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 and Global Health

Interventions to reduce alcohol's harms to health: A modelling study
"This research project used modelling techniques to estimate the health impacts of alcohol interventions and their contribution towards health equity in the Aotearoa context. The research was conducted by a team from the University of Otago and the Northern Regional Alliance, and was funded by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand (previously Te Hiringa Hauora). Four hypothetical intervention scenarios were modelled that included alcohol tax increases, outlet density reduction, outlet trading hours reduction and bans on alcohol marketing. These scenarios were compared to a

business as usual scenario that assumed no changes in alcohol consumption or policy settings."
Source: Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)

Defining collaborative surveillance
"At the 75th World Health Assembly in May 2022, WHO set out a harmonizing framework to strengthen the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience (HEPR). This document defines the collaborative surveillance concept—proposing a conceptual model, dimensions across which collaboration should occur to enable multi-source and multisectoral surveillance, key objectives and concrete capabilities for how countries, with the support of WHO and partners, can further advance surveillance capabilities, and address fragmented and insufficient capacity." *Source: World Health Organization*

World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals
"The World health statistics report is the annual compilation of health and health-related indicators which has been published by the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2005.   The 2023 edition reviews more than 50 health-related indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13)." *Source: World Health Organization*

Impacts of air pollution across the life course – evidence highlight note
"A new review of evidence highlights the impact air pollution has on health across the life course, from before birth through to old age." *Source: Imperial College London (UK)*

Accelerating the Development and Uptake of Rapid Diagnostics to Address Antibiotic Resistance
"The National Academies Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation; Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies; and Forum on Microbial Threats hosted an October 2022 workshop exploring the current landscape of rapid diagnostics to address antibiotic resistance, challenges and opportunities for spurring innovation, and practical next steps for accelerating the development of new diagnostic tools." *Source: National Academies Press*

Partnering with Community Pharmacists to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance
"What follows is one example of how public health has worked with primary care and community organizations involved in front-line service delivery to better respond to the priorities of people and communities. This case story, along with other stories of 'joint action for equity' in the Learning from Practice series, offers insights about how partnerships can begin, what helps them succeed, and where roles or systems can change to improve population health and health equity." *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease (Canada)*

WRAP around families experiencing AVITH: towards a collaborative service response
"The 2020 ANROWS report The PIPA project: Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent violence in the home found that young people and their families experiencing adolescent violence in the home (AVITH) were not receiving adequate service responses. This research identified that to appropriately address the complex needs that families were presenting to services with, service interventions in AVITH need to take the form of wrap-around, collaborative responses. This report was designed to respond to recommendations stemming from the PIPA project. With a specific aim

to develop a framework for evidence-based and holistic responses to AVITH, the project also explored current barriers in the service system and enablers of consistent and collaborative practice." *Source: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety*

[Addressing violence against women through social protection: A review of the evidence](#)
"Based on a phased scoping review of peer-reviewed academic and grey literature, which captured 48 articles focused on both social protection and gender-based violence, this policy paper brings the two fields together, to identify pathways for harnessing social protection to address VAW. In doing so, the paper enables policymakers to move beyond a focus on singular social protection interventions and towards a systems perspective that opens opportunities for preventing and addressing VAW through a broad range of social protection schemes, such as multisectoral coordination, accompaniment models, and training for social protection providers." *Source: United Nations*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Health service delivery framework for prevention and management of obesity](#)
Multisectoral efforts to influence behaviours around healthy diet and exercise, while essential, have been insufficient to halt the rising prevalence of obesity. While these efforts must continue and escalate, it is now imperative to also deliver a corresponding health system response which ensures that services to prevent, treat and manage the disease are universally available, accessible, affordable, and sustainable. WHO "Health service delivery framework for prevention and management of obesity" offers a way forward. The framework integrates health and social systems responses that can be adapted according to country, context, circumstance, and need. It outlines opportunities for integrating and activating obesity interventions within already existing care pathways. *Source: World Health Organization*

[A primary health care approach to obesity prevention and management in children and adolescents: policy brief](#)
"This policy brief discusses the challenges and opportunities for preventing obesity in children and adolescents, and providing health services to treat and manage those already living with obesity. It outlines possible interventions through the primary health care approach." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Use of non-sugar sweeteners: WHO guideline](#)
"This guideline is intended for a wide audience involved in the development, design and implementation of policies and programmes in nutrition and public health. This guideline includes a recommendation on the use of non-sugar sweeteners which can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to address non-sugar sweetener use in their populations through a range of policy actions and public health interventions." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Total fat intake for the prevention of unhealthy weight gain in adults and children: WHO guideline](#)
"This guideline is intended for a wide audience involved in the development, design and implementation of policies and programmes in nutrition and public health. This guideline includes a

recommended level of total fat intake which can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to address various aspects of dietary fat in their populations through a range of policy actions and public health interventions." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake for adults and children: WHO guideline](#)
"This guideline is intended for a wide audience involved in the development, design and implementation of policies and programmes in nutrition and public health. This guideline includes recommended levels of intake for saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty acids and recommendations on preferred replacement nutrients which can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to address various aspects of saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake in their populations through a range of policy actions and public health interventions." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Carbohydrate intake for adults and children: WHO guideline](#)
"This guideline is intended for a wide audience involved in the development, design and implementation of policies and programmes in nutrition and public health. This guideline includes recommendations on preferred food sources of carbohydrates, and recommended levels of intake for fruits and vegetables, and dietary fibre which can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to address various aspects of carbohydrate intake in their populations through a range of policy actions and public health interventions." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Consumer Engagement & Communication

[WHO framework for meaningful engagement of people living with noncommunicable diseases, and mental health and neurological conditions](#)
"The overall objective of the framework is to support WHO and Members States in meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs, and mental health and neurological conditions to co-create and enhance related policies, programmes and services. This framework will contribute to advancing understanding, knowledge and action on meaningful engagement and related participatory approaches from an evolving evidence base. It provides practical guidance and actions for transitioning from intention to action to operationalize meaningful engagement." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Good practice principles for public communication responses to mis- and disinformation](#)
"This document presents the principles of good practice for public communication responses to mis- and disinformation. The Principles aim to help governments counter mis- and disinformation via the public communication function and other policy responses through strengthening domestic and international media and information ecosystems and reinforcing democracy. This document identifies nine common principles underpinning good practices for how governments can engage with partners across citizens, civil society and the private sector, based on evidence and interventions observed around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond." *Source: OECD*

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Child, Youth, & Maternal Health

[Now We Are Twelve: Life in Early Adolescence](#)
"This latest report from Growing Up in New Zealand shares insights and findings from when the young people in the study are at the start of adolescence - a time of rapid social, emotional, and physical development. The report is presented in a series of nine snapshots which topics relevant to the health and wellbeing of young people." *Source: Growing Up in New Zealand*

[Rangatahi Perspectives on Hauora and Wellbeing: A Qualitative Report from Aotearoa](#)
"This report outlines key findings of a Health Research Council-funded project, Working on Wellbeing with Young People, Mahitahi ki ngā Rangitahi i te Hauora. Its findings draw on interviews conducted in 2019 and 2020 with rangatahi aged between 16 and 20, living in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland)." *Source: Te Kura Tātai Hauora | School of Health (New Zealand)*

[Born too soon: decade of action on preterm birth](#)
"Born too soon: decade of action on preterm birth looks to the future, setting an ambitious agenda to reduce the burden of preterm birth by addressing factors outside of the health system that affect preterm birth; and, within health systems, by providing high-quality, respectful care for women and babies so that they can survive and thrive, no matter where they are born. This report is intended to inspire and support country-led action: politicians, policy-makers and leaders of all stakeholder groups are its primary audience." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Mobilising evidence to enhance the effectiveness of child well-being policies: The role of knowledge brokers](#)
"Effective child well-being policies can bring high long-term returns on early life investments and public interventions. However, these benefits are not fully understood and thus do not always receive the necessary political attention in public policy making. Mobilising evidence to support effective policies for child well-being is crucial, especially as responsibilities for such policies tend to be fragmented across government departments and levels of government. Therefore, organisations such as knowledge brokers, which help ensure that evidence is shared with those responsible for designing and implementing public policies, have a critical role to play in improving the effectiveness of child well-being policies and practices. They can help make evidence accessible, trustworthy, and understandable, so that it has the greatest impact on policy. This working paper sheds light on the best practices identified for mobilising evidence to enhance the effectiveness of child well-being policies, based on a stocktaking of 81 knowledge broker organisations across 24 countries, complemented by a qualitative survey carried out among senior experts operating at national and international level." *Source: OECD*

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Equity

[Moving Beyond Change Efforts: Evidence and Action to Support and Affirm LGBTQI+ Youth](#)
"This report provides behavioral health professionals, researchers, policymakers and other audiences with a comprehensive research overview and accurate information about effective and

ineffective therapeutic practices related to youth of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity." *Source: SAMHSA (US)*

Data, Research, & Technology

Data management competency framework
"The effective use of data in the management and delivery of public health services has long been understood as critical. The Data Management Competency Framework was developed to be a practical tool providing both a structure and methodology to enable the health workforce, including both decision-makers and implementors, to identify capacity gaps and define the competencies required for the whole data life cycle at all levels of health organizations. It includes 4 areas which are further subdivided into seventeen domains, each with a set of knowledge and skills across 4 proficiency levels. The framework can empower Member States to drive strategic, integrated, and sustainable health workforce capacity building." *Source: World Health Organization*

Technology assessment for emerging technology: Meeting new demands for strategic intelligence
"The rapid pace of technological change, coupled with a pressing need for solutions to address grand societal challenges and global crises, heightens the challenge for policy makers to develop science, technology and innovation policies at speed, in situations of high uncertainty and, in some cases, around potentially controversial technology fields. Technology assessment (TA) has a long history of providing decision-makers with timely strategic intelligence on emerging technologies. Current demands are pushing TA to evolve in order to fulfil diverse functions: to illuminate the societal, economic, environmental and other consequences of new technologies; to inform public opinion; and to guide research and development. Drawing on nine case studies, this report analyses the response of TA practices to these changing drivers and demands to support policies for new and emerging technologies. It also identifies a set of principles to guide good contemporary TA practice." *Source: OECD*

Involving children in evaluation: what should you know?
"This guide outlines the reasons to involve children in program evaluation and includes some practical considerations and approaches to collecting data from children. This guide is primarily intended for use by child and family support professionals who work directly with children and are involved in undertaking or commissioning an evaluation in their organisation. The content will also be relevant to other professionals working with children." *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

A Manifesto for Applying Behavioral Science: BIT's landmark guide for the future of applied behavioural science
"Behavioural science has made a major impact on important issues over the past decade, such as antimicrobial resistance, educational attainment, and sustainability. But it's also clear that applied behavioural science needs to evolve to fulfil its true potential. A Manifesto for Applying Behavioral Science charts the path forward. This major work marks a turning point for applied behavioral science, taking a clear-eyed look at challenges facing the field and offering 10 proposals to address them." *Source: Behavioural Insights Team*

[**The power of data to transform population health**](#)
"The intelligent use of data has the potential to vastly improve health and wellbeing outcomes. By reducing occurrences of ill health, providing personalised services, reducing inequalities and predicting future needs, digital transformation can help us move from a reactive to a proactive model of care." *Source: Reform (UK)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[**Health Advisory on Social Media Use in Adolescence**](#)
"Psychological scientists examine potential beneficial and harmful effects of social media use on adolescents' social, educational, psychological, and neurological development. This is a rapidly evolving and growing area of research with implications for many stakeholders (e.g., youth, parents, caregivers, educators, policymakers, practitioners, and members of the tech industry) who share responsibility to ensure adolescents' well-being." *Source: American Psychological Association*

[**Social Media and Youth Mental Health**](#)
"This Advisory describes the current evidence on the impacts of social media on the mental health of children and adolescents. It states that we cannot conclude social media is sufficiently safe for children and adolescents and outlines immediate steps we can take to mitigate the risk of harm to children and adolescents." *Source: Office of the U.S. Surgeon General*

[**Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation**](#)
"This advisory draws upon decades of research from the scientific disciplines of sociology, psychology, neuroscience, political science, economics, and public health, among others. This document is not an exhaustive review of the literature. Rather, the advisory was developed through a substantial review of the available evidence, primarily found via electronic searches of research articles published in English and resources suggested by a wide range of subject matter experts, with priority given to meta-analyses and systematic literature reviews. The recommendations in the advisory draw upon the scientific literature and previously published recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Heart Association, and the World Health Organization." *Source: Office of the U.S. Surgeon General*

[**LGBTQ+ young people's digital peer support for mental health**](#)
"This report presents findings from a national survey and interviews with LGBTQ+ young people, aged 16-25 years, about digital peer support for mental health. For this study, digital peer support comprises informal, digital and social media engagement with friends and peers. Findings, drawn from the experiences of 674 young participants, demonstrate how LGBTQ+ young people support each other in ways that families, schools, and health practitioners cannot." *Source: University of Technology Sydney*

[**Pandemic Era Telehealth Innovations in Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment**](#)
"In fall 2022, the National Council for Mental Wellbeing convened a panel of clinical and nonclinical experts spanning the mental health and substance use treatment field to compile best practices and

lessons learned for telebehavioral health. By convening the panel, conducting a literature review and surveying provider organizations, [the authors] developed Pandemic Era Telehealth Innovations in the Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Fields: Practice-informed Findings and Recommendations, a new report outlining innovations, tools and recommendations to scale effective practices." *Source: National Council for Mental Wellbeing*

[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*

[A summary of literature reflecting the perspectives of young people in Aotearoa on systemic factors affecting their wellbeing](#)
"The following limited literature review results from a collaboration between Koi Tu and Te Hiringa Mahara, during which the team at Te Hiringa Mahara contracted our team at Koi Tu to review literature from Aotearoa. This review focuses on engagements with youth and local research in which young people's voices, perspectives, and beliefs are centred. We particularly focused on what young people believe is impacting their wellbeing at a structural and systemic level, across four main themes: bleak futures, social media and digital technology, racism and discrimination, and intergenerational connection." *Source: Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Future*

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Health of Older People

[Supporting People Living with Dementia: Evidence from Research](#)
"What good commissioning of support for people living with dementia and for their carers should look like is multi-layered and complex. It requires a long-term strategic commitment and ensuring wherever possible that support is evidence-based and informed. In addition to the central importance of health and care support, there are implications for wider commissioning and services including the built environment and transport for example. Commissioners and providers should consider how well their current service offer enables people living with dementia to participate in their communities as fully as possible, for as long as possible. Our review explores a range of evidence on what can enable people to maintain independence and wellbeing, and how best to support people living with dementia to have a quality of life grounded on what matters to them, and to their carers and family members. *Source: Institute of Public Care (UK)*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

Looking outward: International lessons for health system reform

"In this paper, Looking Outward: International lessons for health system reform, [the authors] examine what policymakers in Britain can learn from abroad to help address these challenges and transform our system. [They] draw on insights from health systems in both high income, and low- and middle-income countries to draw out lessons on successful transformation." *Source: Reform (UK)*

Strengthening Health Care in Canada Post COVID-19 Pandemic

"The purpose of this policy briefing is to examine our health care systems through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic and identify how we can strengthen health care in Canada post-pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided compelling evidence that substantive changes to our health care systems are needed. Specifically, the pandemic has emphasized structural inequities on a broad scale within Canadian society. These include systemic racial and socioeconomic inequities that must be addressed broadly, including in the delivery of health care." *Source: Royal Society of Canada*

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