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

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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 to subscribe.

Click on any of the bulleted points below to go to a section of interest.

Public Health

Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health
"This report written by the World Economic Forum, in collaboration with Oliver Wyman, provides an in-depth economic analysis of how climate change will reshape health landscapes over the next two decades. It highlights increased risks from new pathogens, pollution and extreme weather events and shows how these will exacerbate current health inequities, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable populations." *Source: World Economic Forum*

What Factors Can Public Health Actors Consider to Facilitate the Borrowing of a Public Policy?

"When public health actors propose policy options to policy makers for addressing public health problems, they may include in their proposals policies that have proven effective in other jurisdictions – in other words, they may recommend borrowing these policies. Based on a review of the literature, this document presents a structured list of the factors that facilitate the borrowing of public policies. It also describes how public health actors can use these factors to assess the relevance of proposing the borrowing of policies from elsewhere and, where appropriate, mobilize these factors when presenting these policies to policy makers." *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy*

[Building coalitions for strengthening public health and social measures during health emergencies: meeting report, Cascais, Portugal, 14-15 June 2023](#)
At the meeting, national public health stakeholders shared case examples describing their experiences with PHSM implementation during health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Through case studies presented by representatives from each country, as well as the discussions that followed, several key factors were identified that facilitated successful PHSM responses, namely, the existence of legal mechanisms for emergency responses, multisectoral collaboration, multisectoral governance, surveillance and contact tracing, national research initiatives, international recommendations and evidence in the absence of robust local data and research, community engagement, and social protection measures to mitigate the unintended negative consequences of PHSM. In addition, participants discussed challenges they had experienced relating to PHSM implementation and reflected on the additional resources and capacities that could have supported more effective PHSM. The report details these experiences, discussions as well as a call to action for PHSM participants put forth, encouraging all countries to commit to taking actions to strengthen PHSM as an essential countermeasure for epidemic and panic preparedness and response." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework: 18-month progress report, 1 January 2022–30 June 2023](#)
"The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework is a World Health Assembly resolution adopted unanimously by all Member States in 2011. This report presents overall success metrics and infographics to illustrate progress in PIP Framework implementation. A progress report is published four times a biennium, and covers technical and financial implementation for the PIP PC High-Level Implementation Plan II (HLIP II), as well as the PIP Secretariat. Milestones are reported every six months and indicators are reported yearly. All data are presented cumulatively from the beginning of each biennium, in this case, 1 January 2022." *Source: World Health Organization*

[The economics of the food system transformation](#)
"This report identifies the elements of what a transformation from today's food systems to an inclusive, health-enhancing and environmentally sustainable global food system entails. It shows that such a transformation is not only biophysically and technically feasible - it offers immense economic benefits to societies across the world." *Source: Food System Economics Commission*

[In your face – about the food environment of children and their exposure to food advertisements](#)
"Researchers at Karolinska Institutet have mapped how children are exposed to outdoor advertisement for food in order to better understand their food environment. The results are

presented in a report produced by UNICEF Sweden and the Heart Lung Foundation, showing that advertising is dominated by ultra-processed foods." *Source: Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)*

[Stride and Ride: England's Path from Laggard to Leader in Walking, Wheeling, and Cycling](#)
"There is overwhelming evidence that investment in active travel infrastructure brings significant benefits. These include large returns on investment, addressing emissions from road transport, reducing regional inequalities, and improving health. Despite this, investment has remained low, and walking, wheeling, and cycling rates in the UK lag behind much of Europe. To deliver truly world class active travel infrastructure, government must learn from previous successes in the UK and further afield to ramp up its spending on active travel and provide longer-term certainty to local authorities." *Source: Institute for Public Policy Research*

[Securing Medical Supply Chains in a Post-Pandemic World](#)
"Secure medical supply chains are a cornerstone of resilient health systems. Medical supply chains are complex and internationalised, often involving many suppliers. The COVID-19 pandemic, which combined an unprecedented surge in demand with interruptions in supply and trade, exacerbated pre-existing, rising shortages of essential medicines, such as antibiotics and anaesthetics, and generated shortages of medical devices, such as face masks and respirators. This report offers insights into the risks and vulnerabilities of the supply chains of medicines and medical devices. Policy options to anticipate and mitigate risks of shortages of medicines and medical devices, both routinely and in the context of severe crises, are analysed. Most importantly, the report shows that strengthening the long-term resilience of medical supply chains requires collaborative approaches that balance measures best undertaken by the private sector with those more appropriately managed by governments or supranationally." *Source: OECD*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Ngā taunakitanga mō te hauora me te toiora i Aotearoa New Zealand | Evidence for health and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
"The three health and wellbeing National Science Challenges have produced a wealth of research outputs, which have now been brought together in a single inventory… The inventory contains information about: new models of care and evidence of their effectiveness; frameworks and tools for ensuring that services deliver equitable outcomes; new clinical pathways and treatments; custom-designed apps, chatbots, games and websites; information resources to translate knowledge for service providers; and more." *Source: National Sciences Challenge*

[Climate change, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention](#)
"There is strong evidence that climate change and global warming is a significant and growing determinant of mental health. This paper examines the impact of climate change on First Nations peoples' mental health, suicide, and social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) to explore how climate change adaptation and mitigation practices and strategies can sustain SEWB. Holistic and collective First Nations cultural practices centre on caring for Country and respect First Nations knowledge systems and social networks. The paper reviews the evidence that SEWB is created and sustained by these practices." *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Freedom of Thought, Social Media and the Teen Brain](#)
"Discussions around young people's rights online have largely focused on privacy and freedom of expression. But the increased impact of social media on the way we think, feel and behave provides a new opportunity to evaluate challenges around teen mental health and well-being on digital platforms through the lens of freedom of thought. Samantha Bradshaw and Tracy Vaillancourt write that policy solutions should focus not on outright technological bans but on measures to restrict exploitive platform design features and on investment in media literacy education to empower teens, parents and teachers to use social media in ways that foster health and well-being." *Source: Centre for International Governance Innovation (Canada)*

[Measuring Structural Stigma in Health Care](#)
"Addressing stigma in health care is crucial for individuals with mental health or substance use issues. The Mental Health Commission of Canada has developed two tools, the Stigma Cultures in Healthcare Scale (SCHCS) and the Structural Stigma in Mental Health Care Scale (SSMHCS), to assess and tackle structural stigma. Organizations, large or small, are invited to learn more about these tools and to pilot them to identify areas for improvement, monitor progress, and demonstrate their commitment to a stigma-free health system." *Source: Mental Health Commission of Canada*

[International Scan: Highlights: Mental Health and Substance Use Health Workforce Strategies](#)
"To identify planning trends in different countries, [the authors] conducted a rapid environmental scan of workforce strategies and reforms published between 2012 and 2023, identifying 311 policy documents and 39 academic papers in the United Kingdom (U.K.), Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, the United States, and Canada. The scan will inform Policy Options for a Pan Canadian MHSUH Workforce Strategy, a Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded project." *Source: Mental Health Commission of Canada*

[Paternal perinatal mental health: evidence review](#)
"This evidence review explores paternal perinatal mental health, including the factors affecting paternal perinatal mental health, those most likely to be affected, sources of support used by men during the perinatal period and barriers which might impede men accessing support." *Source: Scottish Government*

[Improving the mental health of babies, children and young people: a framework of modifiable factors](#)
"The mental health of babies, children and young people (BCYP) influences their future mental health, as well as their current and future physical health, affecting their wider life chances and outcomes. The early part of the life course, from birth to young adulthood (0 to 25 years), provides important opportunities for promoting and protecting mental health. The audience for this document includes organisations that lead and develop strategy, policy and guidance that influences BCYP mental health, and those who plan, manage and provide promotion and prevention approaches." *Source: Department of Health and Social Care (UK)*

[Strong foundations: why everyone needs good emotional health – and how to achieve it](#)

"This paper calls for a "prevention revolution" that's rooted in putting good emotional health at the forefront of policy, and sets out seven key recommendations for how the UK Government can achieve good emotional health for all." *Source: DEMOS (UK)*

[We've only just begun: Action to improve young people's mental health, education and employment](#)
"This report is the culmination of a three-year research programme exploring the relationship between the mental health and work outcomes of young people, funded by the Health Foundation and part of their broader Young people's future health inquiry. Over that time, [the authors] have examined issues such as how mental health and insecure work collide; why low hours are so prevalent for young workers today; and the intersection between young people's mental health, employment and geography. Here, [the authors] bring that body of work together with new quantitative analysis and the findings from three focus groups we held in early 2024 to answer the critical question: what policy change is required if the growing number of young people with mental health problems are to thrive in the world of work today?" *Source: Resolution Foundation (UK)*

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Child & Youth Health

[Measures of early-life brain health at population level](#)
"Brain health is increasingly attracting attention thanks to scientific and technological advances. Investing in brain health across the life course through education, access to health care, and healthy environments is essential for meeting modern societal challenges and driving innovation. However, there is no simple, direct or global metric to measure brain health across the life. Existing efforts to quantify for instance early-life brain health rely on proxy measures such as stunting and extreme poverty, account only for individual aspects of brain functioning and fail to include direct measures of brain structure. With the intent to overcome these shortfalls, WHO convened an interdisciplinary expert group in May 2023 to discuss the development of a brain health measurement framework with a focus on early life. Meeting attendees concluded that an ideal brain health metric would combine psychometrics, neuroimaging and neuro-modelling, incorporate important brain health determinants and be able to predict relevant outcomes later in life." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Community Engagement

[Co-designing health research in Aotearoa New Zealand, Lessons from the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge | Te hoahoa tahi i te rangahau hauora i Aotearoa, He akoranga mai i He Oranga Hauora te Wero Pūtaiao ā-Motu](#)
"This report, based on in-depth interviews with academic researchers, community-based researchers and community partner organisations involved in Healthier Lives research, considers the strengths and limitations of the co-design approaches used and provides insights about how to undertake codesign with integrity." *Source: National Science Challenges – Healthier Lives*

[Co-designing health research in Aotearoa New Zealand // A short guide | Te hoahoa tahi i te rangahau hauora I Aotearoa // He aratohu poto](#)
"The term "co-design" is often used in a broad sense to describe an approach to working collectively. This can encompass many different methods and a variety of collective arrangements, processes and impacts. Increased use of co-design in Aotearoa New Zealand over recent years has seen a range in the quality of practice. To help address a lack of guidance around co-design practice, and to further understand the potential benefits of co-design as a methodology, the Healthier Lives–He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge commissioned a kaupapa Māori evaluation of five of our co-designed research projects. While Pacific evaluation frameworks were not used in this study, a number of Pacific community representatives and researchers who participated in it felt that the study design aligned well with Pacific aspirations." *Source: National Science Challenges – Healthier Lives*

[Citizen engagement in evidence-informed policy-making: a guide to mini-publics](#)
"This guide focuses on a specific form of citizen engagement, namely mini-publics, and their potential to be adapted to a variety of contexts. Mini-publics are forums that include a cross-section of the population selected through civic lottery to participate in evidence informed deliberation to inform policy and action. The term refers to a diverse set of democratic innovations to engage citizens in policy-making. This guide provides an overview of how to organize mini-publics in the health sector. It is a practical companion to the 2022 Overview report, Implementing citizen engagement within evidence-informed policy-making. Both documents examine and encourage contributions that citizens can make to advance WHO's mission to achieve universal health coverage. Anyone interested in, or planning to organize citizen engagement in evidence-informed policy-making can use this guide to find relevant information on how to conduct a Mini public. The guide also offers a structured learning process for organizers, commissioners and facilitators who use the guide to develop an actual citizen engagement project. The structure of the guide allows for flexibility and context-specific circumstances that affect the organizing of a mini-public." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Workforce

[Six simple ways to retain doctors in training in the health service: The ATDC REFORM principles](#)
"The ATDC's REFORM principles focus on six challenges experienced throughout training and the working environment in the health service, and across the devolved nations. Recognising their importance and taking active steps to address them will, we believe, improve the recruitment and retention of current and future doctors in training." *Source: Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (UK)*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

[Making care closer to home a reality: Refocusing the system to primary and community care](#)
"The health and care system in England must shift its focus away from hospital care to primary and community services if it is to be effective and sustainable. Despite successive governments repeating

a vision of health and care services focused on communities rather than hospitals, that vision is very far from being achieved. This research explored the underlying factors that have prevented change, and what might need to be done to achieve the vision; we analysed published evidence and national datasets, and interviewed stakeholders across the health and care system." *Source: King's Fund (UK)*

Healthy Places, Prosperous Lives
"IPPR held a series of multi-day deliberative workshops across the country - each exploring people's understanding of health, its relationship with prosperity, and priorities for change. Based on these priorities, we have developed a new framework: 'Seven for Seven' – or seven foundations for seven healthy life years. For each of our foundations, this report identifies examples of transformative place-level interventions, either in the UK or internationally, which are already making a difference. We also recommend the creation of Health and Prosperity Improvement Zones (HAPI), targeted at places where need is highest." *Source: Institute for Public Policy Research (UK)*

Challenge-Led Innovation: Organising for Systems Innovation at Scale
"This booklet is for those who are seeking to accelerate innovation towards addressing complex challenges." *Source: Griffith Centre for Systems Innovation*

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Research, Data, & Technology

Using Evidence During Crises and Fast-Paced Policy Environments
"Many lessons were learned through the experience of rapid evidence generation and utilisation during the early phases of the Covid-19 pandemic. There is now scope to build on this emerging knowledge and consider how rapid evidence generation and utilisation applies to policy development in other fast-paced contexts. This blog explores the supply and demand side factors, and how we might improve the quality and take up of evidence when decision-makers are working at speed." *Source: International Public Policy Observatory (UK)*

Do No Harm guide: crafting equitable data narratives
"This sixth guide of the Urban Institute's Do No Harm project explores the concept of crafting equitable data narratives. What does equity mean? Who does equity include? What methods do we use to ensure equity in data work? How do we present the data in a way that show the humanity they represent?" *Source: Urban Institute (US)*

AI in Health: Huge Potential, Huge Risks
"AI can help address some of health's largest challenges including a depleted workforce, future threats to public health, ageing populations, and increasing complexity of health due to multiple chronic conditions. It is crucial to make use of this powerful new tool while also mitigating its risks. Oversight and robust governance will be necessary to respond rapidly to emerging issues and opportunities." *Source: OECD*

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Family Violence

[**What the research evidence tells us about coercive control victimisation**](#)
"This paper synthesises the findings of a rapid literature review to describe what we know about how common coercive control victimisation is, as well as risk factors and impacts of coercive control victimisation." *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

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Health of Older People

[**Factors, dynamics and effects of isolation for older people: an exploratory study - final report**](#)
"The aim of this research project was to examine the factors, dynamics and effects of isolation experienced by older people in New South Wales and a consideration of the status of older people's rights in this context." *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

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