



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@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Equity

Whakatika: a survey of Māori experiences of racism

"This report aims to do justice to the over 2,000 Māori who completed our Survey and to honour their voices. It is meant to give a snapshot of what people told us and to link our findings to other existing evidence of racism, here in Aotearoa and overseas." Source: *Te Atawhai o Te Ao (New Zealand)*

Codesign in the Indigenous policy domain: risks and opportunities

“In recent years, the requirement for First Nations participation through co-design has emerged as a key prerequisite of policy legitimacy in the Indigenous policy domain. In this discussion paper, the mainstream literature on co-design and collaborative governance is surveyed and considered, as a means of identifying the essential characteristics of effective co-design policy and program processes.” Source: *Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU - Australia)*

The data divide: public attitudes to tackling social and health inequalities in the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond

“The pandemic has disrupted how we all live, work and interact with health and care services, and there has been a paradigm shift in technology adoption during this time. These changes must be understood in the context that the pandemic has not impacted on people equally, as Covid-19 has also contributed to worsening inequalities. This report explores public attitudes towards a range of technologies deployed during the pandemic for health outcomes, including mental and physical-health apps, symptom-tracking apps, digital contact-tracing apps and vaccine passports.” Source: *Ada Lovelace Institute (UK)*

Seeking an anchor in an unstable world: experiences of low-income families over time

“This report draws on the experiences of 14 low-income families over a five-year period ending on the eve of the pandemic. It identifies what helped families to keep afloat and what threatened to pull them under as they navigated through choppy waters.” Source: *Joseph Rowntree Foundation (UK)*

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Child, Youth, & Family Wellbeing

The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days

“This publication sets out a vision for brilliance in the 1,001 critical days from conception to age 2. We know that these 1,001 critical days are a unique period for a baby that sets the foundations for lifelong emotional and physical wellbeing.” Source: *UK Government*

Reframing Childhood Adversity: Promoting Upstream Approaches

“This brief offers guidance on positioning and explaining the issue of childhood adversity, as well as the need for promoting upstream approaches. The guidance has implications for a wide variety of communications goals and contexts, but it is most relevant for efforts designed to educate the public about strategies that work at the community and policy levels. These framing recommendations were developed for advocates, researchers, and practitioners working to address issues including child abuse and neglect, family violence, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), early trauma and trauma-informed care, and toxic stress.” Source: *Alliance for Strong Families and Communities (US)*

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COVID-19

Surveillance and the ‘new normal’ of COVID-19: public health, data, and justice

“The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered the way nations around the world use technology in public health. As the virus spread globally, some nations responded by closing businesses, shuttering schools, limiting gatherings, and banning travel. Many also deployed varied technological tools and systems to track virus exposure, monitor outbreaks, and aggregate hospital data. Even as the frenzy of emergency responses begins to subside, the emergent forms of surveillance that have accompanied this new normal persist. As a consequence, societies face new questions about how to manage the monitoring systems created in response to the virus, what processes are required in order to immunise populations, and what new norms the systems have generated.” *Source: Social Science Research Council (US)*

From Double Shock to Double Recovery. Implications and Options for Health Financing in the Time of COVID-19

“The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a double shock - health and economic. As of March 1, 2021, COVID-19 has cost more than 2.5 million lives and triggered an economic recession surpassing any economic downturn since World War II. Part I of this paper explores the impact of this current macro-fiscal outlook on the three primary sources of health spending. Drawing on experiences from previous economic crises, scenario analyses suggest a fall in government per capita spending on health in 2021 and 2022 unless governments make bold choices to increase the share of health in general government spending. The projected drop in per capita government spending on health is expected to coincide with lower levels of household out-of-pocket spending on health and a possible decline in development assistance for health (DAH). Part II of the paper discusses policy options to meet the spending needs in health. These options encompass strategies to make fiscal adjustments work and channel funds where they are most needed, as well as policies to stabilize the balance sheets of social health insurance (SHI) schemes. The paper explains how the health sector can play an active role in expanding fiscal space, contributing to tax reforms, most importantly pro-health taxes, and mobilizing and absorbing external financing, including debt relief.” *Source: World Bank Group*

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Long-Term Conditions

Innovations in care for chronic health conditions: Productivity reform case study

“Prevention can reduce the human and financial costs imposed by chronic conditions; the reduction in smoking rates and the associated burden of disease is one example of success. Nonetheless, there is still significant scope to mitigate the effects of chronic conditions on people’s lives and improve the management of such conditions following a diagnosis. This would promote wellbeing and produce economic benefits. The initiatives included in this report offer practical examples of preventive health innovations and provide insights into overcoming entrenched barriers to implementation of health reform.” *Source: Productivity Commission (Australia)*

The Economic and Social Cost of Type 2 Diabetes

“A report into the cost of type 2 diabetes for Aotearoa New Zealand has been commissioned by the University of Otago’s Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre (EDOR), along with the Healthier Lives - He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge, Diabetes New

Zealand, and Tony & Heather Falkenstein (philanthropists). The analysis for the report was undertaken by PwC.” Source: *University of Otago (New Zealand)*

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Health of Older People

Meeting the Challenge of Caring for Persons Living with Dementia and Their Care Partners and Caregivers

“Meeting the Challenge of Caring for Persons Living with Dementia and Their Care Partners and Caregivers: A Way Forward examines the complex body of evidence on dementia care and informs decision making about which interventions are ready to be broadly disseminated and implemented. It also offers a blueprint to guide future research using rigorous, cutting-edge methods that are inclusive, equitable, and yield critical information for real-world implementation, toward the ultimate goal of better supporting persons living with dementia and their care partners and caregivers in living as well as possible.” Source: *National Academies Press*

Digital inclusion and older people – how have things changed in a Covid-19 world?

“This briefing presents new data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) Covid-19 Substudy (Wave 1), carried out in June/July 2020, which looks at the impact the pandemic has had on internet use among people aged 52+ in England. [The authors] also consider what needs to be done to ensure that everyone who can benefit from digital technology does so, while those who cannot, do not miss out.” Source: *Age UK*

Caring as a social determinant of health: findings from a rapid review of reviews and analysis of the GP Patient Survey

“This report adds to the growing evidence that unpaid caring should be considered a social determinant of health.” Source: *Public Health England*

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Health Technology

Securing a positive health care technology legacy from COVID-19

“This long read explores the challenges of implementing health care technologies and investigates patient and staff experiences of technology during the first phase of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It draws on learning from the Health Foundation’s programmes and YouGov surveys of over 4,000 UK adults and over 1,000 NHS staff conducted in October 2020.” Source: *Health Foundation (UK)*

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Mental Health & Addiction

Community law alcohol harm reduction project

“This evaluation relates to the Demonstration Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (AHRP) established between Te Hiringa Hauora and Community Law Centres o Aotearoa (CLCA). The AHRP aims to empower more deprived communities to better participate in local alcohol

licensing procedures introduced under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. The overall finding is that the continuation of the AHRP work is desirable, and that the outcomes could be even better with some fine-tuning and expansion of the project." Source: *Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

Maternal mental health during a pandemic: a rapid evidence review of Covid-19's impact

"This rapid evidence review (produced together with the Maternal Mental Health Alliance) looks at the impact of Covid-19 on the mental health of new and expectant mothers and the support that's been available during the pandemic." Source: *Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

Upheaval, uncertainty, and change: themes of adulthood

"[This report] is intended as an exploration of a selection of life transitions that can have a profound effect on our mental health, and a call to action for how we can better protect and promote good mental health in the context of these life experiences." Source: *Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

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Health Workforce

Taking a strengths-based approach to social work and social care: a literature review

"There is substantial policy support for strengths-based approaches to social work and social care. New models of care developed in this way utilise personal resources, social networks and community resources to empower individuals to achieve their desired outcomes. A number of strengths-based models of care have been developed, but it is not known whether and how they work, or which model works best for whom and in what circumstances. The primary aim of this review is to examine the development and the potential of strengths-based models in social work and the social care sector." Source: *NIHR Policy Research Unit (UK)*

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Cancer

Cancer won't wait: building resilience in cancer screening and diagnostics in Europe based on lessons from the pandemic

"The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on health services across Europe has in most cases led to significant reductions in cancer screening, testing and diagnosis. The resultant delays in diagnosis are impacting cancer treatment and survival and are likely to do so for many years to come. Responses in individual countries and for individual tumour groups have differed, but there are common challenges in all countries. Some solutions go above and beyond the obvious actions that all countries are taking, and there are examples of how the system has reacted so far that provides the basis for further discussion on building lasting resiliency into healthcare systems and preparing for post-pandemic recovery." Source: *IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science*

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Public Health

Technologies, strategies and approaches for testing populations at risk of sexually transmitted infections in the EU/EEA

“This report presents the results of a systematic literature review investigating the impact of novel strategies and approaches (using existing and/or novel testing technologies) on access to testing, testing coverage, and linkage to care of key populations at-risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In addition, the report presents the following: the testing technologies used for the identified novel strategies and approaches; reported quality assurance needs and risks; and reported feasibility and acceptability. Lastly, the report identifies gaps in knowledge and research priorities. The target audience of this report is policy-makers, national programme coordinators, public health or clinical experts and civil society organisations involved in STI prevention and control in EU/EEA countries.” Source: *European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*

Vaccine access and uptake

“This briefing note explores factors influencing the access and uptake of vaccines [and] the different approaches taken by public health authorities to promote vaccines.” Source: *Nuffield Council on Bioethics (UK)*

Integrating Systems and Sectors Toward Obesity Solutions: Proceedings of a Workshop

“A virtual workshop titled Integrating Systems and Sectors Toward Obesity Solutions, held April 6, 2020 (Part I), and June 30, 2020 (Part II), was convened by the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions, Health and Medicine Division, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The workshop introduced the concept of complex systems and the field of systems science, and explored systems science approaches to obesity solutions.” Source: *National Academies Press*

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Models of Care

Models of generalist and specialist care in smaller hospitals in England: a mixed-methods study

“Generalist models of care appeared a more natural fit for smaller organisations, but there was no evidence that any of the models identified produced better outcomes for patients.” Source: *National Institute for Health Research (UK)*

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