking this specific dietary factor to blood pressure outcomes in a defined demographic, filling a gap in understanding urban health determinants.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 311, indicating widespread recognition and utility in the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and built upon by the broader global scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

Hipertensão arterial e consumo de sal em população urbana. Hypertension and salt intake in an urban population.

2003 · Rev Saúde Pública. · 311 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Body composition and nutritional profile of male adolescent tennis players. (2008)	Federal University of São Paulo	Brazil	—
2	Comunidades quilombolas de Vitória da Conquista, Bahia, Brasil: hipertensão arterial e fatores associados (2013)	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brasil	—
3	Adesão ao tratamento e estilo de vida de hipertensos e diabéticos (2018)	Unimed Meio Oeste	Brazil	—

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 a foundational longitudinal cohort framework for adult health in Brazil, creating a critical infrastructure for epidemiological research that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the establishment of a major longitudinal study of adult health in Brazil, as detailed in the 2015 cohort profile paper. This work serves as the cornerstone for understanding population health dynamics in this context.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this work addresses the need for robust, long-term observational data on adult health in Brazil. By defining the cohort profile, the researcher provided a standardized methodological foundation that likely filled a significant gap in regional epidemiological infrastructure, enabling sustained longitudinal analysis.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has accumulated 774 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that this work has served as a critical reference point for scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

Cohort profile: longitudinal study of adult health (ELSA-Brasil)

2015 · 774 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Deep neural network-estimated electrocardiographic age as a mortality predictor (2021)	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Uppsala universitet	Brazil, Sweden	—
2	Obesity and kidney disease: Hidden consequences of the epidemic (2017)	CNR - IFC, University of Pennsylvania, University of Tennessee Health Science Center	Italy, United States	—
3	Cardiovascular Statistics – Brazil 2021 (2022)	Instituto do Coração Edson Saad da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brasil	—
4	Heart failure risk stratification using artificial intelligence applied to electrocardiogram images: a multinational study (2025)	Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Universidade de São Paulo, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil, Iran, 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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil	SCImago #739	8
Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	SCImago #99 · THE 201–250 · QS 108	4
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	SCImago #1267 · THE 601–800 · QS =691	3
Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo	Brazil	SCImago #4026	3

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz	Brazil	SCImago #1101	2
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	2
University of São Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	2
University of Pennsylvania	United States	SCImago #52 · THE 14 · QS 15	1
Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)	Brazil	—	1
Hospital Universitário, Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	—	1
Hospital Universitário, University of São Paulo	Brazil	—	1
Instituto de Saúde Coletiva, Universidade Federal da Bahia	Brazil	—	1
Adventist University of São Paulo	Brazil	—	1
Sorbonne Paris Nord University	France	—	1
University of São Paulo Medical School	Brazil	—	1

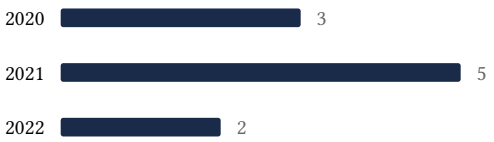
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Brazil	14
United States	6
Italy	3
United Kingdom	3
Australia	2
Spain	2
Brasil	2
Iran	1
Sweden	1
France	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	Brazilian longitudinal study of adult health (ELSA-Brasil): objectives and design	5	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Hipertensão arterial e consumo de sal em população urbana. Hypertension and salt intake in an urban population.	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Cohort profile: longitudinal study of adult health (ELSA-Brasil)	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)