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Did a Systematic Review Just Eat Your Citation? The Impact of Reviews on the Citation Frequency of Primary Studies

Systematic reviews occupy a unique position atop the hierarchy of evidence, and are among the most influential contributions to the literature. Research has established that systematic reviews are frequently cited. However, it is as yet unclear whether reviews create citations within a given field by drawing attention to the primary literature, or merely siphon future citations away from the primary studies they cite. In the current investigation, we examine primary studies cited by Cochrane systematic reviews and explore the rates at which the primary studies are cited before and after the publication of the review.