



Ministry of Health Library

# Grey Matter

## A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

Issue 66, 2019, February

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

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### Equity

#### [Incorporating concerns for equity into health resource allocation. A guide for practitioners](#)

“Unfair differences in health care access, quality or health outcomes exist between and within countries around the world, and improving health equity is an important social objective for many governments and international organizations. This paper summaries the methods for analysing health equity available to policymakers regarding the allocation of health sector resources.” *Source: Centre for Health Economics*

### [Immigration as a Social Determinant of Health: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“On average, immigrants are healthier than native-born Americans. Yet, immigrants also are subject to the systematic marginalization and discrimination that often lead to the creation of health disparities. To explore the link between immigration and health disparities, the Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity held a workshop in Oakland, California, on November 28, 2017. This summary of that workshop highlights the presentations and discussions of the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Health of refugee and migrant children: technical guidance](#)

“When considering health and health care interventions for migrant children, some areas need specific attention, such as their diverse backgrounds, whether they are unaccompanied and separated from family, whether they have been trafficked and also if they are children who have been left behind. Policy considerations include an intersectoral approach to promote good health and well-being, particularly mental health, in migrant children that target risk factors at the individual, family and community levels. Particular emphasis is placed on how national/local governments have an important role in fostering or hindering living conditions for refugee and migrant children in the areas of housing, health care services and education.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [What is the status of women’s health and health care in the U.S. compared to ten other countries?](#)

“This brief compares U.S. women’s health status, affordability of health plans, and ability to access and utilize care with women in 10 other high-income countries [including New Zealand] by using international data.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

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

### [Integrating Health Care and Social Services for People with Serious Illness: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“In an effort to better understand and facilitate discussions about the challenges and opportunities related to integrating health care and social services for people with serious illness, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a full-day public workshop on July 19, 2018 in Washington, DC. The workshop featured a broad range of experts and stakeholders including researchers, policy analysts, patient and family caregiving advocates, and representatives of federal agencies. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Public preferences for health gains and cures: a discrete choice experiment](#)

“Curative therapies offer the potential of short “one-off” treatment regimens with lifelong benefits. Cures for Hepatitis C are now available, and cell and gene therapies – many of which also have the potential to offer large health gains and could also be curative – are emerging. Whether or not society values these types of therapies more highly (or less highly) than the sum of the iterative improvements that might come from conventional therapy has been highlighted as an important area for research. The aim of the research was thus to explore society’s preferences across curative and non-curative therapies and large and small health gains.” *Source: Office of Health Economics (UK)*

### [Health 2040 – Better Health Within Reach](#)

“This report has four sections that cover some of the biggest opportunities for health over the next two decades. The first section identifies health as one of England’s primary assets through analysing the links between health and the economy, the local health environment, social health and how the maintenance and treatment of health could be experienced in 2040. The next section of this report identifies the potential health gains and reduction in health inequalities that could be possible with a ‘prevention first’ approach. The third section of this report explores emerging technologies and their potential impact on health promotion, protection and treatment. This section concludes by discussing the ethics of big data, emerging technologies and the fundamental role of mutual trust between the public and health institutions. [The last section] explores current and future uncertainties in health and identifying the potential of futures thinking methods to inform and ‘future-proof’ health policy.”

*Source: Department of Health and Social Care*

### [NHS Long Term Plan](#)

“As medicine advances, health needs change and society develops, so the NHS has to continually move forward so that in 10 years’ time we have a service fit for the future. The NHS Long Term Plan will do just that. Drawn up by those who know the NHS best – frontline health and care staff, patients and their families and other experts – the Long Term Plan is ambitious but realistic. It will give everyone the best start in life; deliver world-class care for major health problems, such as cancer and heart disease, and help people age well.”

*Source: NHS England*

### [Rural health care: a rapid review of the impact of rurality on the costs of delivering health care](#)

“In autumn 2018, the Nuffield Trust was commissioned by the National Centre for Rural Health and Care to explore the key issues around the impact of rurality and sparsity on the costs of delivering health care.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

### [Best Brains Exchange report : innovative approaches and pathways used to integrate home and community care with primary health care for elderly persons in rural Canada](#)

“Currently, there are many practical and cost-effective solutions to help rural elderly residents remain in their homes and communities longer and stay out of long-term or acute care facilities. Some of these innovative approaches and practices can be drawn from the community; some from various levels of governments or the healthcare sector; and others from the non-profit or for-profit sectors. Given the existing stock of promising approaches, it is important to first learn from what currently exists rather than reinventing the wheel when seeking potential solutions. Practices and approaches that have proven effective in one rural community can often be adapted and scaled up in other rural communities– assuming the unique needs of each community and its residents are explicitly taken into account.” *Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research*

### [‘Buildings in the Making’: A Sociological Exploration of Architectural Design for Care](#)

“‘Buildings in the Making’ is an interdisciplinary research symposium, and end of project conference for the study – Buildings in the Making: a sociological exploration of architecture for health and social care – funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (2015-2018). The aim of the conference is to create dialogue between sociology, anthropology,

architecture and design, with a focus on architecture in health care and social care, in particular later life care.” *Source: University of York*

### **[Impact Investing in Preventive Healthcare](#)**

“This paper provides a landscape overview of the healthcare system in Canada, and outlines a role for impact investors. Healthcare costs are rising in Canada. There are five general factors that drive healthcare costs in Canada, listed below. The core drivers of healthcare costs are: (1) health sector expenditures (hospitals and physician costs) and (2) the prevalence of long-term conditions.” *Source: University of British Columbia*

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## **Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity**

### **[Current Status and Response to the Global Obesity Pandemic](#)**

“On October 9, 2018 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a public workshop titled “Current Status and Response to the Global Obesity Pandemic” in Washington, DC. The workshop examined the status of the global obesity pandemic and explored approaches used to manage the problem in different settings around the world. This Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief highlights presentations which discussed the importance of understanding the obesity epidemic in global context and shared perspectives on the implications of obesity as a global problem for prevention and treatment efforts in the United States, with an emphasis on reducing disparities.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[The health impacts of screen time: a guide for clinicians and parents](#)**

“This guide provides a summary of existing research on the health effects of screen time on children and young people. It outlines recommendations for health professionals and families on screen time use.” *Source: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health*

### **[Bike Life -Transforming cities: The potential of everyday cycling](#)**

“This report models the benefit cycling could produce between 2017 and the year 2040 with ambitious commitment to deliver change.” *Source: Sustrans*

### **[The Use of Dietary Intake Data in Dietary Exposure Assessments Within Health Canada: Current Practices, Challenges and Perspectives](#)**

“Food is recognized as an important pathway for biological, chemical and physical hazards to human health; thus, dietary intake data are required for a wide range of risk/safety assessment activities conducted throughout Health Canada. The Task Force on Scientific Risk Assessment's Dietary Intake Project was initiated to summarize intradepartmental use of dietary intake data in exposure assessments and to provide suggestions for best practices.” *Source: Health Canada*

### **[Canada's Dietary Guidelines for Health Professionals and Policy Makers](#)**

“This report is based on the best available scientific evidence. It contains healthy eating guidelines and considerations that are relevant and applicable to the Canadian context.” *Source: Health Canada*

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## Public & Global Health

### [Best practice recommendations for conducting after-action reviews to enhance public health preparedness](#)

“An integral part of improving preparedness and response planning is learning from past public health emergencies. Conducting after-action reviews (AARs) is a way of capturing such learnings, but there is no standardised approach to conducting such assessments. In order to support public health practitioners in making the best use of AARs, this ECDC technical report identifies common features of AARs, provides a validity assessment tool to appraise them, and proposes a set of best practice recommendations.” *Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*

### [Health risks of cold homes: data resources](#)

“Living in a cold home has significant and demonstrable direct and indirect health impacts. There is strong evidence that shows it is associated with poor health outcomes and an increased risk of morbidity and mortality for all age groups. This guidance aims to help local areas to implement and monitor their progress towards preventing deaths and illness associated with cold homes.” *Source: Public Health England*

### [Using systems thinking to address intimate partner violence and child abuse in New Zealand](#)

“Systems thinking is recommended to address intimate partner violence (IPV) and child abuse and neglect (CAN) in New Zealand. Systems thinking is an umbrella term that encompasses a range of ideas, methods and tools that focus on understanding system behaviour, emphasising the contextual nature of the problems we try to solve. It aims to affect transformational systemic change that is both sympathetic to existing needs and disruptive in terms of making changes aimed at positive outcomes.” *Source: New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse*

### [Study on Cannabis Health Warning Messages Focus Groups: Executive Summary](#)

“As part of the regulations that will support the coming into force of the Cannabis Act, the Government of Canada is requiring that mandatory health warning messages be included on the package of all cannabis products. The purpose of the health warning messages is to warn people of the potential health effects of using cannabis. Focus groups were required to explore the views of the general population, with a special attention to youth, on the effectiveness of health warning messages.” *Source: Earncliffe Strategy Group*

### [Contained and controlled: the UK’s 20-year vision for antimicrobial resistance](#)

“The United Kingdom (UK) is determined to sustain its efforts to combat resistance, taking local, national and global 'One-Health' approaches across humans, animals, the environment and food, in line with global ambitions and in collaboration with other nations, partners and the international community.” *Source: HM Government (UK)*

### [Review of national treatment guidelines for sexually transmitted infections in the Western Pacific Region](#)

“To achieve the goals set in the Global Health Sector Strategy, WHO guidelines for the treatment of four STIs (*Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Treponema pallidum* and genital HSV) were updated in 2016. The aims of this fact sheet are to review treatment

guidelines for these four STI in the Western Pacific Region in accordance with the 2016 WHO STI guidelines and to describe the situation regarding the treatment of STIs in this Region. The most up-to-date STI guidelines for each country were obtained through WHO country offices and through online searches. Ministries of health were contacted to verify the information, where necessary." *Source: World Health Organization*

### [World Health Statistics 2018: Monitoring health for the SDGs](#)

"The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual snapshot of the state of the world's health. This 2018 edition contains the latest available data for 36 health-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. It also links to the three SDG-aligned strategic priorities of the WHO's 13th General Programme of Work: achieving universal health coverage, addressing health emergencies and promoting healthier populations." *Source: World Health Organization*

### [Alcohol purchasing behaviour of drinkers](#)

"This report from SHORE & Whariki Research Centre examined patterns of purchasing of alcohol, including late night purchasing, from on and off licensed premises, using survey data from 2015. Current national maximum trading hours for on licensed premises are between 8am and 4am, and between 7am and 11pm for off licensed premises. The researchers found that most alcohol purchases occurred prior to the national maximum trading hours (between midnight and 2am for on licensed premises and between 8pm and 10pm for off licensed premises). Since two thirds of drinkers who purchased alcohol later at night were drinking at risky levels, further restrictions on trading hours is in line with the aim of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act (2012), to minimise harm from alcohol." *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

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## **Health Technology**

### [Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing: Continuing the Global Discussion](#)

"On November 27-29, 2018, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and U.S. National Academy of Medicine, the Royal Society of the United Kingdom, and the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong convened the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing at the University of Hong Kong. The summit brought together more than 500 researchers, ethicists, policymakers, representatives from scientific and medical academies, patient group representatives, and others from around the world. Over the two-and-a-half-day event, topics including the potential benefits and risks of human genome editing, ethical and cultural perspectives, regulatory and policy considerations, and public outreach and engagement efforts were explored. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the event." *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Digital health: creating a new growth industry for Australia](#)

"This report argues that leveraging new technologies will be instrumental in improving healthcare access and affordability for taxpayers." *Source: ANDHealth*

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## Primary Care

### [GP partnership review: final report](#)

“The review has engaged with GPs and others with an interest to look for solutions to reinvigorate the partnership model and support the transformation of general practice.”

Source: *Department of Health and Social Care (UK)*

### [GP premises: the patient perspective](#)

“Poor confidentiality at reception desks, issues with access for disabled people and dated waiting rooms are some of the biggest problems highlighted by patients in a new report published by the Patients Association of people’s views of their local GP surgery’s buildings.”

Source: *The Patients Association (UK)*

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## Quality & Safety

### [Opening the door to change](#)

“[The commission] examined the underlying issues in NHS trusts that contribute to the occurrence of Never Events and the learning that [can be applied] to wider safety issues. Within the scope of this review [the commission] wanted to understand what makes it easier, and what makes it harder, for the different people and organisations in the system to prevent Never Events and deliver safe care more widely.” Source: *Care Quality Commission (UK)*

### [Interconnected: An Exploration of Improvement Efforts Connecting Patient Experience and Communication](#)

“A new white paper by The Beryl Institute explores the role of nurse leadership and the impact and influence nurse leaders can have to uncover the fundamental practices and actions which drive experience success. Published in collaboration with The Beryl Institute’s Nurse Executive Council, *The Role of Nurse Executives in Patient Experience*, provides three macro themes which positively impact patient experience success: elevating humanity, acting holistically by listening and engaging all individuals and acknowledging all voices. “

Source : *Beryl Institute*

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## Child, Youth, & Family Health

### [The next generation: how intergenerational interaction improves life chances of children and young people](#)

“This paper focuses on the benefits for the next generation – children and young people who currently face a growing crisis of confidence, loneliness and anxiety, often fearful about the future, fragmented families, segregated by age, with cuts in services and financial support. Intergenerational interaction between older and younger people can help address these issues - starting at an early age with nurseries and care homes linking, through schools, colleges and universities, to mentoring and community projects.” Source: *United for All Ages*

### [Relationships Matter for Youth 'Aging Out' of Care](#)

“Relationships Matter for Youth 'Aging Out' of Care is a collaborative photovoice project led by Doucet, who is a former youth in care, alongside eight former youth in care between the ages of 19 and 29 from the Greater Vancouver area. Using images captured by the young co-researchers and their accompanying captions, the report takes a closer look at meaningful supportive relationships in the lives of young people in and from care, and how those relationships can be developed and nurtured over time. The report features 12 relationship-related themes emerging from the photography, and outlines 34 concrete recommendations for improvement of child welfare policies and practices.” *Source: Representative for Children and Youth (Canada)*

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## **Mental Health**

### **[The social and economic benefits of improving mental health: issues paper](#)**

“Mental health is a key driver of economic participation and productivity in Australia, and hence has the potential to impact incomes and living standards and social engagement and connectedness. Improved population mental health could also help to reduce costs to the economy over the long term.” *Source: Productivity Commission (Australia)*

### **[Awareness into action: a holistic approach to cultivating mentally healthy workplaces in Australia](#)**

“In this report, [the authors] seek to show that a mentally healthy workplace can only be achieved when it is a business priority. The authors do this by bringing together key research findings and other expert resources to put forward a holistic approach to help employers transform awareness into action that promotes positive mental health in Australia’s workplaces.” *Source: Allianz*

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## **Cancer**

### **[Breast Cancer: The Lived Experience](#)**

“Breast Cancer: The Lived Experience showcases the needs and experiences of women with early staged breast cancer alongside people living with metastatic breast cancer. There are some shared similarities experienced by both groups, but there are also significant differences in priorities and experiences. This report highlights that while patients feel supported and well cared for in certain aspects, there are still significant opportunities for improvements in other aspects.” *Source: Canadian Breast Cancer Network*

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