

# Exploring the international uptake of the ‘F-words in Childhood Disability’: A citation analysis

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## Background

- This citation analysis explores the uptake of the ‘F-words’, introduced in Rosenbaum & Gorter’s (2012) paper titled, “*The F-words in Childhood Disability; I swear this is how we should think!*”
- The ‘F-words’ operationalize the World Health Organization’s (2001) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework (Figure 1).

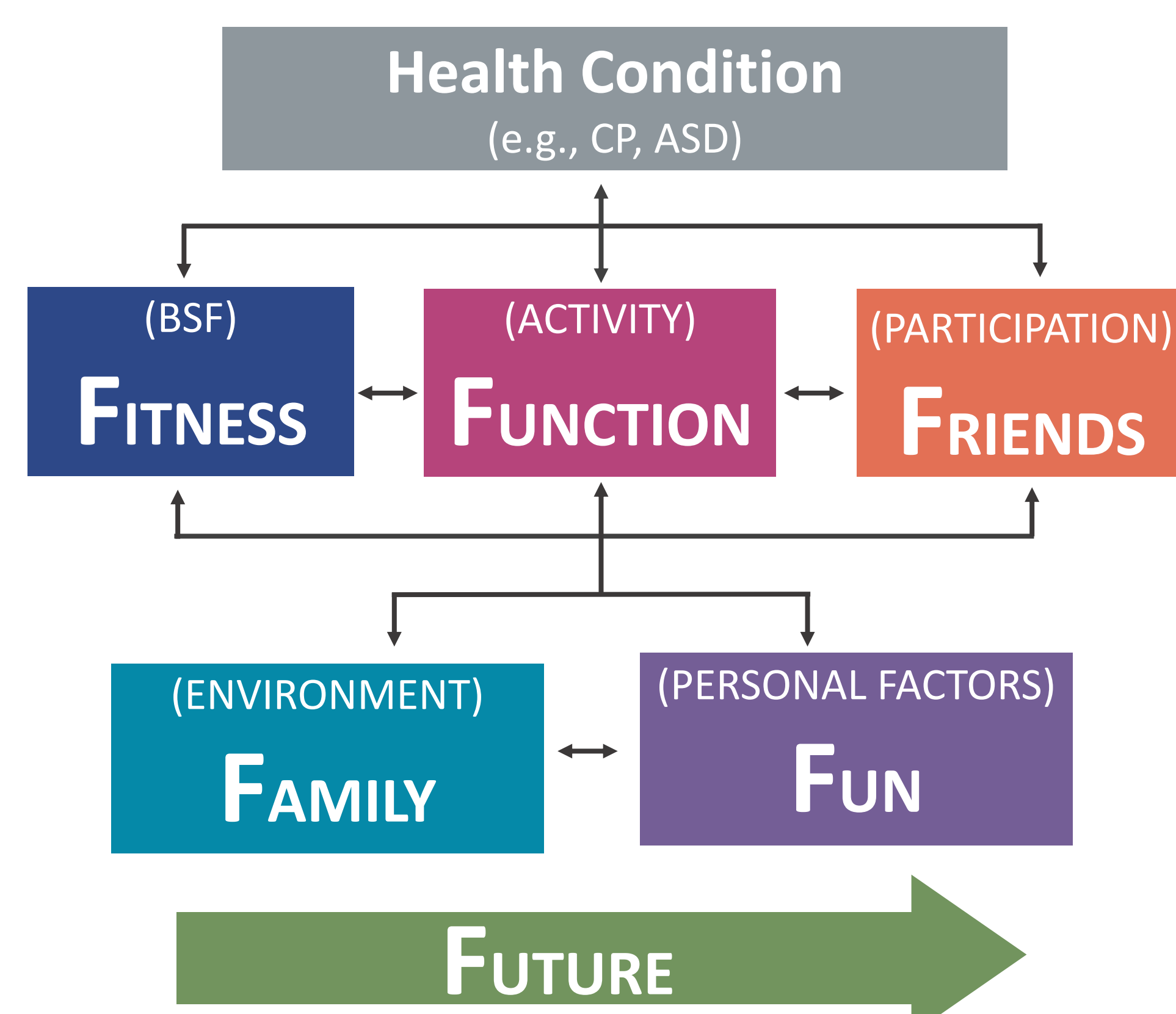


Figure 1: ICF Framework and the ‘F-words’

## Objectives

1. Identify the rate and reach of uptake of the ‘F-words’ paper; and
2. Explore the context in which the ‘F-words’ are being cited.

## Methods

- Searched Google Scholar, Wiley Online, and Web of Science for ‘F-words’ paper citations.
- Extracted dates of publication and locations (i.e., country of first author).
- Developed a taxonomy categorizing usage of ‘F-words’ paper citations (*cited/referenced*, *non-English*, and *integrated/informed*).

## Results

- The search yielded 157 citations, which were categorized as: *cited/referenced* (n= 109), *non-English* (n= 12), and *integrated/informed* (n= 36) (i.e., the ‘F-words’ were stated in the text).

### Objective 1: Rate and reach of uptake of the ‘F-words’

- Researchers from 26 countries have cited the ‘F-words’ paper (Figure 2) and the number of citations has continued to increase since the paper’s publication (Figure 3).

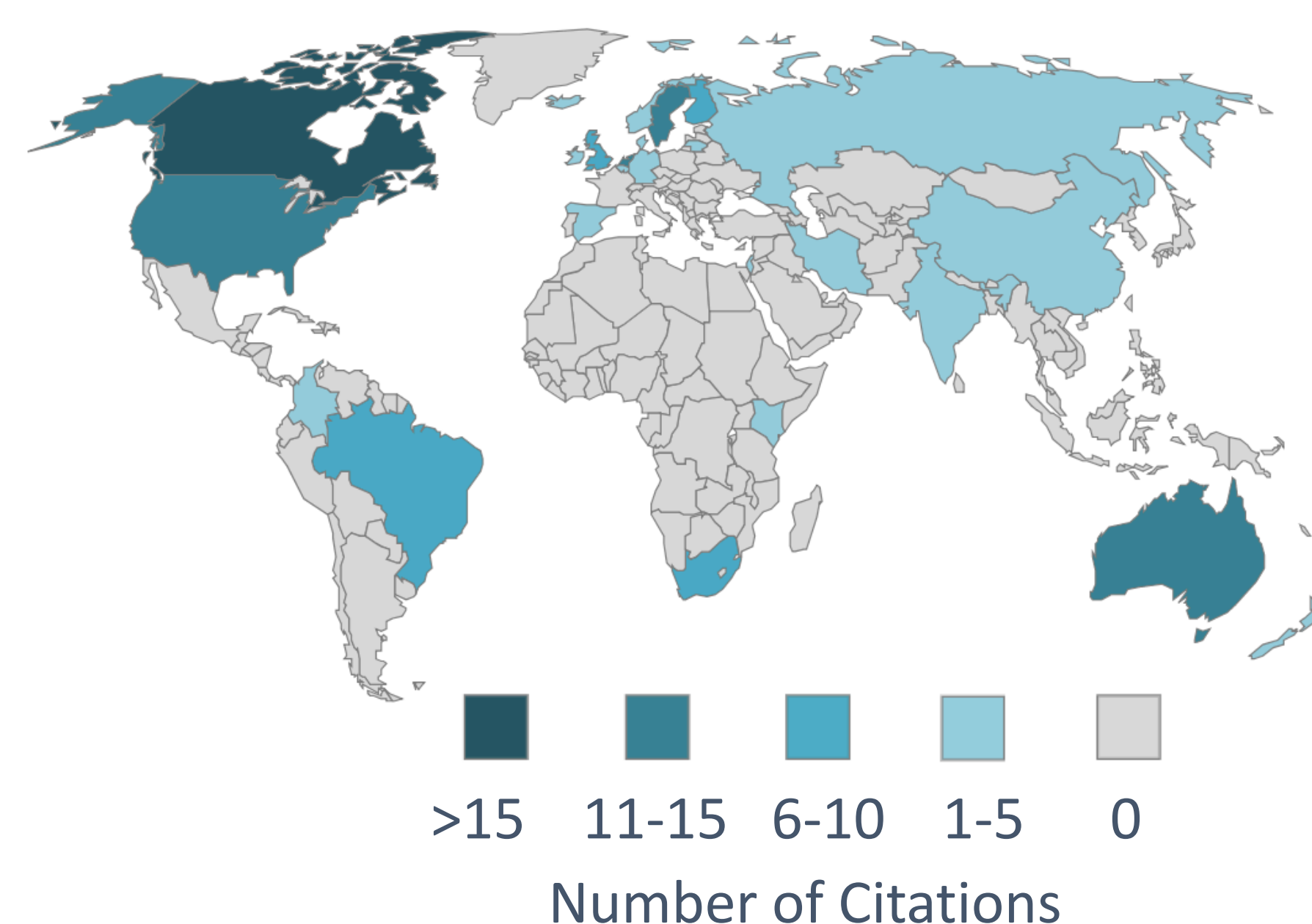


Figure 2: Number of citations per country

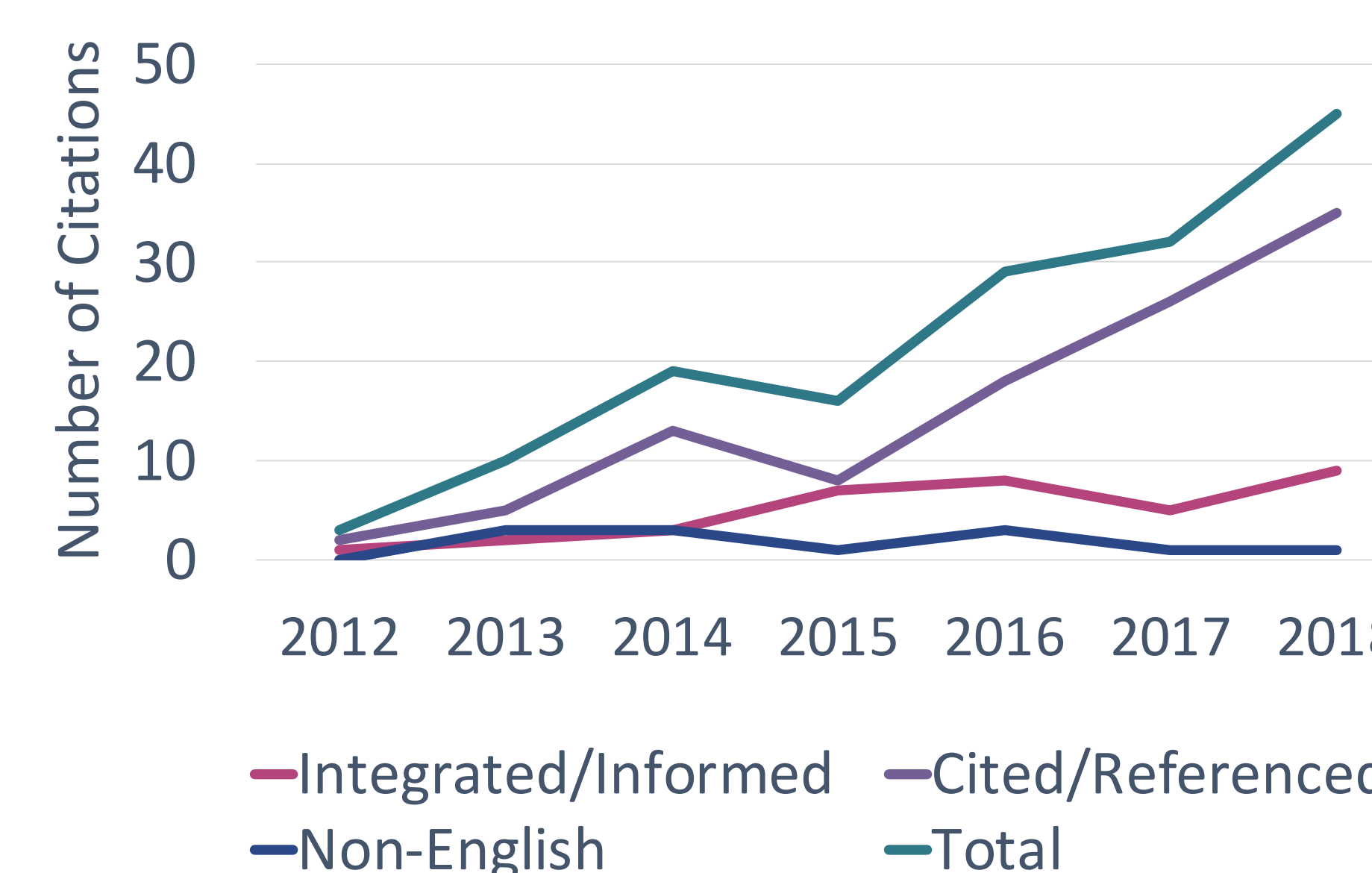


Figure 3: Number of citations per year

### Objective 2: Context of *integrated/informed* ‘F-words’ citations (n= 36)

- The majority of citations (n= 34/36, 94.4%) applied the ‘F-words’ to the ICF Framework. Themes were identified on the primary context of ‘F-words’ citations (Figure 4) and target audiences and populations contributed to understanding how the ‘F-words’ are being used (Figure 5).

- Association to physical activity and rehabilitation (n= 13)
- Support of a holistic approach to childhood disability (n= 11)
- ‘F-words’ research team-related papers (n= 6)
- Application and measurement of quality of life (QoL) (n= 3)
- Other (n= 3)

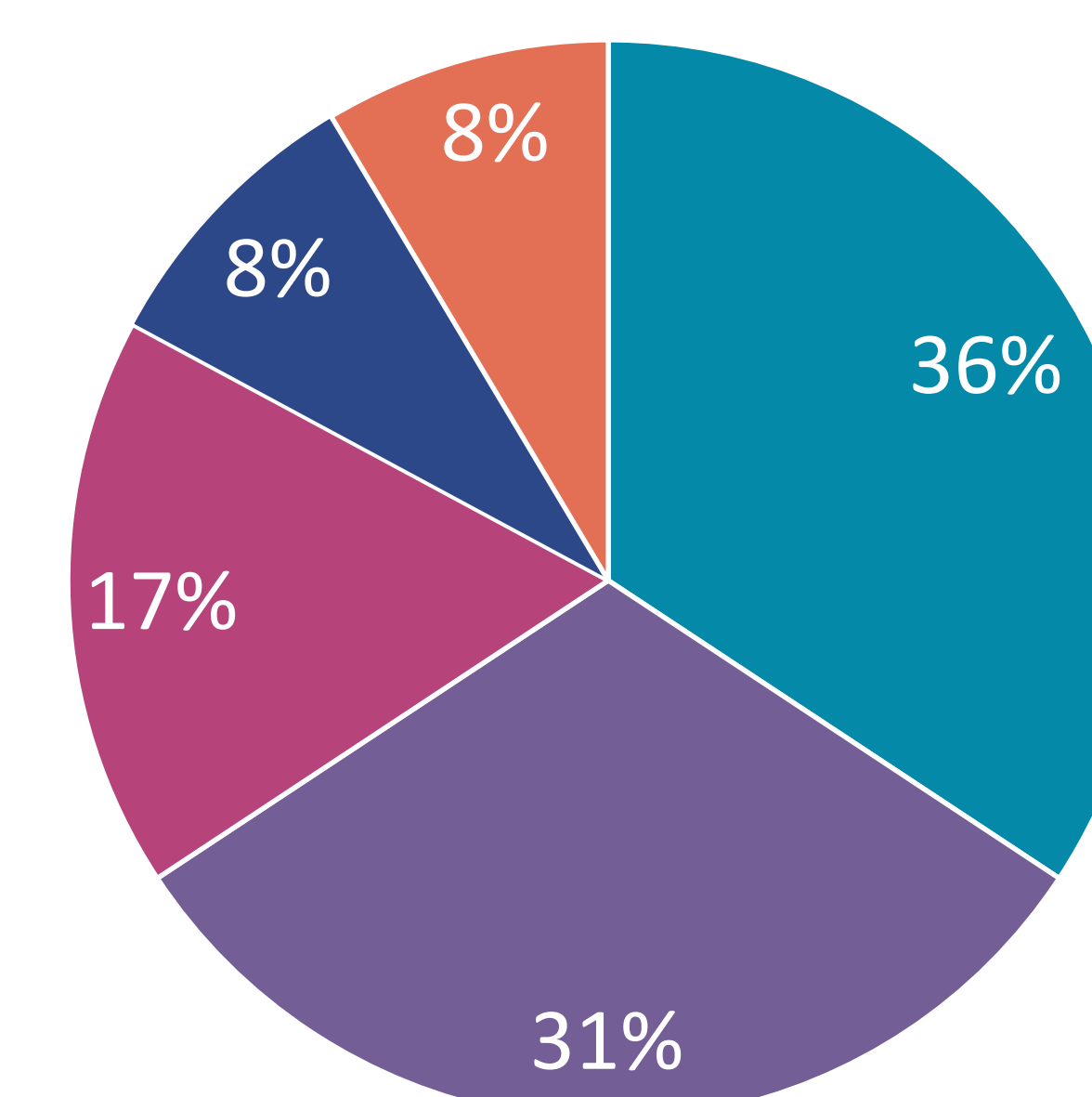


Figure 4: Types of usage of ‘F-words’ with respect to the *integrated/informed* citations

Target Audience	Target Population
Healthcare providers (n= 29/36, 80.6%), of which the majority was physiotherapists (PTs) (n= 16/29, 55.2%).	Twelve childhood disabilities/conditions, mainly cerebral palsy (CP) (n= 13/36, 36.1%).

Figure 5: Target audiences and populations studied

## Discussion

- Researchers are using the ‘F-words’ to operationalize the ICF.
- Connecting the ‘F-words’ to rehabilitation interventions was described as a facilitator to children’s participation and motivation.
- The ‘F-words’ are being recommended by researchers worldwide as a framework for supporting a holistic approach to disability.

## Future Directions

- Identifying the degree and type of uptake informs future directions to move the ‘F-words’ further into research and practice, such as:
- 1. Integration into QoL measurement; and
- 2. Promote uptake not only by PTs and children with CP, but by other healthcare provider groups and childhood disabilities.

## Next Steps

- We are currently conducting a study to explore international service providers’ use of the ‘F-words’ with the purpose of identifying attitudes on and barriers to implementing the ‘F-words’ into practice.

## References

- Rosenbaum, P., Gorter, J.W. (2012). The ‘F-words’ in childhood disability: I swear this is how we should think! *Child Care, Health, and Development*, 38(4):457–463.
- World Health Organization (2001). *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)*. World Health Organization, Geneva Switzerland.