



# 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](mailto:library@health.govt.nz) to subscribe.

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## Public Health

[Health Statistics in the Western Pacific Region 2023: Monitoring health for the SDGs](#)

"Health Statistics in the Western Pacific Region 2023: Monitoring health for the SDGs is the third biennial report providing an overview of the progress of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Western Pacific Region towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.”

*Source: World Health Organization Western Pacific*

#### **Public health and population health: leading together**

“It is clear that the health of England’s population is not where we want it to be, with life expectancy stalling and wide health inequalities. While confronting this requires national effort, it is dependent on strong, effective and cohesive leadership at the sub-national level through regional and local government, the NHS and other partners. We believe there is an important opportunity to be grasped, through public health leaders with their established expertise and experience, working together more cohesively with the new cadre of emerging population health leaders in integrated care systems, who are tasked with fulfilling the principles of improving population health and tackling health inequalities.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

#### **Public health 2040: health protection in a warming world**

“Climate change is set to pose significant changes to our planet and health. The wider public health workforce, who are key to ensuring a healthy population, are uniquely placed to help manage these changes to the public’s health. This briefing looks at the future needs of the public health workforce to ensure that they have the capacity, skills, resources and support needed to protect the public from the impact of new threats to their health.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

#### **Exploring Linkages Between Soil Health and Human Health**

“Given the potential that microbiomes have in modulating soil, plant, and human health, there is also a pressing need to determine which microbial features, if any, contribute to quantifying or fortifying health in both human and soil systems and to understand the direct and indirect roles of soil, alongside other environmental factors, in influencing human microbial colonization and subsequent health outcomes. Such investigation involves delving into the relatively sparse or disconnected research regarding the microbiome continuum that links soil and human systems.”

*Source: National Academies Press (US)*

#### **The Economic Rationale for a Global Commitment to Invest in Oral Health**

“This white paper from the World Economic Forum, written in partnership with the American Dental Association, Colgate-Palmolive Company and Henry Schein, outlines the economic rationale for investing in oral health. It also presents concrete action pathways for public, private and civil society leaders for addressing the global epidemic of oral disease.” *Source: World Economic Forum*

#### **The Changing Face of Pandemic Risk: 2024 Report**

The 21st century has seen a significant rise in global health threats. Epidemics and pandemics are now a constant danger rather than rare events. The 2024 GPMB report, The changing face of pandemic risk, is a call to action for global leaders, policy-makers, health professionals, and communities to build a safer, more resilient future. It outlines the key drivers of pandemic risk and provides a roadmap for strengthening our defences. *Source: Global Preparedness Monitoring Board*

#### **City-level monitoring guidance for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and injuries**

“The guidance document provides a set of indicators for assessing the status of development, implementation and monitoring of key policy interventions for prevention and control of NCDs and injuries. It promotes city-level evidence based decision-making processes to identify gaps and take appropriate actions to strengthen responses. Additionally, using the standardized indicators can facilitate cross-city learning, sharing best practices and lessons learnt in implementing various policy interventions.” *Source: World Health Organization*

#### **[Surveillance of health care-associated infections at national and facility levels](#)**

“In the context of strengthening national and facility-level HAI surveillance as a core component of infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes, WHO is publishing a new practical handbook on HAI surveillance, including new simplified and validated case definitions. The main purpose of this handbook is to provide comprehensive guidance on the objectives, key concepts, principles, methods, and best practices of HAI surveillance, in order to help policymakers and IPC and surveillance professionals to design and implement effective surveillance systems to measure the burden of HAI and take action for its prevention.” *Source: World Health Organization*

#### **[Extending sexual and reproductive health and rights to future generations through science and evidence](#)**

“This report offers an analysis of the likely drivers of change needed to facilitate future progress on longstanding issues in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights underpin the realization of the right to health and are a cornerstone of sustainable development, economic prosperity and peace. Synthesizing a range of inputs, this report identifies five interconnected strategic entry points for futures-oriented action on sexual and reproductive health and rights.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Equity**

#### **[Perceptions of fairness in New Zealand](#)**

“What does fairness mean to New Zealanders? An understanding of how New Zealanders think about fairness can help policy advisors to provide more informed advice on the equity implications of policy choices. NZIER and Koi Ut: The Centre for Informed Future, worked in partnership with the New Zealand Treasury on a research project that reveals New Zealanders tend to agree about what fairness means, and what is important for fairness, but disagree about whether life in New Zealand is fair and about what drives differences in outcomes.” *Source: NZIER (New Zealand)*

#### **[Barriers and enablers to primary care access for equity-deserving populations in Ontario](#)**

“This scoping review identified 68 peer-review studies that discussed 17 different barriers and enablers to primary care access for these populations. While many barriers and enablers were unique to each population, there were also many common experiences.” *Source: Wellesley Institute (Canada)*

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## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

### **Trauma-informed approach: An update of the literature**

“This review aims to build on the evidence from previous literature on trauma-informed approaches with current evidence, with the objective of informing workforce development.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

### **Harnessing the feed: social media for mental health information and support**

“This report takes an in-depth look at the changing ways that young people use digital spaces for mental health information, what factors influence how they engage, and the implications for the mental health sector. The survey analysis shows that young people increasingly rely on social media for information, support and connection. In particular, the report highlights the way that social media use interacts with traditional channels for accessing mental health support, finding that although social media helps to raise awareness of mental health support and access to professional help, it does also sometimes replace it for young people who either cannot access or do not want professional help. The report also shows that young people are discerning in the resources they seek out (preferencing material from mental health professionals) and that they want digital platforms to do more to filter, monitor and flag misinformation.” *Source: ReachOut Australia*

### **The role of managers in creating mentally healthy workplaces**

“This guide shares evidence-based approaches managers can use to help build mentally healthy workplaces. It outlines ways managers can support healthy workplaces at the organisational as well as team level and offers guidance on how to protect their own mental health and wellbeing.” *Source: National Mental Health Commission (Australia)*

### **Acute options for mental health care: Insights paper**

“This insights report focuses on acute options that can provide an alternative to acute inpatient care. Increasing the range of acute options provides people with viable and welcome alternatives that allow them to stay safe and supported in their local community. Published August 2024. The report has been informed by people with lived-experience telling us what they want and the types of services that work for them. Peer-led, community-based, and Kaupapa Māori services are working well and the experiences of those using these services have been positive.” *Source: Te Hiringa Mahara (New Zealand)*

### **Working better together in neighbourhoods**

“The steps that can be taken to create new, more effective and sustainable solutions for neighbourhood health.” *Source: NHS Confederation(UK)*

### **The case for neighbourhood health and care**

“Identifying the defining factors necessary to achieve effective, community-led health and wellbeing at the neighbourhood level.” *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

### **Neighbourhood working in a nutshell**

“The insights shared here stem from a joint project from the NHS Confederation and Local Trust to promote and test community-led approaches to health and wellbeing in some of England’s most deprived neighbourhoods. The project has explored a range of case studies which, together, build a picture of the current landscape of neighbourhood working in England. Deliberately diverse, the 14

examples cover a range of communities, geographies and ways of working.” *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

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## **Gambling & Substance Use**

### **[Neurodivergence and substance use](#)**

“This report investigates the connection between neurodivergent conditions, specifically attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and substance use.”

*Source: New Zealand Drug Foundation*

### **[Understanding gambling harms in the digital age](#)**

“This report documents findings and recommendations from the ‘Understanding Gambling Harms in the Digital Age’ research project (2022-2024) funded by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission’s Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund. The research aimed to explore community knowledge and awareness of gambling harms and to develop an evidence base for public communication strategies to inform the Commission’s work in educating the public about gambling harm.” *Source: News and Media Research Centre (Australia)*

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## **Health Promotion**

### **[Changing the game: strengthening health and well-being through sport events](#)**

“The report, “Changing the Game: Strengthening Health and Well-Being through Sport Events,” comprehensively documents the outcomes and impact of this ambitious project. Through efforts in communication and advocacy, initiatives to promote physical activity and better nutrition, and enhanced health security measures—including risk assessments and preparedness strategies—the project has demonstrated the powerful synergy between sport and public health.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **[Boosting Childhood Vaccination Rates Post-Pandemic: Lessons from Five Countries](#)**

“While vaccination rates fell worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic, the high-income countries in [this] study maintained high childhood vaccination rates for polio and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) near or above the herd immunity threshold (80% for polio and 95% for measles). Australia and Singapore, which have the strictest vaccine requirements, boasted the highest polio vaccination rates in both 2018 and 2021. No countries require the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination nationwide, but Australia, Singapore, and the U.K. have school-based HPV vaccination programs and high vaccination rates. Strong vaccine requirements, combined with school-based immunization or catch-up programs, may help boost childhood vaccination rates where they lagged during the pandemic.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

### **[Best and promising practices in promoting vaccine uptake and confidence among First Nations, Inuit, and Métis populations](#)**

“This fact sheet presents five examples of Indigenous-led programs that have shown some success in promoting vaccine uptake among Indigenous populations across diverse contexts, with the goal of highlighting best and promising practices. Efforts were made to ensure examples are inclusive, being mindful of the need to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis populations from diverse geographies across Canada, adult and child age groups, and a focus on the prevention of different types of diseases.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (Canada)*

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## **Workforce**

### **[Social Work and Primary Care: A Vision for the Path Forward](#)**

“[This report] highlights the crucial role social workers play in primary care. This pivotal document outlines strategic recommendations for more fully integrating and leveraging social workers on healthcare teams, aiming to enhance patient care, tackle the mental health crisis, and offer a fiscally responsible approach to care.” *Source: Canadian Association of Social Workers*

### **[Transitioning to midwifery models of care: global position paper](#)**

“In the pursuit of providing high-quality health services to improve health and well-being for all in the context of Universal Health Coverage, transitioning to midwifery models of care represents a cost-effective strategy to optimize outcomes for women and newborns with minimal use of unnecessary interventions. This position paper offers an international definition, describes the guiding principles of midwifery models of care and reviews the advantages of adopting these models of care. It highlights the significant role and impact that midwives can have within health systems, while recognizing the importance of collaborative and integrated care where various professionals jointly contribute to providing high-quality maternal and newborn health services.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms**

### **[Engaging stakeholders in healthcare innovation: How hard can it be?](#)**

“The intent of this perspective brief is to: explore the lessons learnt from the implementation of three allied health-led service innovations with diverse stakeholder groups; and propose a more deliberate and strategic approach to stakeholder engagement to implement sustainable innovative practice in healthcare using a service logic.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

### **[The Role of Effective Management and Leadership in Improving NHS Performance and Productivity](#)**

“NHS management is back firmly in the spotlight amid significant operational pressures (including long waits for care), poor patient satisfaction (at its lowest levels since the early 1980s), high-profile cases of abuse and anaemic productivity growth since the pandemic. This new report from Policy Exchange – based upon more than forty interviews and the findings of FOI requests to every trust and Integrated Care board in England – considers the role that management and leadership can play in enhancing NHS performance and productivity. It argues that a greater focus on the competencies,

permissions and placement of management is required, noting that a weak and anecdotal evidence base has often defined the public debate.” *Source: Policy Exchange (UK)*

#### **Our greatest asset: The final report of the IPPR Commission on Health and Prosperity**

“Led by an understanding that the boldest health reforms only come when there is a strong social and economic case for them, this commission has spent the last three years testing one simple idea: that better health is Britain’s greatest untapped route to prosperity.” *Source: IPPR (UK)*

#### **Strengthening clinical leadership and management: lessons from our research in the UK and USA**

“Strengthening clinical leadership and management is an important means of helping the NHS to improve quality outcomes and boost operational productivity and efficiency. Evidence suggests clinical leadership and management are associated with high organisational performance and can bring a variety of benefits for leadership and organisational decision making.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

#### **Population health in Greater Manchester: The journey so far**

“Greater Manchester (GM) has been the ‘poster child’ for devolution in England, and alongside it, in the health world, the leading light in efforts to improve population health at scale. This report shares the details of that journey, explores how GM has approached improving population health, and looks at both its successes and challenges. The evidence suggests that the focus on population health in GM is starting to pay off, with greater improvement against what would be expected on key measures of health and health inequalities. GM shows that devolution can be successful, but also that it is hard work and will not happen as a matter of course. It relies on clear intent, consistency and coherence over time, underpinned by a strong vision and model for population health, and implemented and connected with economic goals at local authority level.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

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## **Research, Innovation, & Technology**

#### **Going digital for noncommunicable diseases: The case for action**

“Digital technologies hold great promise for improving the delivery of health services and helping countries to progress towards universal health coverage. This report summarizes initial systematic work to make the economic case for implementing a set of evidence-based digital health interventions for NCD prevention and management, including telemedicine, mobile health and health chatbots. It also highlights the importance of improving access to relevant digital tools and infrastructure.” *Source: World Health Organization*

#### **Guidance for best practices for clinical trials**

“This guidance updates and adapts the previous work of the World Health Organization (WHO) on research capacity for the context of well-designed and well-implemented clinical trials... It aims to enhance clinical research efficiency, minimize research waste and provide guidance on sustained clinical trials that are always functional and active for endemic conditions and can pivot in time of emergency or pandemics.” *Source: World Health Organization*



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## **Child, Youth, & Family Health**

### [Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families](#)

“Ensuring every child is on an optimal trajectory to a healthy and productive adulthood is imperative for the nation's future. Investments in children and families improves child health, but also health equity, education outcomes, workforce productivity, and cost-effectiveness in public spending. Despite advances in health care, children, especially those from historically marginalized groups, face rising rates of chronic diseases, obesity, and mental health challenges. Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, And Families presents a vision for transforming the child and adolescent health care system.” *Source: National Academies Press (US)*

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## **Artificial Intelligence**

### [How technology and AI is reshaping public health](#)

“New technologies like AI are developing rapidly. They could be useful for the wider public health workforce, but we need to ensure that they are used appropriately.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

### [Predicting: The future of health?](#)

“Governments around the world are increasingly looking to emerging technologies to help deliver public services. This is especially the case in the UK, and in the context of healthcare. In recent years, hopes and predictions have proliferated about the potential of AI and genomics to transform the UK's approach to medicine – with greater levels of efficiency, precision and personalisation held up as the prize for investment and adoption. This report examines a technology at the vanguard of this promised transformation: AI-powered genomic health prediction (or AIGHP). AIGHP refers to a set of AI-driven techniques that enable predictions about people's future health and drug responses to be made from genomic data.” *Source: Ada Lovelace Institute (UK)*

### [Artificial Intelligence in Education and Mental Health for a Sustainable Future](#)

“The pandemic and overlapping global crises, including climate change, have increased attention to the importance of mental health and well-being as foundational for humans. Similarly, COVID-19 significantly exacerbated gaps in education, leaving children one to three years behind. Artificial intelligence (AI) has demonstrated potential to be transformative in addressing challenges in mental health and education and in supporting broader sustainability issues. However, there are well-founded concerns about AI regarding its potential to exacerbate inequity, further marginalizing underserved communities.” *Source: National Academies Press (US)*

### [AI in healthcare: navigating the noise](#)

“A comprehensive guide supporting healthcare leaders to make sense of AI and explore the art of the possible.” *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

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## Health of Older People

### [Preferred product characteristics of blood-based biomarker diagnostics for Alzheimer disease](#)

“Diagnosis is the first step into the care journey. To support a timely and accurate dementia diagnosis, it is critical to develop diagnostic tools, such as blood-based biomarker tests, that can support the health-care workforce in their clinical decision-making, and that can be readily implemented in low-resource settings. WHO Preferred Product Characteristics (PPCs) are technical documents that define the preferred attributes of diagnostic products for regulatory purposes, policy, and programmatic implementation. PPCs are intended to encourage innovation and development of products for use in settings more relevant to the global unmet public health need. This PPC defines the preferred parameters of blood-based biomarker diagnostics for Alzheimer disease to ensure that these products will not only exhibit optimal clinical performance but are also relevant to different populations, affordable and available to those who need these products. Considerations for implementation include global access, post-diagnostic support and perspectives of people with lived experience.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [Understanding and Addressing Elder Abuse in Gender and Sexual Minority Communities](#)

“Elder abuse affects roughly one in ten of all older adults who live at home, with significant impacts on their health and wellbeing. Current research suggests that elders who belong to a Gender and Sexual Minority (GSM) are more at risk for abuse than their heterosexual counterparts. This Backgrounder sheds light on this underreported social issue, by reviewing recent research and forefronting the lived experiences of survivors. Drawing upon stories shared by survivors, it recommends changes and additions to existing practices for organizations and individuals working with elders to better support GSM elders and end elder abuse.” *Source: Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (Canada)*

### [Improving the Identification of and Responses to Victims of Elder Mistreatment](#)

“Elder mistreatment—which includes physical, psychological, and sexual abuse; fraud and financial exploitation; and neglect of older individuals—is a serious public health issue and a growing area of concern as the percentage of the U.S. population age 60 and older continues to rise. Medical, financial, legal, and social service providers who come into contact with older adults can be well positioned to identify persons at risk for or experiencing elder mistreatment and connect them with service providers to address their needs. However, these service providers require tools and training to identify elder mistreatment. Once victims or at-risk individuals are identified, there are also challenges with how best to intervene and provide victims with effective support and services.”  
*Source: RAND*

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## Public Sector

### [Developing a Successful Social Investment Approach: Supercharging Social Investment in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

“The white paper provides a detailed analysis of how social investment could work in New Zealand, offering insights into its benefits, challenges, and opportunities, including three recommendations. It is designed to inform political leadership, policymakers, investors, nonprofit organisations, and other

stakeholders about the critical role social investment can play in driving sustainable social and economic development.” *Source: Ākina (New Zealand)*

### **The Management Mission: How better leaders improve public services**

“This report brings together the highlights of detailed studies into the value of leadership and management in the UK’s healthcare, education system, and local government. By championing the voices of transformational leaders and effective managers in different parts of the public sector, we hope to inspire stronger and more consistent action from policymakers towards fostering more excellence in leadership and management across the public realm.” *Source: Social Market Foundation (UK)*

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## **Antimicrobial Resistance**

### **Estimating the impact of vaccines in reducing antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use: technical report**

“This report provides an in-depth evaluation of the potential role of vaccines in reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It outlines the importance of vaccines as a crucial tool in preventing infections and curbing the spread of resistant strains, thus reducing reliance on antibiotics. Historically, the role of vaccines in reducing AMR has not been fully recognized, with the focus primarily on their use for preventing infectious diseases.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **Assessing the Burden of and Potential Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance**

“Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is linked to millions of deaths globally each year. As an evolving public health threat, there is a need to further develop methods to quantify AMR's burden within medical practice and other sectors like food production. The National Academies Forum on Microbial Threats hosted a public workshop in March 2024 to explore the burden of AMR and discuss clinical, scientific, and policy strategies for addressing the growing AMR health threat across sectors.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Cancer**

### **Patient navigation for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer: technical brief**

“Patient navigation is an evidence-based personalised intervention designed to guide patients through often complex cancer care systems to receive timely care mostly in settings with limited availability, fragmented health care systems and socioeconomic barriers that hinder early detection and treatment. It has been proven to improve cancer screening rates, reduce time to diagnosis and hospital readmissions, increase adherence to surveillance appointments, improve decision-making and treatment knowledge, satisfaction with care and overall quality of life among cancer patients.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **Biological Effectors of Social Determinants of Health in Cancer**

“Social determinants of health, including factors such as the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age; their education and income; and many other elements can influence their likelihood of developing cancer, the type of cancer, the cancer stage at diagnosis, the quality of care they receive, and their health outcomes. The National Cancer Policy Forum hosted a workshop in March 2024 to examine the complex interactions among biological variables and these factors and their impact on cancer-related health outcomes and health equity.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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