

# 2020-10-20 ChemMeta release

## Release overview

Comprehensive coverage of dietary supplements now available!

- Three-quarters of all U.S. adults report taking a dietary supplement; we're talking about vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, probiotics, fish oils and more contained in tens of thousands of individual products.
- Unlike with drugs, U.S. manufacturers need not demonstrate their dietary supplement products are safe and effective prior to market; they're deemed safe until proven otherwise.
- ChemMeta now tracks the science investigating the safety of all dietary supplements marketed in the United States - more than 1,200 hypotheses of bodily injury spanning some 2,470 unique dietary supplement ingredients so far.

## Dietary supplements

With this release, ChemMeta now includes all dietary supplements marketed in the United States. U.S. federal law defines a dietary supplement as a product (e.g., tablet, capsule, powder, liquid) taken by mouth, intended to supplement the diet, and containing one or more dietary ingredients such as vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, and enzymes. Dietary supplements can be derived from plants, animal parts, algae, seafood, yeasts, fungi, and other sources.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates dietary supplements as a category of food. As such, dietary supplement products, unlike medicines, are not subject to pre-market approval, meaning that FDA does not have the authority to review dietary supplement products for safety and effectiveness before they are marketed to consumers. In effect, dietary supplements are considered safe until proven otherwise. Moreover, dietary supplement manufacturers need only submit safety data to the FDA for products containing dietary ingredients first marketed after October 15, 1994.

ChemMeta derives its inventory of dietary supplements from the [Dietary Supplement Label Database](#) (DSLDD) maintained by the Office of Dietary Supplements at the National Institutes of Health. The DSLDD contains information taken from the labels of all dietary supplement products sold in the United States (approximately 76,000 products as of this release). Among other data fields, the DSLDD includes the name and form of a product's dietary supplement ingredients, amounts of these ingredients, the name of the product's manufacturer or distributor, and the product's health-related claims and warning statements. As of this release, ChemMeta has identified 2,471 unique dietary supplement ingredients in the DSLDD.

Users can access ChemMeta's dietary supplement content by selecting "Dietary Supplements" in the top right hand corner of any ChemMeta page (1). As of this release, ChemMeta has identified 1,260 hypotheses of bodily injury for 579 dietary supplements within this inventory. The

remaining dietary supplements in the inventory have "no relevant literature" investigating hypotheses of bodily injury at this time.

