



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](#)

[Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Weight](#)

[Equity](#)

[Primary Care](#)

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

Public Health

[Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance in health and environment, 2024 update](#)

"The Compendium is a comprehensive collection of available WHO and other UN guidance for improving health by creating healthier environments. It provides an overview and easy access of more than 500 actions, and a framework for thinking about health and environment interventions. It covers a broad range of areas such as air pollution, water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, chemicals, radiation, or food systems." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Antimicrobial Resistance Diagnostic Initiative: Strengthening bacteriology and mycology diagnostic capacity, laboratory systems and service delivery](#)

“The goal of the AMR Diagnostic Initiative is to bring diagnostics to the forefront of the global AMR response and support countries in strengthening microbiology laboratory capacity and providing equitable access to quality testing for bacterial, fungal, and resistant pathogens at all levels of the health system and in the community. It also aims to ensure appropriate utilization of diagnostics to support patient management, antimicrobial stewardship initiatives, infection prevention and control measures, outbreak investigations, and routine AMR surveillance.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally](#)

“This is the first version of the guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally, which provides an overview of healthy diets measurement purposes, types of surveys suitable for the monitoring purpose, appropriate dietary assessment methods, relevant dietary data types and potential healthy diet metrics for national and global monitoring purposes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Considerations, implications, and best practices for public health surveillance in Indigenous communities](#)

“Public health surveillance involves ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related data, with the goal of informing public health action. In Canada, the responsibility for public health surveillance is shared across local, regional, provincial/territorial, and federal health agencies. This has produced ineffective and uncoordinated public health surveillance systems, resulting in severe gaps in the scope and coverage of surveillance data. Nowhere are these gaps and inequities more notable than in relation to Indigenous health data. New and existing challenges and opportunities in relation to public health surveillance are driving efforts to build better coordinated, equitable, and effective public health surveillance systems across Canada. This report aims to inform public health policy makers and decision makers in their efforts to reform public health surveillance in Canada in ways that better respond to the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and communities.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (Canada)*

[Back to top](#)

Equity

[Nau mai te ora Understanding whānau experiences of health and wellbeing in the Mid-North](#)

“Iwi health and social service leaders from across the mid-north came together to drive and lead a process to understand the hauora experiences and needs of their communities. This collective approach was largely grounded in the strengthened relationships that had been built and grown during the iwi-led covid response in the mid-north.” *Source: Healthy Families Far North (New Zealand)*

[Advancing Research on Chronic Conditions in Women](#)

“The National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene an expert committee to identify gaps in the science on chronic conditions that are specific to or predominantly impact women, or affect women differently, and propose a research agenda. The committee's report presents their conclusions and recommendations.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[What national or population-level interventions or policies that address the social determinants of mental health have an effect on mental health and well-being?](#)

“This rapid review seeks to identify, appraise, and summarize available research evidence of interventions that target the social determinants of health and their effect on population mental health to support evidence-informed decision making in public health.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (Canada)*

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

“Between 2021 and 2024, teams of two, three or four people – referred to as ‘People Connectors’ – knocked on close to 52,600 doors in 27 communities around Australia to ask householders about their wellbeing. They had conversations about mental health and social and emotional wellbeing, collected data through a survey, discussed any needs that arose, and provided information and assistance by suggesting support options or linking people to services. In Round Three, People Connectors had more capacity to follow up on householders who asked for additional support. This involved People Connectors contacting services on their behalf, offering an extra visit, contacting them again through texting or phone calls, and providing additional information. This summary report provides an overview of the Round 3 survey responses and associated research findings.” *Source: Centre for Social Impact (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19

[The impacts of long COVID across OECD countries](#)

“Even as countries have long emerged from the dramatic restrictions imposed on populations during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, an important subset of people infected with COVID-19 continue to struggle with symptoms, in some cases debilitating, that persist for weeks or even months after their initial infection. The analysis in this paper looks at the burden of long COVID across OECD countries. It examines its implications for the health of individuals and how long COVID may impact productivity and the labour force, as well as what countries are doing to address the condition. It further identifies priorities for improving care for people living with long COVID.” *Source: OECD*

[Back to top](#)

Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Weight

[Global levels of physical inactivity in adults: off track for 2030](#)

“This report provides a summary of the main findings from the latest global assessment of levels of physical inactivity globally, regionally and by country in adult populations. These new comparable estimates are presented globally, and by regions, World Bank categories and by age and sex for year 2022; and as trends from 2000. In addition, and for the first time, this analysis identifies which

countries are estimated to be “on track” to achieve the 2030 target for reducing physical inactivity. The implications of these data for governments and stakeholders are presented as six key policy actions, each consistent with the WHO Global action plan on physical activity.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Exploring the power of Fruit & Veg on Prescription

“Alexandra Rose Charity launched the UK’s first large-scale pilots of ‘Fruit & Veg on Prescription’, working with social prescribers at the Bromley by Bow Centre in Tower Hamlets and community health practitioners at the AT Beacon Project in Lambeth. This report details the impact of the pilot’s first year on participant’s diet and health and the local food economy.” *Source: Alexandra Rose Charity (UK)*

Rapid Review: What is known about the experience of weight bias and/or stigma, and how does it influence health outcomes?

“This rapid review seeks to identify, appraise, and summarize emerging research evidence to support evidence-informed decision-making by understanding individuals' experiences with weight stigma and/or bias in health and social service delivery and the impact of weight stigma and/or bias on the relationship between body size and health outcomes.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (Canada)*

Rapid Umbrella Review: What is the relationship between body size and health outcomes?

“This review seeks to identify, appraise, and summarize emerging research evidence to support evidence-informed decision-making by synthesizing the current observational evidence on the relationship between body size and composition, and health outcomes.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (Canada)*

[Back to top](#)

Primary Care

Integrating oral health into primary healthcare for improved access to oral health care for rural and remote populations

“This brief synthesises evidence regarding the extent of access challenges, and the possible factors impacting on access. It shows that maldistribution of public dental services, long-standing shortage of public dental workforce, and frequent turnover among public dental professionals primarily contribute to the problem of oral health care access in rural and remote areas.” *Source: Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research (Australia)*

Social prescribing around the world

“This report provides a unique, global perspective of the development of social prescribing across different health systems, with a focus on health inequality, equity and justice. This global report was brought together by the International Social Prescribing Collaborative (ISPC), an international community of practice comprised of more than 32 countries, founded and supported by the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP).” *Source: National Academy for Social Prescribing (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Providers Deliver: Achieving Value for Money](#)

“The aim of this report is to move the conversation on from 'diagnosing' the NHS' productivity challenges and highlight a variety of the 'treatment' plans trusts have identified which have had a material impact on their productivity levels. Trusts are at the heart of many of the innovative solutions across health and care and are best placed to lead the NHS' efforts to improve delivery models, streamline internal processes, adopt new technologies and allocate resources most efficiently and effectively to deliver results for the populations they serve.” *Source: NHS Providers*

[Political economy analysis for health financing: A 'how to' guide](#)

“This “Political Economy of Health Financing: How-to Guide” lays out a structured way to organize and analyze key political economy factors that can impact a health financing reform. This Guide, along with WHO’s broader programme of work on Political Economy of Health Financing Reform, explicitly recognizes the importance of political economy factors in influencing health financing reform trajectories. This Guide is not intended as a toolbox or comprehensive mapping of all the potential political economy factors and strategies related to health financing reform. Rather, it provides a stepwise process for analysis and structured thinking about issues related to health financing and political economy.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Back to top](#)

Artificial Intelligence

[Priorities for an AI in health care strategy](#)

“The health service is fertile ground for technology-driven improvement. With the ability to coordinate reforms and control costs centrally, access broad, in-depth and life-long health care datasets and draw on the UK’s world-class science base, the NHS should be well placed to drive the development and adoption of technologies like AI.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[GenAI concepts: technical, operational and regulatory terms and concepts for generative artificial intelligence \(GenAI\)](#)

“This publication outlines 42 concepts fundamental to AI software systems. Each concept is illustrated through descriptions, examples and real-world use cases, with accessible language and visual elements to accommodate a diverse range of stakeholders and readerships.” *Source: ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

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