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Out of Cite, Out of Mind? The Effects of Citation by Review Articles on Frequency of Citation in the Epidemiological Literature

The influence of a piece of academic writing is commonly gauged by the frequency with which it is cited in the literature. Systematic reviews are, unsurprisingly, some of the most frequently cited contributions, and occupy a place atop the hierarchy of evidence. In the present study, we evaluate the effect of review papers (general, systematic, and meta-analyses) on the frequency of citations among primary articles in a cohort of epidemiological studies published in 2005. Using Poisson regression with general estimating equations, we will assess whether reviews affect how often researchers cite primary literature.