



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.

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Public Health

[Public Policy Analysis Tool for Rapid Decision Making in Public Health](#)

"The NCCHPP has collaborated with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) to develop a public policy analysis tool adapted to rapid decision-making contexts. This tool is particularly relevant in the context of a health emergency, where decisions must be made at an accelerated pace." *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (Canada)*

[Cluster analysis to assess the transferability of public health interventions](#)

“This paper presents a data-driven transferability assessment using cluster analysis, to identify groups of countries that have the greatest potential for the successful transfer of a specific interventions. Tailored recommendations are made for each cluster of countries regarding the potential transfer of the best practice intervention. This analysis helps policy makers decide whether or not to transfer a public health intervention, and what factors to pay particular attention to when doing so.” *Source: OECD*

[Evaluating COVID-19-Related Surveillance Measures for Decision-Making](#)

“As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve, the types of data available have changed with the identification of new variants, the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, the introduction of new COVID-19 therapeutics, the reopening of the economy, and the relaxing of mitigation measures. Enhanced understanding of these data types can lead to more informed decisions. The latest guidance from the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) highlights new and updated COVID-19 data measures and surveillance strategies that decision makers can use to inform policy decisions.”
Source: National Academies Press

[Tobacco: poisoning our planet](#)

“Tobacco use is a well-documented threat to global health, and in the area of tobacco control, extensive work has been done to communicate the health risks of tobacco use and to reduce the demand for tobacco through effective policy interventions. What has been less discussed or documented are the environmental health risks of tobacco cultivation, production, distribution, consumption and waste. The harmful impact of the tobacco industry on the environment is vast and growing, and has thus far received relatively little attention from researchers and policy-makers. The environmental consequences of tobacco use move it from being a human problem to a planetary problem. It is not just about the lives of tobacco users and those around them, or even those involved in tobacco production. Tobacco can no longer be categorized simply as a health threat – it is a threat to human development as a whole.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[A scoping review of point-of-care testing devices for infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control](#)

“The ability to rapidly diagnose infectious diseases is critical, not only for appropriate and timely treatment of infected patients, but also for infectious disease surveillance, the detection of outbreaks and controlling the rapid spread of infectious diseases nationally and internationally. Point-of-care testing (POCT) for infectious diseases represents a set of technologies that can lead to the rapid detection of such diseases which can influence the way patients are treated for suspected infectious diseases. *Source: ECDC*

[Assessment of point-of-care testing devices for infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control – a mapping exercise](#)

“This document provides the final report of a scoping review undertaken as part of a wider study on the ‘Assessment of point of care testing devices for infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control’ that was commissioned by ECDC and undertaken by RAND Europe between November 2019 and April 2020. The objective of the wider project was to assess the availability, use and impact of POCT devices in European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) Member States and the United Kingdom (UK) for communicable diseases under EU surveillance.” *Source: ECDC*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Shared or brokered care: a paradigm shift for clinical governance frameworks](#)

“Clinical governance is an essential component of a health service’s broader organisational governance system and ensures that there is a clear understanding of accountabilities for care outcomes from staff to the Board, who are responsible for ensuring services for every consumer are person-centred, connected, safe, and effective. However, as this paper identifies, care for individual consumers is being increasingly shared amongst multiple providers.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

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Equity

[Improving inclusion in health and care research: reflections and next steps](#)

“Research has a vital role to play in addressing the stark health inequalities that are evident across the health and care system. But research has its own problems of exclusion, bias and discrimination that need to be addressed.” *Source: UK Health Services Research*

[A conceptual framework for Indigenous cultural safety measurement](#)

“This paper provides a starting point for measuring cultural safety. It undertakes a review and thematic analysis of available literature to build a system-level conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between cultural safety interventions, experience, and outcomes. The framework emphasizes the interrelationship between the concepts of cultural safety and relationality and how relationality must be considered in the measurement of cultural safety. The paper highlights the attributes of a culturally safe health care experience and identifies the domains and sample health system performance indicators of this proposed conceptual framework. It also proposes concepts to inform discussion among and with Indigenous Peoples and organizations about measuring cultural safety in health care, and thus serves as a launching pad to the development, adaptation and implementation of a framework for measuring cultural safety in the health care system.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (Canada)*

[Understanding Indigenous Health Inequalities through a Social Determinants Model](#)

“The authors begin by providing a brief overview of Indigenous health inequalities, followed by a description of social determinants across the life course. They then explain how root (structural), core (systemic), and stem (immediate) environments influence Indigenous health at individual, community, and population levels. Loppie and Wien highlight the importance of Indigenous self-determination and cultural resurgence as vital pathways to wellness.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (Canada)*

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Nutrition & Physical Activity

Fiscal policies to promote healthy diets: policy brief

“This policy brief provides policy-makers, programme managers, health professionals and advocates with information and policy options related to the implementation of fiscal policies to promote healthy diets. To incentivize consumption of healthier options and disincentivize the consumption of less healthy options, governments are called upon to implement fiscal policies that promote healthy diets, such as taxes on less healthy foods and beverages and subsidies on healthier foods and beverages.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Reformulation of food and beverage products for healthier diets: policy brief

“Food reformulation is the process of altering the processing or composition of a food or beverage product, to improve its nutritional profile or to reduce its content of ingredients or nutrients of concern. Food reformulation can contribute to ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, and shifting towards healthier and sustainable consumption patterns. This policy brief provides policy-makers and programme managers, health professionals and advocates with information and practical guidance for implementing effective policy actions to eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids (TFA) from the food supply, reduce the energy content per portion and lower the levels of saturated fats (SFA), sugars and salt/sodium in food.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Nutrition labelling: policy brief

“This policy brief provides policymakers, programme managers, health professionals and advocates with information and options for nutrition labelling policies, including policies on ingredient lists, nutrient declarations, supplementary nutrition information (e.g. front-of-pack labelling FOPL) and nutrition and health claims. Governments are called upon to implement nutrition labelling, first and foremost nutrient declarations followed by FOPL that informs the consumer about the nutritional properties of a food to aid purchase and consumption decisions.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing: policy brief

“This policy brief provides policy-makers and programme managers, health professionals and advocates with information and policy options to increase protection of children from the harmful impact of food marketing by reducing the power of, and exposure of children to, such marketing practices.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Promoting physical activity through schools: policy brief

“This policy brief describes the importance of integrating physical activity into primary and secondary schools so that all children and young people can be physically active on a regular basis, which will contribute to preventing the increasing public health problem of childhood obesity. This policy brief supports school policy-makers, planners, and potentially school principals and describes how the school environment can be used to develop, implement and evaluate whole-of-school strategies that promote physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour among children and young people.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Nudges to promote healthy eating in schools: policy brief

“This policy brief summarizes the rationale and evidence around nudges for promoting healthy eating in school settings. It aims to increase awareness of the opportunities for nudges in a school food setting, and proposes action points for decision-makers to implement nudges for healthier

eating in schools. Evidence shows that the implementation of nudge-based interventions can contribute to improving the school food environment and facilitating the selection and consumption of food and beverages that contribute to a healthy diet in children.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Mental health and Climate Change: Policy Brief](#)

“The world faces an incredible climate crisis. Climate change exacerbates many social, environmental and economic risk factors for problems in mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. Yet, despite this impact, large gaps also exist in many countries between mental health needs and the availability and accessibility of the mental health systems and services to address them. In response to these challenges, WHO has developed a policy brief describing the interconnections between climate change and mental health and providing five key recommendations on potential approaches to address the mental health impacts of the climate crisis.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Dismissed on the basis of my diagnosis](#)

“Dismissed on the basis of my diagnosis draws together evidence from six published studies on community services for complex emotional needs. It highlights clear evidence that people with complex emotional needs experience stigmatising treatment, fragmented services and a lack of support. Many mental health practitioners demonstrate negative views of people with complex emotional needs. And as a result, people too often either receive poor quality treatment or are turned away from services.” *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

[Indigenous self-governance for mental health and suicide prevention](#)

“Through an examination of key issues, policies, frameworks, and programs, this article provides a synthesis of relevant information on Indigenous self-governance in relation to mental health and suicide prevention. It explores the ways in which Indigenous organisations embody and/or enable processes, structures, institutions, and control associated with self-governance in ways that contribute to Indigenous well-being and suicide prevention.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Tātou tātou: being with people and whānau](#)

“Tātou tātou: being with people and whānau is part of Let’s get real. This guide navigates through the Real Skill: Working with people experiencing mental health and addiction needs. It replaces the Engagement Essentials resource which has been updated to reflect the values, attitudes, knowledge, and skills of the essential level for this Real Skill. This resource aims to assist health sector workers to develop their understanding of how to engage effectually with tangata mātau ā-wheako (people with lived experience) and whānau to improve their health outcomes. This guide is suitable for anyone working in the wider health areas and is especially helpful for those new to the sector.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

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Drug Use & Addiction

[Surviving and thriving: Lessons in successful advocacy from drug user-led networks](#)

“Surviving and Thriving: Lessons in Successful Advocacy from Drug-User Led Networks showcases what local and regional drug user-led networks can do when they have adequate resources through accessible and sustainable donor funding. The networks featured in these case studies took on projects that confront the most pressing issues of our time, such as COVID-19, government crackdowns on human rights activists and gender power imbalances. Having directly experienced and survived harms that include discrimination, incarceration, police violence and overdose, people who use drugs and their advocacy networks are uniquely positioned and motivated to implement community-response work. These projects have restored dignity and purpose to the lives they have saved.” *Source: International Drug Policy Consortium*

[European responses to the needs of people who experience homelessness and use drugs](#)

“This paper explores the evidence base for services designed to meet the needs of people who experience homelessness and use drugs (PEHAD). Through a delimited analysis of existing systematic and rapid evidence reviews, it considers the key lessons for the development of effective homelessness services in Europe. The aims of the paper are two-fold. Its first objective is to identify the gaps and limitations in our understanding of what constitutes homelessness, as well as the holes in the existing evidence base around service provision for those experiencing homelessness. The second goal is to draw on the available research to explore what is available in terms of practical knowledge transfer, i.e. evidence that might enhance homelessness prevention and services.”

Source: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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Health of Older People

[The impact of dementia on women: how women are disproportionately affected across their lives and what needs to change](#)

“This analysis considers how women are impacted by dementia and what actions are needed to ensure that women have the best chance to benefit from future research and treatments for dementia.” *Source: Alzheimers Research UK*

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Cancer

[Integrating shared care teams into cancer follow-up care models](#)

“This issues brief highlights the gaps in knowledge relating to the implementation of shared care cancer follow-up models in Australia. It focuses on some of the key considerations for implementing shared care, including the need to collect primary care data and link this to patient health outcomes data; mapping of the health care workforce involved in delivery to identify gaps in services; and developing national clinical governance frameworks that enable continued monitoring and quality improvement.” *Source: Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research (Australia)*

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Health Technology

[Supporting patient engagement with digital health care innovations: Lessons from the Care City test bed](#)

“Health apps and digital tools have the potential to help alleviate some of the huge pressures the NHS faces from Covid-19, the backlog of care and rising demand. But introducing these tools into health care and supporting people to use them is never a quick fix, and they will not work for everyone. This summary provides a set of lessons for ensuring digital health innovations are applied in optimal ways for the people using them. The findings are based on a large-scale evaluation of digital technologies being implemented in health and social care in East London.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

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Child Youth & Wellbeing

[Why sleep matters for rangatahi](#)

“There is a lot going on for rangatahi during their adolescence. It is a time of amazing development, change, opportunity, and some vulnerability too. How this development unfolds, and how well rangatahi are set up to face their future, depends on many factors. One of these is sleep. This article explores what we know about sleep and rangatahi.” *Source: Brainwave (New Zealand)*

[Āhurutia Te Rito It takes a village: How better support for perinatal mental health could transform the future for whanau and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

“It’s long been understood that a good start in life is important, but now a growing body of research demonstrates how significant parental mental health in particular is to long-term family and whānau wellbeing. Mental distress during the perinatal period (from the beginning of pregnancy until a year after birth) can have severe long-term consequences, not only for parents in distress, but also for their babies. This report analyses what contributes to perinatal distress in Aotearoa New Zealand and identifies opportunities and policy levers to better support new parents and their babies.” *Source: Helen Clark Foundation (New Zealand)*

[Sharing Hope: Co-creating understandings of what gives young people hope](#)

“The Collaborative Trust, with generous support from the Oakley Foundation, recently completed some youth-led research exploring the concept of hope, what it means for rangatahi, what builds feelings of hope and what gets in the way of feeling hopeful. We asked young people how we can help young people feel more hopeful.” *Source: The Collaborative Trust (New Zealand)*

[Toward a socio-ecological understanding of adolescent violence in the home by young people with disability](#)

“This report presents findings from Stage 1 of a larger project entitled Building a framework to prevent and respond to young people with disability who use violence at home, which aims to use multidisciplinary bodies of knowledge, and input from families, to develop a conceptual framework

that examines and explains the intersection of AVITH, gender and disability.” Source: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety

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