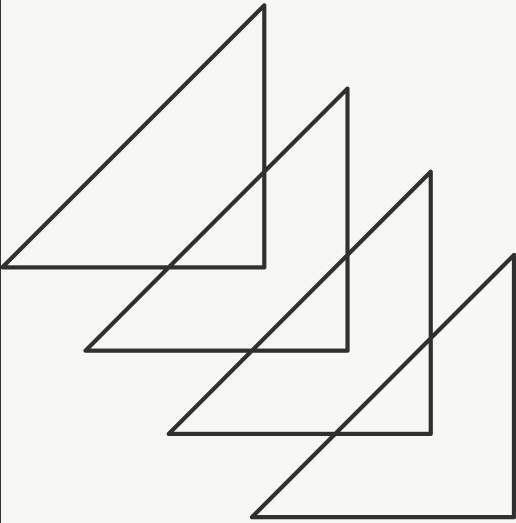


Maryna Martynenko

DSc (Economics), Professor,
Department of Management,
Logistics and Innovation,
Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National
University of Economics



THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH REGULATORY POLICIES FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SCOPING REVIEW



CONTENT

THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH REGULATORY POLICIES FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SCOPING REVIEW

1

Objectives of the research

2

Regulatory policy as a tool for achieving sustainable development goals in the healthcare sector

3

Motives and reasons for government intervention in healthcare market

4

Research design

5

Research results

6

Conclusion

OBJECTIVES

TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVES AND REASONS FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN REGULATING THE HEALTHCARE MARKET

TO JUSTIFY THE ROLE OF REGULATORY POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN HEALTHCARE

TO IDENTIFY THE MAIN AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF REGULATORY POLICY IN HEALTHCARE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They were set by the United Nations in 2015 and agreed upon by 193 countries in the world.



Fig. 1. Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)

SDG 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a crucial target within Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), promoting the right to good health for all people without financial hardship. UHC means access to quality health services, from promotion to rehabilitation, and is essential for social inclusion, ending poverty, and driving economic growth. However, global progress toward UHC has stalled since 2015, with many people facing financial hardship from health costs and a large portion still lacking essential services.

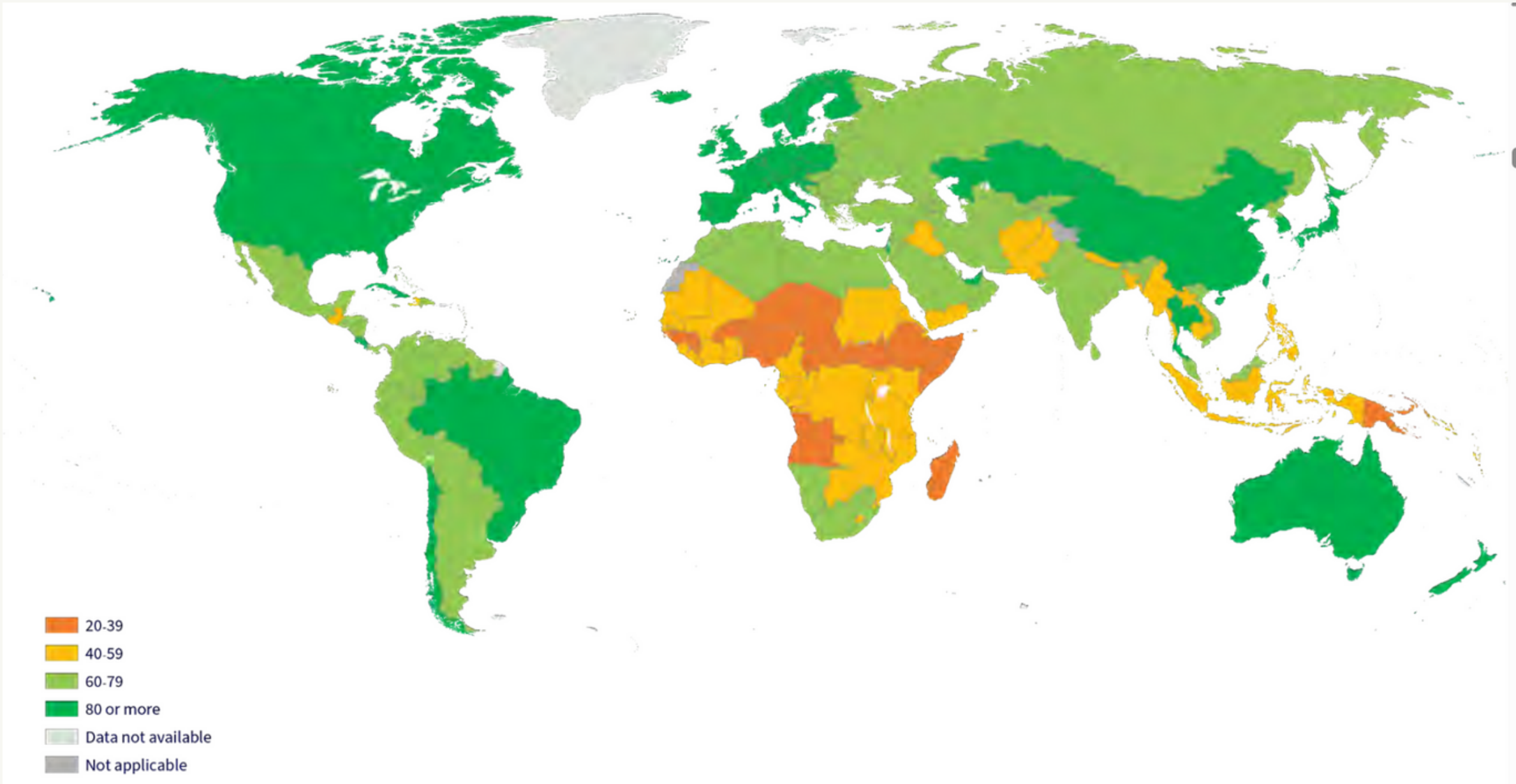


Fig. 2. UHC SCI (service coverage index) by country. Source: WHO. World health statistics 2025

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

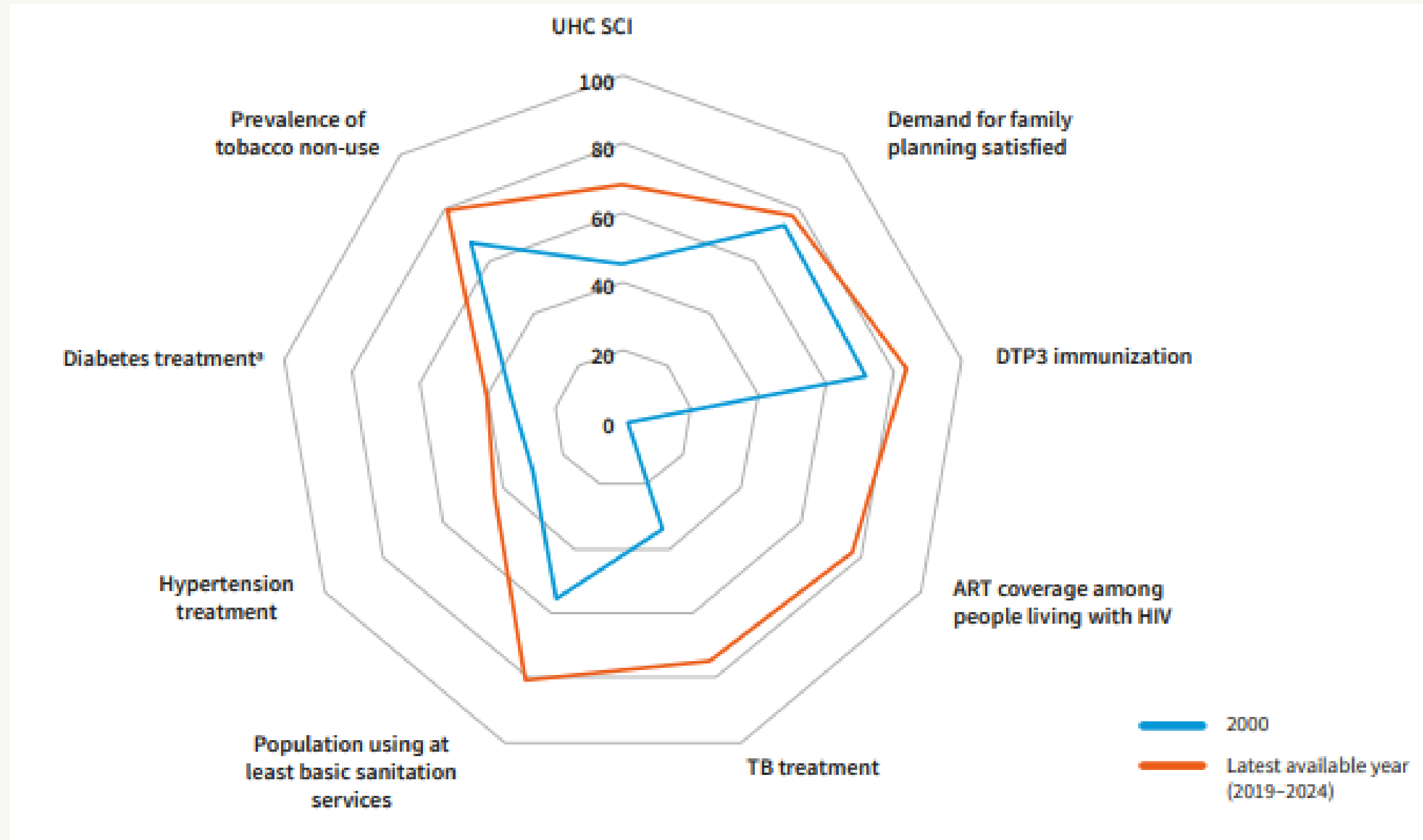


Fig. 3. UHC SCI and selected tracers globally, 2000 and latest available year (2019–2024).
Source: WHO. World health statistics 2025

WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE?

Economics generally presumes that markets deliver efficient outcomes, so why should government do anything? Primary motive for government intervention is therefore **market failure** - a problem that causes the market economy to deliver an outcome that does not maximize efficiency.

Reasons of market failure in healthcare:



WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE?

Garattini & Padula, 2019: Healthcare can be considered a typical example of ‘market failure’ in economic theory from both the demand and supply sides. From the demand side, patients cannot be considered common consumers shopping around for their best deal,since they cannot be fully informed on health services, and illness makes them vulnerable, hence hardly rational and often open to ‘financial blackmail’ (especially for severe pathologies).

The ‘asymmetry’ gap of patients in medicine is filled by physicians, who establish a ‘principal-agent’ relationship with them on the micro level and respond to third-party payers for most healthcare prescribed on the macro level, making patients unaccountable for the costs of their illnesses. This lack of accountability for prescription expenses generates a potential ‘moral hazard’ for both physicians and patients.

Source: Garattini L, Padula A. Competition in health markets: is something rotten? J R Soc Med. 2019 Jan;112(1):6-10. doi: 10.1177/0141076818816935

WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE?

Even if the market is well-functioning, an efficient outcome is not necessarily socially desirable. **Redistribution** is a second reason for government intervention. Redistribution: The shifting of resources from some groups in society to others.

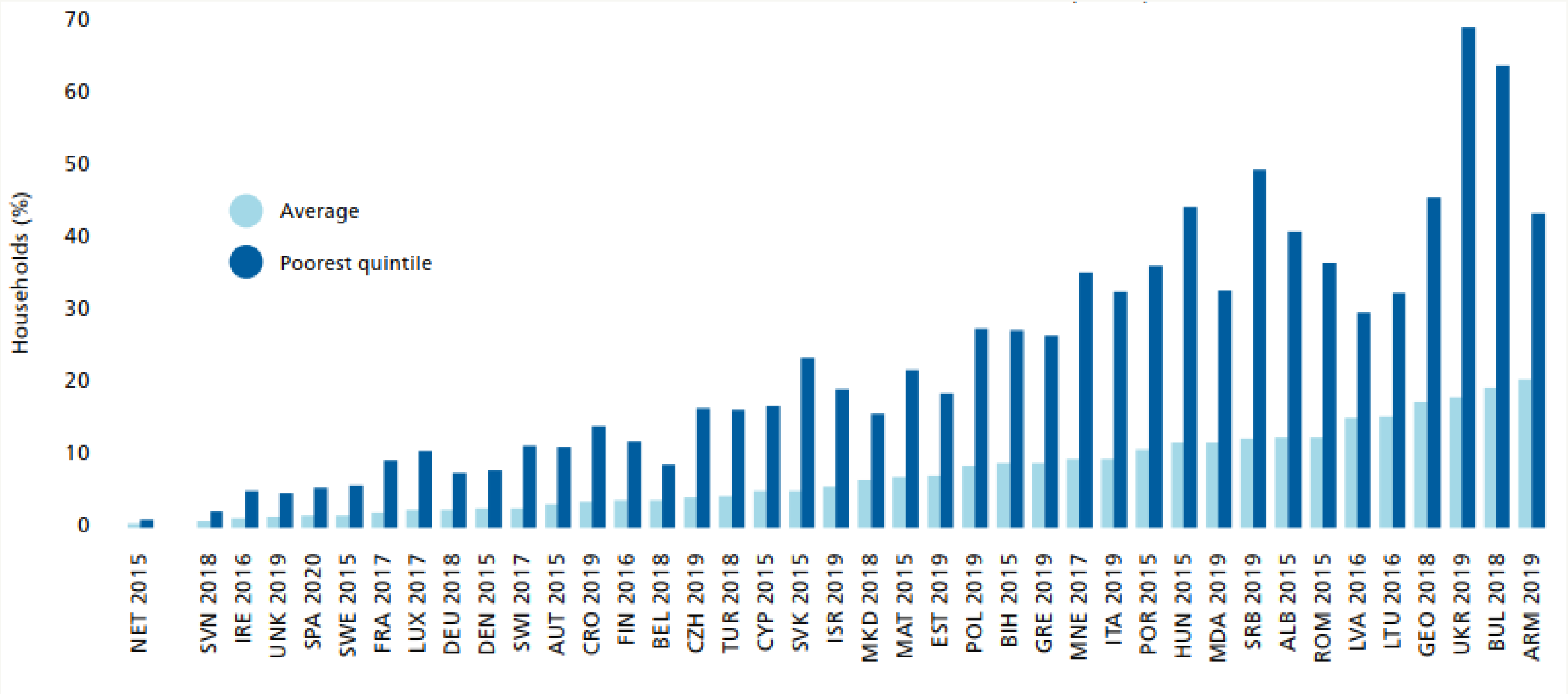


Fig. 4. Share of households with catastrophic health spending on average and in the poorest quintile, 2019 or the latest available year before COVID-19 . Source: WHO (2023) Can people afford to pay for health care?

RESEARCH DESIGN

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDIES VIA SCOPUS DATABASE

IDENTIFICATION

Records identified from:
Scopus (n=10 567)

Records removed before screening: (n = 5 330)
Exclusion criteria: languages other than English, years before 2021, other types of work besides scientific articles

SCREENING

Records screened:
(n=5 237)

Records included: (n=3 129)
Inclusion criteria: title or abstracts contain words “health”, “regulation”, “health market”

Records screened:
(n=3 129)

Reports not retrieved:
(n = 0)

Reports assessed for
eligibility: (n=3 129)

Records excluded: (n=534)
Exclusion criteria: medical content, pure reflection of policy issues

INCLUDED

Studies included in review: (n = 2 595)
Reports of included studies (made automatically using Biblioshiny
(Overview, Documents, Topic Dendrograms)

RESEARCH INPUT

TIMESPAN
2021 - 2024

DOCUMENTS
2 595

CO-AUTHORS PER
DOC
12.6

SOURCES
1 305

AUTHORS
159 913

DOCUMENT
AVERAGE AGE
2.42

RESEARCH RESULTS

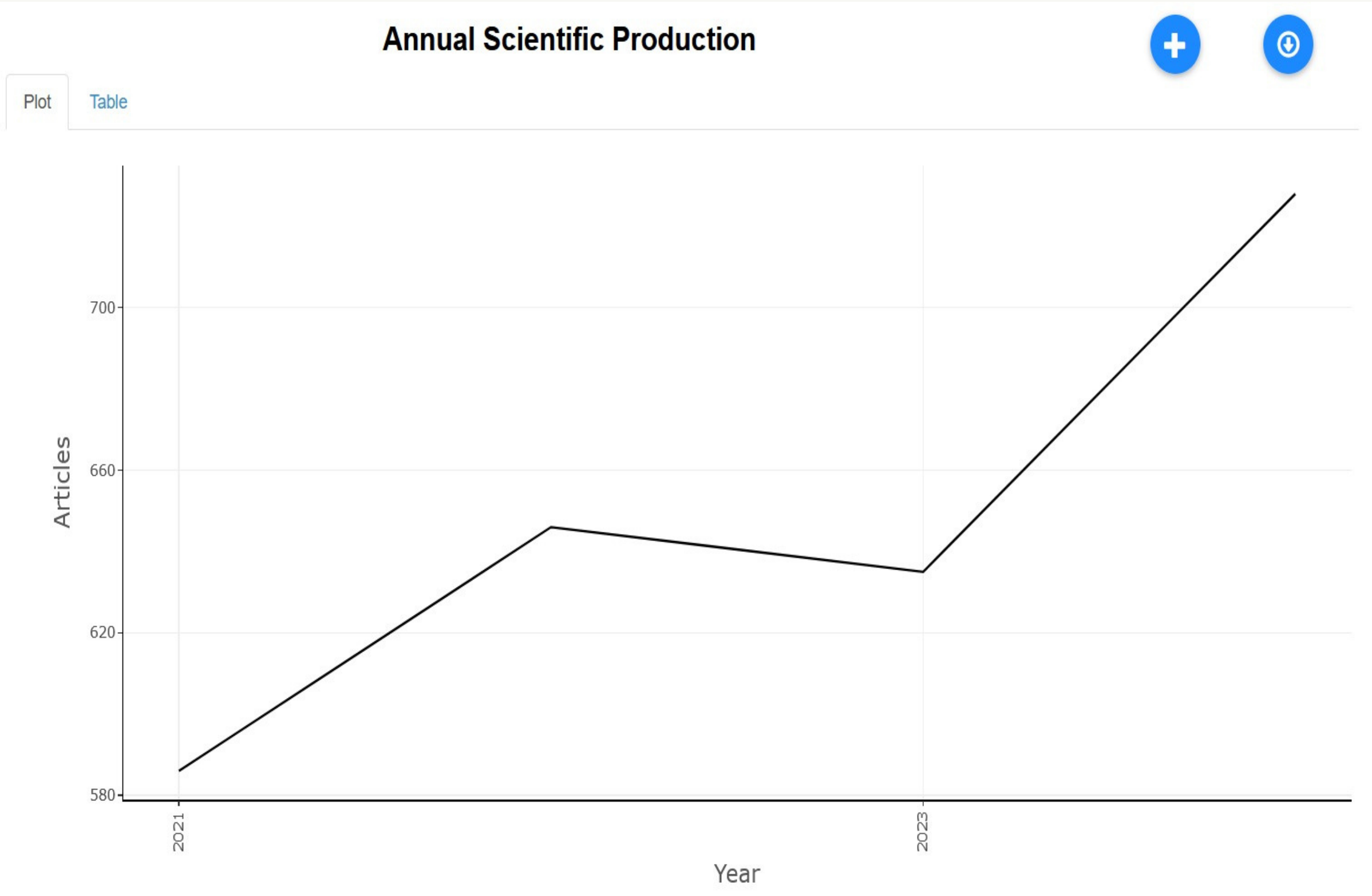


Fig. 5. Annual Scientific Production of the articles devoted to regulation issues of healthcare market (2021–2024). The analysis was performed using Biblioshiny software

RESEARCH RESULTS



Fig. 6. Word cloud - based on the frequency of key words in the analyzed articles.

RESEARCH RESULTS

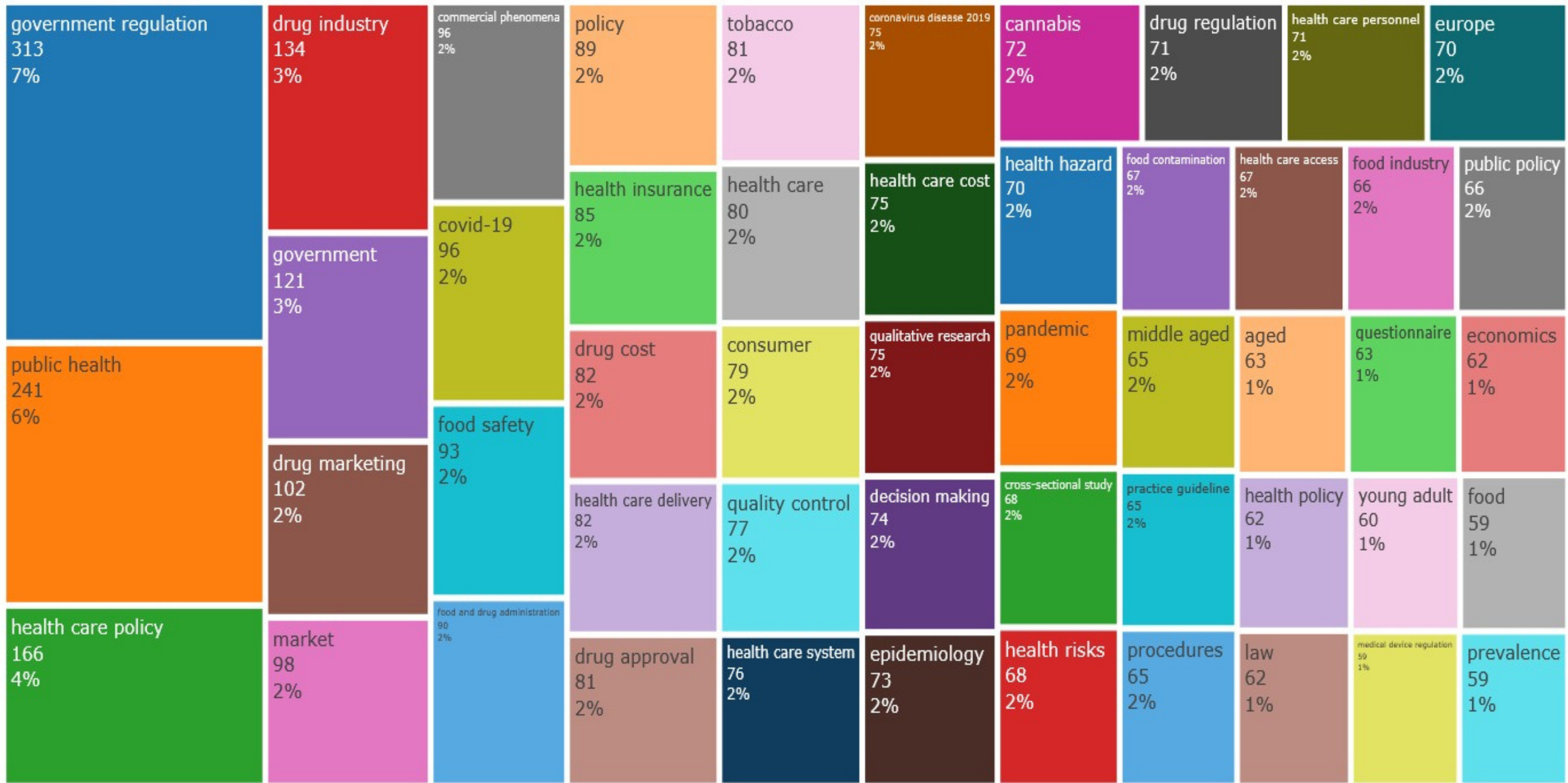


Fig. 7. Word map - based on the frequency of key words in the analyzed articles.

RESEARCH RESULTS

2021-2022

2023-2024

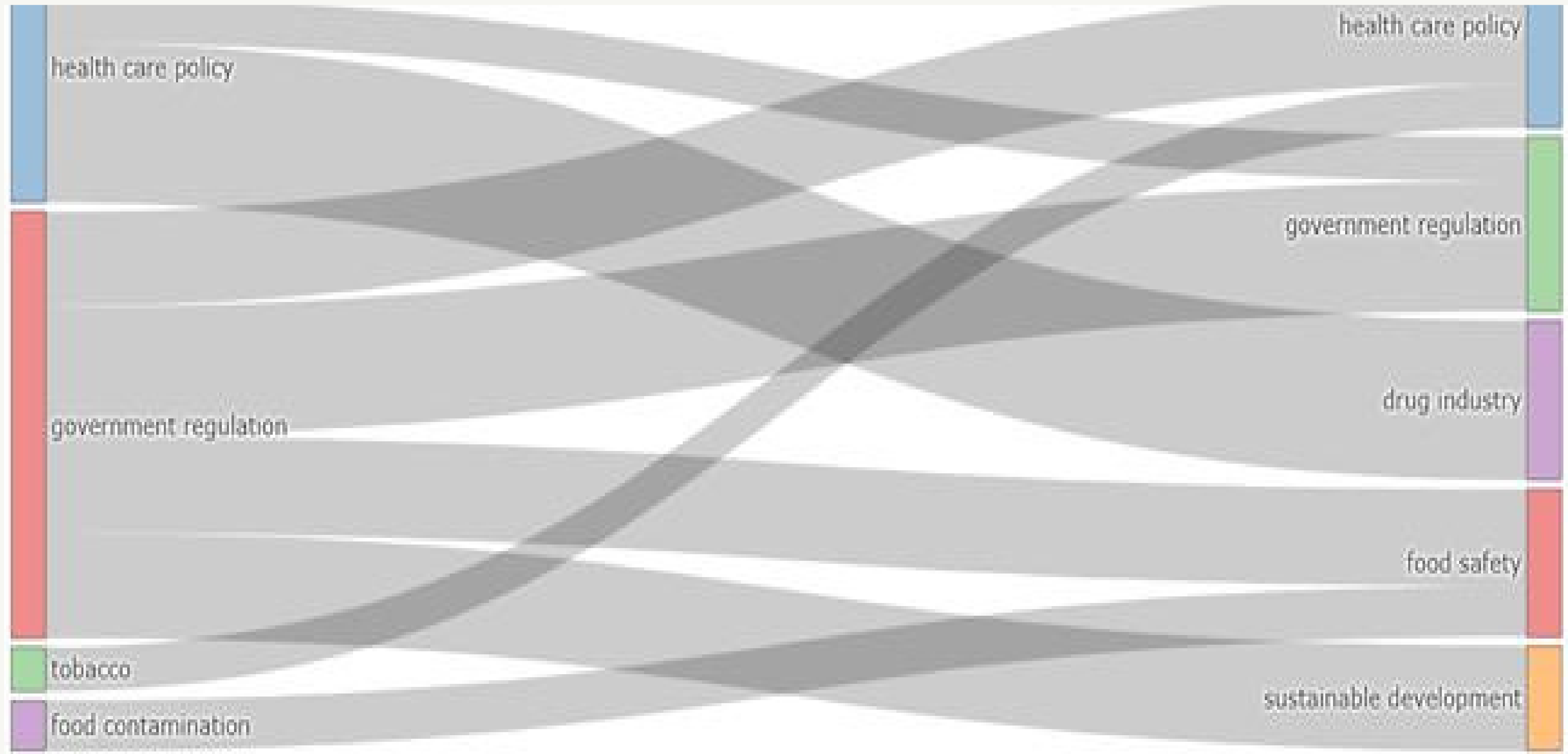


Fig. 8. The most popular research areas in the field of regulatory policy in healthcare (2021-2024).

RESEARCH RESULTS



Fig. 9. Main topics clusters - Topic Dendrogram (2021-2024).

RESEARCH RESULTS

REASONS OF MARKET FAILURE AND REDISTRIBUTION	GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS
Imperfect competition	Antitrust enforcement, price regulation, promoting competition
Externalities	Vaccination programs, subsidies for preventive care
Principal-Agent Problem	Payment reform, auditing, performance-based pay
Information Asymmetry	Transparency policies, mandatory disclosure, eHealth platforms, quality reporting
Third-Party Payers	Co-payments, deductibles, managed care

Fig. 10. How Might the Government Intervene?

RESEARCH RESULTS

REASONS OF MARKET FAILURE AND REDISTRIBUTION	GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS
Irrational Consumers	Health literacy programs, regulation of advertising, evidence-based guidelines
Uncertainty	Social insurance schemes, risk pooling, subsidies
Barriers to Entry	Support for new providers, digital health expansion
Merit Goods / Public Goods	Public financing, government provision of merit goods
Equity Concerns	Antitrust enforcement, price regulation, promoting competition

Fig. 10. How Might the Government Intervene?

CONCLUSION

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND REGULATORY POLICY FOR CORRECTING HEALTHCARE MARKET FAILURES



Government intervention in the healthcare sector is crucial because the healthcare market inherently suffers from multiple market failures, including information asymmetry, externalities, and the public good nature of health. Patients typically lack the knowledge to assess medical services, while providers possess more information, which can lead to inefficiencies such as supplier-induced demand. Additionally, private markets tend to underinvest in preventive care and public health programs that generate positive externalities for society. Therefore, through regulatory policy, the government corrects these failures, ensuring that healthcare systems operate efficiently, equitably, and in the public interest.

CONCLUSION

2. REGULATORY POLICY AS AN INSTRUMENT TO ENSURE EQUALITY IN ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Regulatory policy plays a vital role in guaranteeing equal access to healthcare for all population groups, regardless of income, social status, or place of residence. In an unregulated market, access to medical services often depends on individual financial capacity, leading to inequality and exclusion of vulnerable groups. By implementing public health insurance schemes, subsidies, and legal guarantees, the government ensures universal access to essential services. Such regulation helps maintain fairness, protect patients' rights, and promote social justice in the healthcare system.

CONCLUSION

3. CONTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Government regulation in healthcare directly supports the achievement of SDG 3 – “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” Through the enforcement of health standards, equitable financing mechanisms, and promotion of preventive care, the state strengthens the sustainability and inclusiveness of the healthcare system. Regulatory policies enhance the quality and availability of medical services while improving population health outcomes. In this way, state regulation aligns national healthcare priorities with the global agenda for sustainable human development and well-being.

Thank you!