



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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Equity

[Socio-economic and ethnic health inequalities in COVID-19 outcomes across OECD countries](#)

"The COVID 19 pandemic has disproportionately hit some vulnerable population groups. Those living in deprived areas, migrant population, and ethnic minorities are at higher risk of catching and dying from the virus than other groups, and they also face significant indirect health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic - both mental health impacts and disruption of routine care. The working paper gathers evidence on the direct and indirect health impacts of the COVID-19 on the poor population and the

ethnic minorities. It reviews factors underlying these inequalities, and maps policy interventions adopted by OECD countries to help address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable population groups.” *Source: OECD*

[Spatial Justice as a Driver of Health in the Context of Societal Emergencies](#)

“Spatial justice is about equitable access to parks, housing, and more. During societal emergencies, including pandemics and climate change, the relationship between people and places requires greater attention and action to integrate the knowledge of people with lived experience, especially historically marginalized communities. On September 20 and 21, 2021, the National Academies Roundtable on Population Health Improvement hosted a virtual workshop to explore the nature, use, design of, threats, and changes to places as a resource for health and public spaces as a shared resource. This Proceedings document summarizes workshop discussions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Moving from exclusion to inclusion in digital health and care](#)

“Digital exclusion in health and care often overlaps with other forms of social exclusion and disadvantage. It isn’t simple or static, there are nuances and multiple dependencies that change depending on personal or clinical circumstances. In this long read we explore what digital exclusion is, who is commonly assumed to be excluded, and what can be done to mitigate digital exclusion. We highlight the learning from a series of workshops we ran with health and care service providers about how they have successfully tried and tested new approaches to increase digital inclusion.” *Source: Kings Fund (UK)*

[Ensuring digitally enabled health care is equitable and effective for all](#)

“Policy-makers should act to improve people’s experience of digital health and care services, to reduce inequalities and to ensure everyone is able to choose and use digitally enabled health and care services.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

[Tackling inequality and disadvantage: Key actions policy makers, commissioners and provider organisations can take when developing an approach with a digital component](#)

“This resource, launched by members of the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance, highlights how groups of people who experience the greatest barriers to accessing health and care are often the most likely to experience digital exclusion.” *Source: National Voices (UK)*

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Public Health

[Pandemic preparedness for the real world: why we must invest in equitable, ethical and effective approaches to help prepare for the next pandemic](#)

“Drawing on a growing body of social science evidence, this report contends that securing health in the face of today’s uncertain disease threats in often unpredictable settings means making social, economic and political priorities as core to the preparedness agenda as biological and technological ones.” *Source: Institute of Development Studies*

[The Burden of Concern: The Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood Project](#)

“The HEHN project documented first-hand experiences of Winnipeg residents in inner city and mature neighbourhoods who live near industrial and contaminated sites, most notably in Point Douglas and St. Boniface, in Winnipeg, 2023.” *Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*

[Which programs reduce maltreatment and improve safety for vulnerable children?](#)

“This Evidence to Action Note shares findings from a rapid evidence scan carried out by Western Sydney University into programs that help to reduce harm and maltreatment, and improve outcomes for vulnerable children aged 0-5 years.” *Source: Department of Communities and Justice (NSW)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Neurodiversity and mental health](#)

“This rapid literature review presents the evidence for the development of the Equitable Access to Wellbeing Framework (Te Pou, 2022) which describes the competencies needed for people in the mental health and addiction sector working with people who have an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

[An overview of Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention in Australia](#)

“This literature review provides essential foundational information, along with statistics on Indigenous mental health prevalence, suicide and self-harm. It provides an overview of contemporary Australian policy responses and directions, and outlines risks and protective factors for mental health and suicide prevention.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

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Alcohol

[Attitudes and behaviours on supplying alcohol to under 18s](#)

“Attitudes and behaviours on supplying alcohol to under 18s: Qualitative research from the 2019/20 Alcohol Use in New Zealand survey (AUiNZ) is a report that aims to gain insight into adults’ attitudes around why people may supply alcohol, or think it is a good idea to.” *Source: Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

[Social supply of alcohol to under 18s](#)

“Social supply of alcohol to under 18s: Quantitative research from the 2019/20 Alcohol Use in New Zealand survey (AUiNZ) is a study that measured behaviours, attitudes, and norms on the social supply of alcohol to under 18s. Quantitative analysis methods examined data, using nine outcome survey measures from the 2019/20 Alcohol Use in New Zealand survey (AUiNZ).” *Source: Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

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Nutrition & Obesity

[Innovation Sweet Spots: Food innovation, obesity and food environments](#)

“This analysis finds that over the past decade, a surge of research and investment has given rise to a host of food innovations. Apps let us order from a myriad of different restaurants at the touch of a button and we're now growing meat in laboratories. But, asks the report, is the future of food headed in the right direction?” *Source: Nesta (UK)*

[WHO global report on sodium intake reduction](#)

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed this report to monitor progress and identify areas for action in the implementation of sodium reduction policies and other measures within Member States and across WHO regions and World Bank income groups. For the first time, a Sodium Country Score from 1 (the lowest level) to 4 (the highest level) is allocated to each Member State based on the level of implementation of sodium reduction policies and other measures. The Sodium Country Score is used to estimate the impact of policy progress on population dietary sodium intake and cardiovascular disease.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Saturated fat and trans-fat intakes and their replacement with other macronutrients: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective observational studies](#)

“Together with other modifiable risk factors such as physical inactivity, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets – including high intakes of saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty acids – are a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and other diet-related noncommunicable diseases. Saturated fatty acids are found primarily in foods from animal sources and in some plant-derived oils and fats. Trans-fatty acids can be produced industrially by the partial hydrogenation of vegetable and fish oils, but also occur naturally in meat and dairy products from ruminant animals. This systematic review brings together the most current scientific evidence on health effects of saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake, including the effects of replacing saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty acids in the diet with other macronutrients on a wide range of key health outcomes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[World Obesity Atlas 2023](#)

“Global study predicts that more than half the global population will be living with overweight and obesity within 12 years.” *Source: World Obesity*

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Workforce

[What the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed: the findings of five global health workforce professions](#)

“This evidence synthesis describes how the five professions were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in common and different ways by comparing the experiences of dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physicians and physiotherapists. The individual organizational findings of the five World Health Professions Alliance organizations inform the five key themes and the subsequent findings and recommendations. The inspiration was to inform future data collection efforts by building upon collective knowledge, data accessibility and question formats that have generalizable applicability to all World Health Professions Alliance organizations.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Future proof: The impact of parental and caring responsibilities on surgical careers](#)

“Support for working parents is vital for ensuring staff currently employed by the NHS achieve work–life balance, particularly amidst a workforce crisis driven by poor retention as well as recruitment. The Royal College of Surgeons of England commissioned the Nuffield Trust to explore the impact of parental and caring responsibilities on surgical careers in order to understand the issues within that profession. Our research shows a worrying gap between policy and reality.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Organizational Trustworthiness in Health Care](#)

“The Institute for Healthcare Improvement partnered with the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation to identify key organizational-level drivers and change ideas that repair, build, and strengthen trust between health care organizations and clinicians, and between health care organizations and the communities they serve. The project distinguished between interpersonal and institutional trust, the latter being the focus of this report, and centered equity by seeking to learn from and design for the experiences of historically marginalized communities. This report describes a theory of how to repair, build, and strengthen trust, presented as a three-step approach with specific change ideas and associated measures for improvement.” *Source: Institute for Healthcare Improvement*

[Making Health for All Policies: Harnessing the co-benefits of health](#)

“Health actors will not achieve their aims on Sustainable Development Goals unless they are able to change the narrative. Health in All Policies is a key tool in making that change but is sometimes overlooked as ‘too health sector’ focused. There is a need to convince other sectors that health contributes to their aims and to achieving goals across sectors and to demonstrate that the co-benefits of working intersectorally is key to making real progress achieving the SDGs.” *Source: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

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Research & Technology

[Using Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research](#)

“In response to a request from the National Institutes of Health, the National Academies assembled an interdisciplinary committee of expert volunteers to conduct a study to review and assess existing methodologies, benefits, and challenges in using race, ethnicity, ancestry, and other population descriptors in genomics research. The resulting report focuses on understanding the current use of population descriptors in genomics research, examining best practices for researchers, and identifying processes for adopting best practices within the biomedical and scientific communities.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Care Provision

[Dying well at home: commissioning quality end-of-life care](#)

“Increasingly people are dying at home rather than in hospital and this trend is set to continue. This raises questions about whether there are the right staff with the right skills to support people in their home at the end of life, and whether the health and care system is prepared for changing levels of demand. [The authors] interviewed NHS commissioners in 10 areas of England, and social care commissioners in a further 5 areas, to find out how they assess need, plan services and assure the quality of care for people who die at home.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

[Providing care to people with advanced HIV disease who are seriously ill](#)

“This policy brief is intended to support the uptake and implementation of the WHO-recommended advanced HIV disease package of care. It summarizes WHO guidance related to the care of people with advanced HIV disease who present at different levels of the health-care system and are seriously ill when they present.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Health of Older People

[Life and Death in Long-Term Care: Are We Learning the Wrong Lessons from COVID-19?](#)

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on long-term care (LTC) homes. Governments and policymakers should use the experience to create a better model of care that puts the needs and interests of recipients first. This study presents a novel approach to measuring the performance of long-term care institutions during the pandemic, and identifies the factors behind their performance. Based on the findings, it proposes three areas for action that could inform federal, provincial and territorial government discussions on how to improve long-term care in Canada.”
Source: Institute for Research on Public Policy (Canada)

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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](#)

“Breast cancer is the most common cancer worldwide and the leading cause of cancer deaths among women, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries. The Global Breast Cancer Initiative strives to reduce breast cancer mortality by 2.5% per year, which over a 20-year period can save 2.5 million lives. 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, programme 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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Climate Change

[Climate trauma: the growing toll of climate change on the mental health of Australians](#)

“In December 2022, with support from Beyond Blue, the Climate Council set about building a clearer picture of the impact of climate change on the mental health of Australians. Over the years, there have been many stories of the profound mental health toll that events like the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires and 2022 east coast floods have taken on Australian communities. The overall message from this study is simple: stronger action on climate change is fundamental to promoting the mental health and wellbeing of not only Australians, but of communities all over the world.”

Source: Climate Council (Australia)

[A guide to post-flooding community-level psychosocial response and recovery in Canada](#)

“In this guide, PolicyWise identifies and describes post-flooding practices that Canadian public health professionals can adapt and apply in their local context. [They] also outline contextual factors that may influence the effectiveness of these practices for diverse communities and circumstances.

[They] build on our preliminary research into the mental health and psychosocial well-being impacts of flooding, with emphasis on systemically excluded groups.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health*

[Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report](#)

“Feasible, effective options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change exist and need to be put into action now.” *Source: United Nations*

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