

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

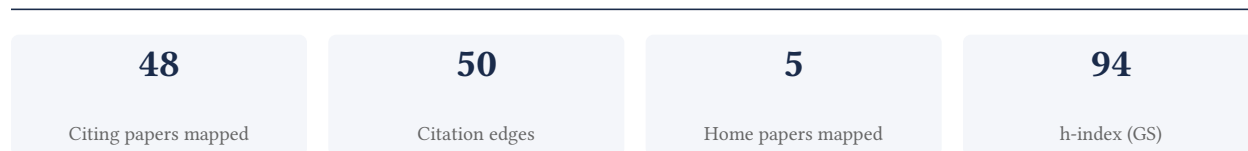
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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



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.

75.0% independent of 48 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	36
Self-citation	0
Co-author	12
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 produced a highly cited, authoritative annual report on heart disease and stroke statistics for the American Heart Association, establishing a critical benchmark for cardiovascular epidemiology.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of the 2017 American Heart Association report on heart disease and stroke statistics in *Circulation*. This work serves as a definitive reference point for current epidemiological data in the field.

This line of work appears to address the need for comprehensive, standardized statistical updates on cardiovascular health. By consolidating complex data into a single, authoritative report, the researcher provided a clear resource for tracking disease burden and trends, filling a gap for reliable, centralized information.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with over 30,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the citations come from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and reliance on this work across the global scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

[Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association](#)

2017 · *Circulation* · 30,680 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,779 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2020 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS): The Task Force for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Developed with the special contribution of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC. (2021)	Attikon University Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Belgrade University, Bern University Hospital	Australia, Belgium, France	—
2	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of peripheral arterial and aortic diseases (2024)	A. Cardarelli Hospital, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, AORN Antonio Cardarelli	Austria, Belgium, Finland	—
3	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation (2024)	Aalborg University Hospital, Aarhus University Hospital, Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center	Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria	—
4	2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Hypertension: Endorsed by the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) and the European Renal Association (ERA) (2023)	Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, AP-HP, Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, Université Paris Cité, Aristotle University	Austria, Belgium, China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	Atherosclerosis: Recent developments (2022)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
6	2021 AHA/ACC/AASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2021)	American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine	Italy, United Kingdom, United States	—
7	2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2022)	American College of Cardiology, American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association, American Heart Association	United States	—
8	Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review (2023)	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—
9	Ferroptosis: mechanisms, biology and role in disease. (2021)	Columbia University, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Germany, 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 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher produced a seminal systematic analysis quantifying global, regional, and national overweight and obesity prevalence from 1980 to 2013, establishing a critical benchmark for the Global Burden of Disease Study.

The researcher's primary contribution is a comprehensive systematic analysis of overweight and obesity prevalence across global, regional, and national levels during the period 1980–2013. This work, published in *The Lancet* in 2014 as part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013, serves as the foundational piece for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the researcher identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for standardized, large-scale epidemiological data on obesity trends over a thirty-year period. By synthesizing data across diverse geographic scales, the research likely filled a significant gap in understanding the longitudinal progression of obesity, providing a unified framework for assessing the burden of disease globally rather than relying on fragmented regional studies.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 17,151, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been broadly adopted and utilized by the wider academic community beyond the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

■ CORE PAPER

Global, regional, and national prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adults during 1980–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013

2014 · The Lancet · 17,151 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 10,132 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2014 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Obesity and cardiovascular disease: an ESC clinical consensus statement (2025)	Antwerp University Hospital, Bern University Hospital, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital-INSELSPITAL, University of Bern	Belgium, Denmark, Germany	—
2	Global Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (2024)	Alberta Health Services, Chongqing Medical University, Sichuan University	Canada, China	—
3	BERT applications in natural language processing: a review (2025)	King Saud University, Rabdan Academy, University of Jeddah	Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates	—
4	Update on the Obesity Epidemic: After the Sudden Rise, Is the Upward Trajectory Beginning to Flatten? (2023)	National Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece	Background
5	Global, regional, and national prevalence of child and adolescent overweight and obesity, 1990–2021, with forecasts to 2050: a forecasting study for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 (2025)	Aleta Wondo General Hospital, Alexandria University, Cairo University	Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia	—

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).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher produced a seminal systematic analysis quantifying global disease burden for 301 conditions across 188 countries from 1990 to 2013.

The researcher's primary contribution is a comprehensive systematic analysis of global health metrics, anchored by a 2015 paper detailing incidence, prevalence, and disability for 301 diseases and injuries across 188 countries between 1990 and 2013. This work stands as a singular, foundational output in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for standardized, large-scale epidemiological data to track health trends over time. By systematically aggregating data for a vast array of acute and chronic conditions, the research provides a unified framework for understanding the global burden of disease, filling a gap in comparative health analytics.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake, with the core paper accumulating over 20,000 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has become a widely accepted standard reference utilized broadly across the global scientific community.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 301 acute and chronic diseases and injuries in 188 countries, 1990–2013: a systematic ...](#)

2015 · 20,851 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,863 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure (2022)	ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia and University of Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia; University of Brescia	Cyprus, Denmark, France	—
2	Alzheimer's disease: insights into pathology, molecular mechanisms, and therapy (2025)	Shenzhen Research Institute of Xiamen University	China	—
3	Global prevalence of depression and elevated depressive symptoms among adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2022)	National University Hospital, National University of Singapore	Singapore	—
4	Diagnosis and Treatment of Hip and Knee Osteoarthritis: A Review (2021)	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School	United States	—
5	Estimating the global cancer incidence and mortality in 2018: GLOBOCAN sources and methods (2019)	International Agency for Research on Cancer, University of Oxford, World Health Organization	France, Switzerland, United Kingdom	—
6	Discovery of antimicrobial peptides with notable antibacterial potency by an LLM-based foundation model (2025)	CarbonSilicon AI Technology Co. Ltd., College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Zhejiang University, Dali University	China, United States	—
7	Global, regional, and national prevalence estimates of physical or sexual, or both, intimate partner violence against women in 2018 (2022)	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, McGill University, UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction	Canada, Switzerland, United Kingdom	—
8	Global, regional, and national prevalence of, and risk factors for, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in 2019: a systematic review and modelling analysis (2022)	The George Institute for Global Health, University of Oxford, University of Edinburgh, University of Oxford	China, United Kingdom	—

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
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	15
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington	United States	—	7
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	6
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece	SCImago #617 · THE 401–500 · QS 390	6
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	5
King's College London	United Kingdom	THE 38 · QS 31	5
Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences	Iran	THE 601–800	5
Auckland University of Technology	New Zealand	SCImago #3365 · THE 501–600 · QS =410	4
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	4
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	4
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation	United States	SCImago #37	4
Emory University	United States	SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182	4
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	4
University Medical Center Groningen	Netherlands	SCImago #448	4
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	United States	SCImago #705	4

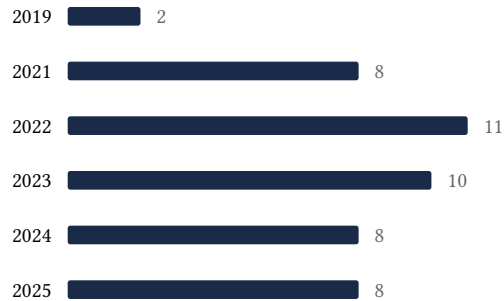
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	30
United Kingdom	21
Italy	15
Australia	14
China	11
Germany	11
Switzerland	10
France	9
Canada	8
Netherlands	8
Greece	8
Sweden	8

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	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Global, regional, and national prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adults during 1980–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013	5	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 301 acute and chronic diseases and injuries in 188 countries, 1990–2013: a systematic ...	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)