



MSSU Research Impact

Publications and Reports, August 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Drawing on Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Evaluation of the Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR), which examines how their knowledge is being generated and shared, we undertook an analysis to explore how we might assess the impact of some of the MSSU's work.

We aimed to amalgamate our peer reviewed publications since the inception of the MSSU in 2014. Our goal was to gather all our various articles to not only see how many publications we have written or helped support in total, but how many we have published each year. We also did a simple analysis of the articles published in fiscal year 2022/2023 (April 1 – March 31) to try to gauge some of the impact our work has been having in the broader academic and social landscape.

WHAT IS RESEARCH IMPACT?

There are a number of different ways that research impact can be measured, both quantitative and qualitative. While this analysis uses quantitative measures, such as publication and citation counts, these metrics are most meaningful when interpreted alongside qualitative insights that reflect context and real-world outcomes.

Research impact itself can be defined by the research's contribution to academia, society, or the economy.¹ Traditional metrics of research impact are the number of publications, the number of citations of those publications, or metrics connected to specific journals or authors. There is also an increasing interest in "altmetrics," or alternative metrics that focus on who is engaging with research through measures such as social media mentions, downloads, or mentions in news articles or blog posts.²

By tracking our research outputs, citation patterns, and other information over time, we can better understand how the MSSU's work is being used, shared, and applied to improve health care across the Maritimes and beyond.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

This graph (Figure 1) shows the number of peer reviewed publications and reports the MSSU has supported or produced from **2014** to the end of fiscal year **2024/2025**. We offer support to researchers with their peer-reviewed publications in a variety of ways, from consultation to co-authorship. In total, there have been 352 peer reviewed publications and 422 reports during this period.

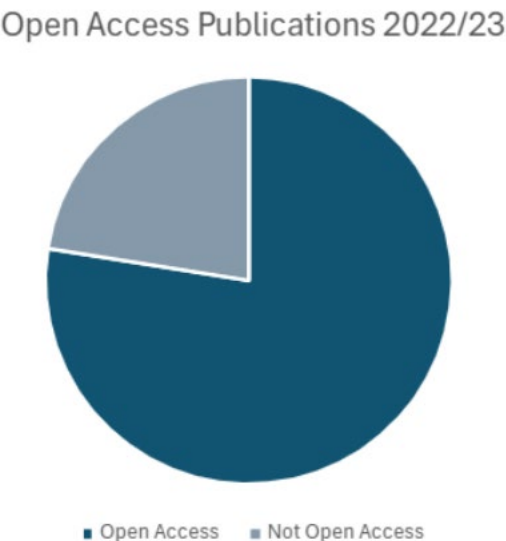
Since we began tracking patient partner involvement in 2021/2022, the number of our peer reviewed publications co-authored by patient and public partners has increased each year, demonstrating our commitment to meaningful patient-oriented research.

Our growing body of peer reviewed research is supporting evidence-informed changes to improve healthcare in the Maritimes.

Figure 1. Sum of Published Works



Figure 2. Open Access



The above chart shows the proportion of open access versus non-open access peer-reviewed articles published in fiscal **2022/2023**. Out of 40 articles, 31 (78%) were published in open access journals. Open access publishing allows peer reviewed research to be read by all audiences at no cost and supports the wide dissemination of MSSU research. This highlights our dedication to open access, in alignment with MSSU's [Open Access Policy](#).

RESEARCH IMPACT

The 40 articles that were produced or supported by the MSSU in fiscal year **2022/2023** were cited an average of 7.36 times per article and the works for this year were cited a total of 287 times.

The following articles were the top 5 most cited articles published in 2022/2023:

Publication Title	Authors	Number of Citations
Barriers to and strategies to address COVID-19 testing hesitancy: a rapid scoping review	Embrett, M., Sim, S.M., Caldwell, H.A.T. et al.	63
Changes over time in patient visits and continuity of care among graduating cohorts of family physicians in four Canadian provinces	Rudoler, D., Peterson, S., Stock, D., et al.	36
Investing in Canada's nursing workforce post-pandemic: A call to action	Murphy, G. T., Sampalli, T., Bearskin, L. B., et al.	24
Do symptoms of depression and anxiety contribute to heavy episodic drinking? A 3-wave longitudinal study of adult community members	Kim, A.J., Sherry, S.B., Nealis, L.J., et al.	21
Adverse events associated with the disease-modifying drugs for multiple sclerosis: a multi-region, population-based study	Ng, H. S., Zhu, F., Zhao, Y., et al.	15

Using the interface [Altmetric](#) to track online engagement, we can see that the article, [Changes over time in patient visits and continuity of care among graduating cohorts of family physicians in four Canadian provinces](#), was mentioned in the news 3 times, in two blogs, and on Twitter/X 66 times since its publication. In addition, the article was cited in policy once by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) in their horizon scan on [Issues in Pediatric Health Care](#).

Using metrics such as these can demonstrate not only the reach of the research that we support or produce but also offers insight into how this work is shared, discussed, and used by audiences such as academics, policymakers, and the public.