Poster: Using altmetrics and citation counts to assess the social and academic impact of Médecins Sans Frontières research publications

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Supplementary Information: Methods

Our dataset consisted of 155 MSF research articles listed in MSF's open-access repository (<u>http://fieldresearch.msf.org/msf/</u>) published between July 2011 (date from which full altmetrics data are available) and December 2012. Only articles that had DOIs or PubMed IDs (identifiers for tracking altmetrics) were used.

Articles were categorised as "research" (original studies) or "other" (editorials, perspectives, systematic reviews, etc.). We grouped articles by time period (July-December 2011; January-December 2012), and for each article category, we collected the mean a) Altmetric score (composite scores obtained from the Altmetric Explorer web application), b) number of tweeters, and c) number of Web of Science citations. We counted the number of articles in each year/category that were mentioned online at least once, as well as the number cited at least once. Data are shown as means ± SEM or percentages, as appropriate.

Online publication date records on journal sites were inconsistently listed, so we did not control for time elapsed since publication but present summaries for each metric, as captured on 6 March 2013. Our data are still valid because Altmetric scores are based on data that rapidly plateau within a matter of days. For Twitter, the number of article mentions typically reaches its maximum at approximately 3 days post-publication (unpublished data); as such, the scores remain stable after this early postpublication period.

Since the time period for our analyses was restricted by the amount of available altmetrics data, we did not directly compare altmetrics data with citation data.