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Identifying a New Typology of European Health Systems

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Abstract

Traditional health system classifications may not accurately reflect the complex realities of modern European nations. This study takes a data-driven approach to create a new classification. We used WHO data and applied a K-Means clustering algorithm to 52 European countries, focusing on recent figures for doctor density, nurse density, and catastrophic health spending.

The analysis revealed three clear clusters: "High-Resource, Low-Burden" systems (n=14), "Physician-Centric, High-Burden" systems (n=18), and "Lower-Resource" systems (n=20). This classification offers a detailed way to understand current health system structures and to inform policy decisions across Europe.

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