



FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION APPLICATION

**Title: Investigating the relationship between socioeconomic status and access to preventive healthcare services**

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**Category: From Science to Society**

**Problem (max. 50 words):**

Individuals with lower socioeconomic status (SES) often face significant barriers to accessing preventive healthcare services, leading to poorer health outcomes and increased long-term healthcare costs across Europe.

**Unmet Need (max. 50 words):**

There is limited comparative research that systematically analyzes how SES factors—such as income, education, and occupation—affect the utilization of preventive services like screening and vaccination in Europe.

**Project Description (max. 200 words):**

This project investigates how socioeconomic status influences access to and use of preventive healthcare services among European adults. Using Eurostat microdata from the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), the study examines variables such as income, education level, occupation, and degree of urbanization in relation to the uptake of key preventive services (e.g., vaccinations, cancer screenings). The aim is to identify which SES-related barriers most strongly correlate with underutilization of preventive care. Special attention will be paid to structural inequalities, geographic disparities, and the role of healthcare system organization.

The research seeks to highlight vulnerable subpopulations that are systematically excluded from prevention strategies, thereby contributing to health inequities. Findings will inform targeted health policy interventions at both national and EU levels.

Ultimately, the project supports the development of evidence-based, equity-focused approaches to increase preventive care access, reduce chronic disease burden, and promote public health resilience in the long term.

**Hypothesis (25 words):**

Individuals with higher socioeconomic status are more likely to utilize preventive health care services.

**Implication for Practice (50 words):**

Findings can inform national and EU-level oral health campaigns, improve subsidy allocation, and guide the development of more accessible dental services. Tailored interventions could reduce disparities and support preventive care uptake among low-SES populations.

**Implication for Research (50 words):**

Identifying disparities in health care access can inform strategies to make preventive care more accessible to lower SES population.