

Measurable and immeasurable spread of knowledge for research impact: The NutComp Tool

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Background: The contemporary research process has shifted to include planning for impactful work to generate benefits in addition to building the academic knowledge base. Assessing and describing research impact is critical for research advocacy and accountability, and is often used in the allocation of resources. **Objectives:** This abstract provides an example of concentrated dissemination efforts supporting knowledge use in nutrition research. **Methods:** NutComp is a validated tool that assesses the self-perceived competence of health professionals in providing nutrition care. The reach, spread, uptake and diffuse impact of NutComp were summarised, including indicators to support impact tracking for knowledge. **Results:** Since open-access publication in 2015, NutComp has been used by researchers and health professionals in 22 countries across six continents. However, uptake alone may not reflect the full potential of research impact. Impactful research requires an understanding of human need for created work, effort to develop the work and make it accessible, followed by analysis of how the work was used. **Conclusions:** Given the complex phenomenon of research impact, it is almost impossible to capture and attribute all aspects of research impact. Despite this, we argue that impact activities remain a worthwhile contribution to collective research impact.