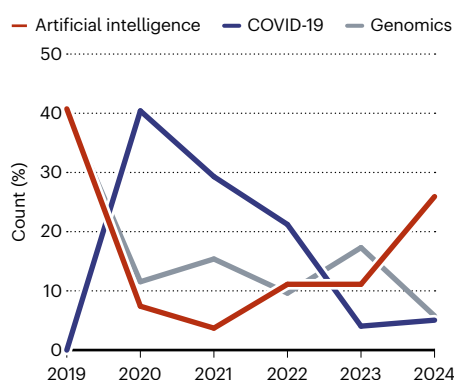


Contrasting conditions

Research hospitals around the world face challenges that vary according to the populations they serve, the investment they receive, and the research priorities of wider society. **Data analysis by Bo Wu. Infographics by Simon Baker, Jack Leeming and Tanner Maxwell.**

TOPICAL FOCUS

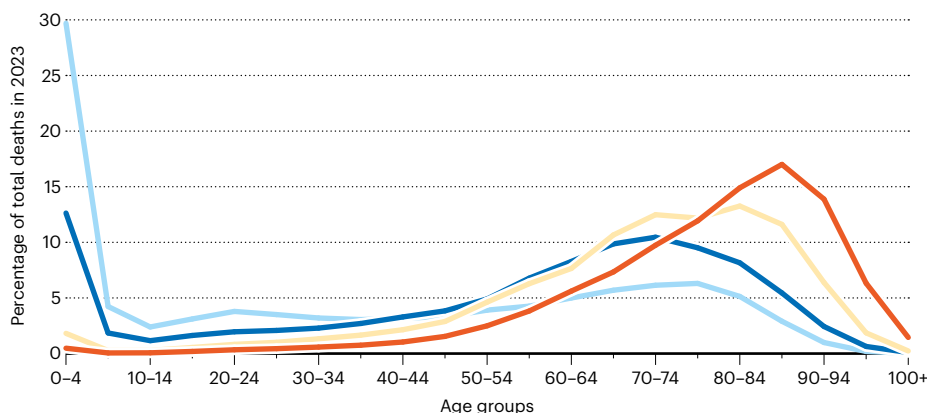
The prevalence of certain topics among the 50 most-cited papers from research hospitals in the Nature Index each year has noticeably changed from 2019 to 2024. As the COVID-19 pandemic waned, artificial intelligence (AI) has again made up a large proportion of such articles.



DEMOGRAPHIC DEMANDS

Health-care systems have differing priorities. Those in poorer countries focus on cutting infant deaths, which make up a high proportion of overall mortality; those in richer countries focus more on prolonging healthy lifespan, given most deaths come later in life.

Countries by income: — High — Upper-middle — Lower-middle — Low



WEALTH AND HEALTH

The United States spends by far the most on health per person and its research hospitals also make the biggest contribution towards Nature Index publications. This investment doesn't seem to correlate with health outcomes, however, with the average person living 64 years free of disability. Many nations in Europe and Asia have a higher figure for this metric despite investing fewer resources in health care.

