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New 'R Package' of Incidence Estimation Tools released on CRAN

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A new formal 'R Package' to support incidence estimation is available on the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN). This is the canonical way that the R community distributes stable packages to share functionality, and it is the heart and soul of the R coding environment. The new release through CRAN will make a substantial range of functionalities around incidence survey design and survey data analysis seamlessly and flexibly available to any skilled R programmer/analyst.

This package is the fruit of the labours of a loosely defined group of developers collaborating primarily through the South African Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis, which currently holds custodial responsibilities. SACEMA researcher Dr Eduard Grebe is maintaining the underlying code repository on github <https://github.com/SACEMA/inctools>. In addition to accessing the formally released versions directly from within the R environment, sophisticated users and potential collaborators can freely access the full history of all versions of the code,

including as yet unreleased minor updates, by accessing the github repository.

Commenting on the release, Dr Grebe said: "We are very excited to have reached this milestone. Previously, there was a completely SACEMA-controlled set of spreadsheet tools providing a more primitive form of all this functionality which we are now offering through industrial grade R code. The formal package would not have seen the light of day for some time, were it not for substantial inputs from several visitors and collaborators who contributed substantially in the twelve months since we last updated the now formally superseded spreadsheets. Petra Bäumlér and Avery McIntosh in particular deserve special mention for each devoting more than a month of their time to help us create the heart of the package."

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