



# A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

Issue 108, 2023, February

Welcome to Grey Matter, the Ministry of Health Library's Grey Literature Bulletin. In each issue, we provide access to a selection of the most recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government reports that are relevant to the health context. The goal of this newsletter is to facilitate access to material that may be more difficult to locate (in contrast to journal articles and the news media). Information is arranged by topic, allowing readers to quickly identify their key areas of interest. Email [library@health.govt.nz](mailto:library@health.govt.nz) to subscribe.

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## Public Health

### [Wastewater-based Disease Surveillance for Public Health Action](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred a rapid expansion of wastewater-based infectious disease surveillance systems to monitor and anticipate disease trends in communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched the National Wastewater Surveillance System in September 2020 to help coordinate and build upon those efforts. Produced at the request of CDC, this report reviews the usefulness of community-level wastewater surveillance during the pandemic

and assesses its potential value for control and prevention of infectious diseases beyond COVID-19.  
*Source: National Academies Press*

### [Summary for Policymakers - Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

The report calls to strengthen environmental action within the ‘One Health’ response to AMR, looks at the pollutants that exacerbate AMR in the environment, where they come from, and provides an overview of the environmental action required. *Source: UN Environment Programme*

### [The Australian Centre for Disease Control \(ACDC\): Highway to health](#)

“The promised Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) is an opportunity to get Australia back to the forefront. To do that, the ACDC must have chronic disease as a top priority, not a distant second to preventing infectious disease. And it needs to be at the heart of a new national system for prevention.” *Source: Grattan Institute (Australia)*

### [Adaptation Strategies for Reducing Extreme Heat Health Impacts: A Rapid Review](#)

This report identifies extreme heat adaptation strategies that might be feasibly implemented before and during summer 2022, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Information for this report was collected through a rapid review of published and grey literature and summarizes the current evidence on strategy effectiveness and cost, as well as factors influencing implementation and utilization. In total, 51 strategies were identified, with 10 strategies having effectiveness data, and 12 strategies having information on the facilitators and barriers to implementation/utilization. Overall, extreme heat adaptation options are available and were generally effective in reducing population-level heat-related adverse outcomes when implemented as part of a heat health action plan or warning system, but the evidence supporting the effectiveness and implementation of single strategies in isolation is lacking. *Source: Institute for Health Economics (Canada)*

### [Health risks associated with sea level rise](#)

“The purpose of this report is to examine the available evidence on the impacts on human health and well-being that may be driven by sea level rise. This information is intended to assist public health professionals and others involved in climate change adaptation to better incorporate health considerations into adaptation planning for affected coastal communities.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (Canada)*

### [Do-it-yourself \(DIY\) air cleaners: Evidence on effectiveness and considerations for safe operation](#)

“The purpose of this document is to review the evidence on DIY air cleaner effectiveness, cost effectiveness, energy efficiency and noise compared with commercially available units. This document also gathers resources to assist in building and implementing DIY air cleaners and describes other considerations that might be relevant to deploying these devices in real-world settings. It is intended to assist people with their decision-making regarding the potential use of DIY air cleaners in both residential and nonresidential settings.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (Canada)*

### [What are best practices for risk communication and strategies to mitigate risk behaviours?](#)

“The literature on risk communication from various topic areas emphasizes the importance of clear, repeated, action-oriented messaging by a trusted leader.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (Canada)*

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## Equity

### [The dynamics and impacts of white supremacy, racism, and colonisation upon tangata whenua in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

“Maranga Mai! is a ‘phenomenological’ report meaning it focuses on the experience of racism, colonisation and white supremacy by tangata whenua. Through this research and narrative, tangata whenua speak. The Commission is honoured to publish their research, analysis, stories and views.”

*Source: Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | the Human Rights Commission*

### [Nōku te Ao: Sovereignty of the Māori Mind](#)

“The purpose of this report is to present a Māori world view of factors that contribute to discrimination of people who have experienced — or continue to experience — mental distress.”

*Source: Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency*

### [Transformational Community Engagement to Advance Health Equity](#)

Community engagement is central to addressing the systemic inequities and structural discrimination entrenched in health systems. By fostering trust and mutual respect, exposing unforeseen or unintended barriers to health, and improving program efficacy by accounting for the experiences of the people impacted by programs and policies, community engagement can promote equity. *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US)*

### [Surveying the Silence: Exploring the Impact of Taboos in Women’s Health](#)

“While around 50% of the population are assigned female at birth as women, it’s still taboo to talk about many of the health issues related to their specific anatomy. Women’s health goes far beyond pelvic anatomy and associated conditions, but reproductive and gynecological organs and associated hormones considerably impact women, transgender men and non-binary individuals. In this report, [the authors] explore the impact of these taboos and seek to bring attention to medical conditions affecting women’s lives in our province.” *Source: Alberta Women’s Health Foundation (Canada)*

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## Mental Health & Wellbeing

### [Door-to-door for mental health: A summary report](#)

“The overall aim of the ACDC Project was to promote community-wide awareness of mental health, increase mental health literacy, and normalise conversations about mental health, helping to widen engagement in mental health services across diverse social groups, and potentially increase access to support for those who need it most.” *Source: Centre for Social Impact (Australia)*

### [Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis report: another pandemic in the making?](#)

“In [the] briefing paper, 'Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis: Another pandemic in the making?', [the authors] give an overview of the crisis's current and likely effects on people’s mental health.” *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

### [Early Interventions for Psychosis: First Episodes and High Risk Populations: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

Studies show that people commonly have psychotic symptoms for over a year before receiving treatment. Reducing this duration is critical, because early treatment is strongly associated with better outcomes. The National Academies Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders hosted a workshop in July 2022 to examine the current evidence on short- and long-term outcomes for people at high risk for psychosis. Speakers explored potential policy solutions and strategies that are most effective for coordinated, early-intervention specialty services. This Proceedings document summarizes workshop discussions. *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Cancer**

### [Global breast cancer initiative implementation framework: assessing, strengthening and scaling up of services for the early detection and management of breast cancer: executive summary](#)

The purpose of this core technical package is to outline a pathway for incremental, sustainable improvements tailored to country-specific needs based on three key strategies and objectives: health promotion for early detection; timely diagnosis; and comprehensive breast cancer management. This document provides a common framework linking policy makers, stakeholders, the clinical community, program managers and civil society to evidence-based systematic approaches that can facilitate health systems strengthening and reduce inequities in women’s health throughout their life cycles. *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Physical Activity**

### [Global status report on physical activity 2022: country profiles](#)

These country profiles present progress on implementation of policy recommendations of the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA) 2018-2030 in each country. They also present an estimate of the cost to health systems of not taking action to improve physical activity levels and reinforce the urgency to position physical activity as a shared, whole-of-government priority, and to strengthen coordination and partnerships to promote physical activity. *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Quality & Safety**

### [Advancing patient safety governance in the COVID-19 response](#)

“In the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the safety of health care services remains a serious, ongoing challenge. This once-in-a-century global health crisis exposed the vulnerability of

healthcare delivery systems and the subsequent risks of patient harm. Given the scale of the occurrence and costs of preventable patient safety events, intervention and investment are still relatively modest. Good patient safety governance focuses on what leaders and policy makers can do to improve system performance and reduce the financial burden of avoidable care. Moreover, it is essential in driving progress in improving safety outcomes. This report examines how patient safety governance mechanisms in OECD countries have withstood the test of COVID-19 and provides recommendations for countries in further improving patient safety governance and strengthening health system resilience.” *Source: OECD*

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## Pharmaceuticals

### [Exploring the feasibility of monitoring access to novel medicines](#)

Ensuring affordable access to novel medicines has been identified as a policy priority among OECD and EU countries, yet systematic monitoring of the various dimensions of access is lacking. Previous efforts to measure access have focused primarily on one or at most two of these dimensions, such as availability and affordability, but a more holistic picture is needed. The OECD undertook a pilot study in EU Member States that aimed to determine the utility and feasibility of routine, cross-national monitoring of access to medicines across multiple dimensions. *Source: OECD*

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## Child & Youth Wellbeing

### [Children's Environmental Health: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“The National Academies Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, and Board on Children Youth and Families convened a workshop in August 2022 to explore the impact of specific environmental exposures in utero, infancy, early childhood, and adolescence. Experts in epidemiology, toxicology, dose response methodology, and exposure science explored gaps in knowledge around vulnerabilities to environmental hazards as well as opportunities to inform public policy moving forward. This Proceedings of the workshop summarizes important discussions held during the virtual event and outlines recommendations for ways the Environmental Protection Agency can incorporate new research methods into its risk assessments.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Child and family hubs: an important ‘front door’ for equitable support for families across Australia](#)

“In this paper, the authors explore what is meant by a child and family hub and identify core components that underpin the delivery of these hubs that have emerged from Australian and international research. This paper also introduces the newly established National Child and Family Hubs Network, which creates an opportunity for collaborative learning and sustainable and effective child and family hubs practice. The network offers the opportunity to consider how hubs can become important ‘front doors’ to drive equitable access and quality service delivery across Australia.” *Source: National Child and Family Hubs Network (Australia)*

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## COVID-19

### [Navigating the crisis: how governments used intelligence for decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

“This report examines how governments — and the societies around them — mobilised intelligence to handle the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. It also makes recommendations as to how they could improve their ability to organise intelligence for future challenges of all kinds, from pandemics to climate change.” *Source: International Public Policy Observatory*

### [A clinical case definition for post COVID-19 condition in children and adolescents by expert consensus, 16 February 2023](#)

The WHO definition of post Covid-19 condition for adults was published in October 2021. This enables a shared understanding of this important problem between people affected by post Covid-19 condition, healthcare workers, researchers and other stakeholders. A separate clinical case definition for children and adolescents has been formed, through a process of expert consensus, which recognizes the unique health needs and challenges of this group of people. *Source: World Health Organization*

### [Considerations for integrating COVID-19 vaccination into immunization programmes and primary health care for 2022 and beyond](#)

“This document lays out key programmatic considerations essential for moving from mass campaigns for COVID-19 vaccination to integrating COVID-19 vaccination into immunization programmes, PHC and other relevant health services for 2022 and beyond. The ultimate aim is to fully explore potential areas for integrating different components of immunization programmes, PHC and health systems. Given the evolving epidemiological nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a living document and will be updated to reflect the changing context, including as policies for COVID-19 vaccinations over the longer term are formulated. Finally, the document is not intended to outline a prescriptive approach but rather to present considerations and options for countries to consider and apply based on their needs and the country context.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## Health of Older People

### [Key priorities and solutions for the older persons' mental health and addiction sector](#)

This resource outlines priorities and innovative solutions for the older persons' mental health and addiction sector identified by attendees at the inaugural Older Persons' Mental Health and Addiction Symposium. *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

### [Agesism: What's the Harm?](#)

“Agesism is often dismissed as being harmless, but evidence shows that it causes significant damage to individuals, the economy and society. Agesism causes people to be excluded from society and its institutions; it also leads people to limit their lives, activities and aspirations, damaging their health and wellbeing. And the agesism that is engrained in our culture and institutions means that people

are devalued and marginalised as they get older, creating divisions and inequalities in society.”

*Source: Centre for Ageing Better (UK)*

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## Social Care

### [Exploring pathways for younger people living in residential aged care](#)

“Aged care services in Australia are provided based on need and, due to a range of circumstances, younger people (aged less than 65 years) are living in permanent residential aged care (permanent care). This publication explores the characteristics of younger people entering permanent care and their pathways through the aged care system using linked data that enables an expanded view of the impact of various initiatives over time.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare*

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## Research & Evidence

### [Supporting the routine use of evidence during the policy-making process: a WHO checklist](#)

This WHO checklist is for any organization or person supporting the routine use of evidence in the process of policy-making. Evidence-informed policy-making (EIPM) is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universal health coverage (UHC). *Source: World Health Organization*

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