



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

[Building health system resilience to public health challenges: guidance for implementation in countries](#)

Health system resilience is not an inevitable byproduct of any investment in health but must be intentionally programmed and developed with necessary input, investment and contextualization. This technical product aims to guide national, subnational, and global health actors to operationalize the concept of health system resilience for advancement of universal health coverage, health

security and ultimately better health for all. It supports the translation of relevant conceptual guidance and high-level recommendations into practical actions. *Source: WHO*

[Global competency and outcomes framework for the essential public health functions](#)

“This framework addresses the last of the three steps. It provides evidence-based guidance and an international reference set of competencies and educational outcomes, aligning education with employment and public health needs to build and maintain the workforce required to deliver the essential public health functions.” *Source: WHO*

[The Value of Environmental Surveillance for Pandemic Response](#)

“Environmental sampling surveillance (ESS) technologies, such as wastewater genomic surveillance and air sensors, have been increasingly adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide valuable information for public health response. However, ESS coverage is not universal, and public health decision-makers need support to choose whether and how to expand and sustain ESS efforts. This paper introduces a model and approach to quantify the value of ESS systems that provide leading epidemiological indicators for pandemic response.” *Source: RAND*

[World Heart Report 2024: Clearing the Air to Address Pollution’s Cardiovascular Health Crisis](#)

“The impacts of air pollution on cardiovascular health are profound, with exposure linked to the exacerbation of all major CVDs, including ischaemic heart disease (IHD) and stroke. Several air pollutants are linked to biological actions that can drive the initial events of atherosclerosis, accelerate multiple disease processes, and consequently trigger cardiovascular events that result in death. The ubiquity of air pollution exposure, together with the high global prevalence of CVDs, imposes a staggering burden on morbidity and mortality the world over.” *Source: World Heart Federation*

[Recommended package of interventions for HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for men who have sex with men](#)

“In 2022, WHO published the Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations. These guidelines outline a public health response to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for five key populations (men who have sex with men, sex workers, people in prisons and other closed settings, people who inject drugs and trans and gender diverse people). In this policy brief, [the WHO] give an update on those parts of the guidelines which are relevant for men who have sex with men.” *Source: WHO*

[Passionate, relentless, grassroots problem-solving: Insights from the Field of Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Support](#)

“Between October 2023 and January 2024, Innovation Unit held one-to-one conversations with representatives from 31 DFV specialist support agencies from across Australia. These conversations explored professional experiences of working with specialist cohorts and communities around DFV support and prevention, as well as the wider shifts in support and conditions needed to really make a difference for people, families and communities.” *Source: Innovation Unit (Australia)*

[A review of health-care waste management policies in the Western Pacific Region: key findings from selected countries and areas](#)

“Health-care waste management is a critical aspect of health-care systems, crucial for public health and environmental sustainability. This report provides valuable insights into the existing health-care waste management frameworks across 16 countries in the Western Pacific Region. It provides an overview of essential components of the legal framework and best practices, including adoption of environmental friendly technologies in policies and highlights both strengths and areas in need of improvement. The report provides recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of future health-care waste management policies in the Region.” *Source: WHO*

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COVID-19

[Long-Term Health Effects of COVID-19: Disability and Function Following SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)

“Since the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in early 2020, many individuals infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), have continued to experience lingering symptoms for months or even years following infection. Some symptoms can affect a person's ability to work or attend school for an extended period of time. Consequently, in 2022, the Social Security Administration requested that the National Academies convene a committee of relevant experts to investigate and provide an overview of the current status of diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of long-term health effects related to Long COVID. This report presents the committee conclusions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[A Long COVID Definition: A Chronic, Systemic Disease State with Profound Consequences](#)

“The lack of a clear and consistent definition for Long COVID presents challenges for policymakers, researchers, public health professionals, clinicians, support services, and patients. As such, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health asked the National Academies to assemble a committee of experts to produce a consensus definition for Long COVID. The resulting report, A Long COVID Definition: A Chronic, Systemic Disease State with Profound Consequences, presents the 2024 NASEM Long COVID Definition, developed based on findings reported in existing literature, as well as stakeholder and patient input.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun](#)

“The purpose of this report is to monitor mental health and addiction services over the five-year period from July 2018 to June 2023, with a focus on access to services and options available.”
Source: Te Hīringa Mahara | Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission

[Leadership as a mental wellbeing system enabler: Insights on progress toward Kia Manawanui](#)

“The Leadership as a mental wellbeing system enabler: Insights on progress toward Kia Manawanui report focuses on one aspect of the ‘long-term pathway’ to transform Aotearoa’s approach to mental health and wellbeing. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of and insights

about system leadership action in the 'Kia Manawanui long-term pathway'. This comes at the end of the short-term commitments under the plan (2021-2023) and is the first independent assessment of progress and insights on Kia Manawanui." *Source: Te Hiringa Mahara | Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission*

Equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health care in New South Wales

"This report urges the NSW Government to undertake a whole-of-government reform approach to the mental health system, which addresses social and environmental determinants of health including housing, cost of living, transport, education, employment, climate change and impact of natural disasters. The Committee also emphasises the need for enhanced service and referral pathways and information sharing between State and Commonwealth Government agencies, non-government and community-managed organisations, and private health care services. This would facilitate better access, affordability, and navigation of services, and expand the employment of peer navigators to strengthen service navigation." *Source: Parliament of New South Wales*

Moving more is good for our mental health, so what's stopping us?

"The evidence of the benefits of movement to both physical and mental health is well documented. However, despite its apparent simplicity, for many people the advice "move more for your mental health" is easier said than done. More than one third of UK adults (36%) do not meet the recommendations set out by the World Health Organisation. The Mental Health Foundation recently undertook a mixed methodology study across the UK and spoke to a range of people to help us develop a more detailed understanding of the barriers to physical activity for people more at risk of poor mental health." *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

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Cancer

Developing a Multidisciplinary and Multispecialty Workforce for Patients with Cancer, from Diagnosis to Survivorship

"Patients living with and beyond cancer often require care from a wide range of clinicians as they navigate cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship care. To examine opportunities to improve equitable access to high-quality multispecialty and multidisciplinary expert care for people living with and beyond cancer, the National Academies National Cancer Policy Forum hosted a public workshop in collaboration with the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education." *Source: National Academies Press*

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Models of Care

Virtual Medicine Wards and Hospital-at-Home Programs

"The purpose of this Horizon Scan is to present any existing evaluations of virtual ward and HAH programs for early supported discharge, highlighting their structure, patient population, outcomes measured, and any patient or provider experiences associated with them as well as any descriptions

of virtual ward programs in Canada. This report focuses on the use of early supported discharge for generalist care settings. Information related to patients receiving postsurgical, oncology, or palliative care in specialist settings were not included. Due to the volume of available literature, publications that investigated the creation and use of virtual wards specifically to manage patients with COVID-19 during the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic were not included in this report.” *Source: Canada’s Drug Agency*

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Health of Older People

[Increasing healthy life expectancy: the policy implications of geroscience](#)

“The Royal Society’s policy briefing, *Increasing life expectancy: the policy implications of geroscience*, explores the emerging field of geroscience, a scientific discipline at the intersection of basic ageing biology, chronic disease and frailty. By targeting the biological mechanisms of the ageing process, the geroscience approach seeks to prevent or delay the onset and progression of multiple ageing-related conditions. It challenges the traditional view that ill health during ageing is inevitable, as demonstrated by many examples of healthy ageing humans in their 90s and 100s, and discoveries of interventions to increase healthy lifespan in animal models. The briefing highlights the many public health and economic benefits that implementing geroscience-informed interventions could bring, including to reduce strain on the NHS, boost workforce productivity, attract investment and reduce inequalities. It also considers several areas where more effort is required to ensure that these benefits can be realised.” *Source: Royal Society UK*

[Reablement, rehabilitation, recovery: everyone’s business](#)

“This report focuses on rehabilitation for older people experiencing frailty or loss of function because of acute illness or exacerbation of a chronic health condition. It highlights variation in rehabilitation provision for older people across the UK due to a lack of services, restrictive access criteria, and limited availability of staff, equipment and space. The report sets out what high-quality rehabilitation looks like and how it should be delivered. Evidence and good practice are highlighted, myths challenged, and tips provided for senior decision-makers and health and care professionals.” *Source: British Geriatrics Society*

[The role of integrated care systems in improving dementia diagnosis](#)

“Integrated care systems (ICSs) were introduced in England to achieve two main goals: to ensure that people using health and social care services experience better, more co-ordinated care; and to bring about the long-called-for shift towards a greater focus on prevention and early intervention. These two goals – care co-ordination and prevention/earlier intervention – are both highly pertinent for people living with dementia.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Partnerships and participation for urban health: policy brief](#)

“This policy brief reflects and offers guidance on how national and subnational governments can strengthen partnerships and participation for urban health, both independently and in collaboration. It draws on existing international guidelines, academic literature, and insights from a participatory workshop involving experts in research, policy, and practice. The brief is primarily intended for national and subnational decision-makers and their technical staff.” *Source: WHO*

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Research & Technology

Implementation Strategies for Evidence-Based Practice in Health and Health Care: A Review of the Evidence

“Research has shown that successfully getting EBP into routine care can require implementation strategies, defined as “methods or techniques used to enhance the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of a clinical program or practice.” Many such strategies have been developed and tested, but much of the evidence for these strategies has focused on a given clinical setting or on a particular strategy. However, implementation strategies are intended to be applied across a wide range of EBPs. Thus, without a comprehensive synthesis across settings and strategies, it is difficult to understand the evidence in a broad context. This level of understanding is necessary for practitioners and others seeking to navigate the evidence across the full array of strategies to inform their choices. Therefore, this project sought to answer the following questions: 1. What is the quantitative evidence for the effectiveness of various implementation strategies to improve health, alone or in combination with other strategies? 2. What are the current gaps in the quantitative evidence for implementation strategy effectiveness?” *Source: RAND*

Foundational Research Gaps and Future Directions for Digital Twins

“Going beyond traditional simulation and modeling, digital twins could enable improved medical decision-making at the individual patient level, predictions of future weather and climate conditions over longer timescales, and safer, more efficient engineering processes. However, many challenges remain before these applications can be realized. This report identifies the foundational research and resources needed to support the development of digital twin technologies. The report presents critical future research priorities and an interdisciplinary research agenda for the field, including how federal agencies and researchers across domains can best collaborate.” *Source: National Academies Press*

Understanding and Assessing Quantitative Modelling Research

“This document provides an overview of how to critically assess a research article which uses quantitative, data-driven mathematical modelling to examine infectious disease transmission. Included is a Quick Reference Guide which aligns with the process of quantitative model development and the format of research articles and is meant to assist in a critical review of the research.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases*

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Child & Youth Health & Wellbeing

[The adolescent health indicators recommended by the Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health](#)

“This document presents a list of 47 indicators recommended by GAMA for measurement of adolescent health. The systematic, participatory indicator selection process included five steps: identification of core measurement areas; a scoping review of adolescent health indicators for selected core areas; selection of draft indicators; further assessments of the draft indicators for implementation feasibility in countries, alignment with survey programmes and global data availability; and refinement and finalization of the indicators based on these assessments.” *Source: WHO*

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Quality Improvement & Patient Safety

[Harnessing data to improve patient care and prevent hospital-acquired complications](#)

“Hospital Acquired Complications (HACs) are a type of patient harm associated with increased morbidity and mortality... The publication of HAC data should be codesigned for clinicians or patients. Patients have indicated they want more transparent and objective health care quality and safety information. However, this need is not being met for HACs, meaning patient choice around treatments and service providers is not informed. Options for harnessing already collected HAC data, expanding on process of care data, and underpinning publication in policy and strategy are proposed to improve clinical care and prevent HACs. For patients, options for improving access to clear and comprehensive HAC data are recommended.” *Source: Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research*

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Artificial Intelligence

[Q&A on artificial intelligence for supporting public health: Reference tool to support the exchange of information and promote open conversations and debates](#)

“This policy document provides key concepts, recommended lines of action, and indicators for monitoring, with the aim of advancing interoperability as one of the eight guiding principles for the digital transformation of the health sector, as promoted by the Pan American Health Organization.” *Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)*

[Artificial intelligence and the challenge for global governance](#)

“This collection of essays examines innovative approaches to AI regulation and governance. It presents and evaluates proposals and mechanisms for ensuring responsible AI, from EU-style regulations to open-source governance, from treaties to CERN-like research facilities and publicly owned corporations. Drawing on perspectives from around the world, the collection underscores the need to protect openness, ensure inclusivity and fairness in AI, and establish clear ethical frameworks and lines of cooperation between states and technology companies.” *Source: Chatham House (UK)*

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