



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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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[**Strengthening the frontline: How primary health care helps health systems adapt during the COVID 19 pandemic**](#)

"Health systems continue to adapt to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Much focus has been placed on the scaling-up of hospital capacities. However, the pandemic is also deeply affecting the health of many people who are not infected by the virus. People living with

chronic conditions are not only highly vulnerable to complications and death from COVID-19, but they are also suffering from disruptions to their regular care routines. The COVID-19 crisis demonstrates the importance of placing primary health care at the core of health systems, both to manage an unexpected surge of demand and to maintain continuity of care for all.” *Source: OECD*

[Resource allocation in public sector programmes: does the value of a life differ between governmental departments?](#)

“A new research paper examines whether there are differences in the value of life estimates recommended for use across government departments in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the Netherlands, and the UK. The departments of interest were those known to use some form of valuation of human life: health, social care, transport, and environment. For each country, a literature review was conducted to identify evidence from technical reports, guidelines, and tools published directly by government departments indicating methods for conducting impact assessments or appraisals.” *Source: Office of Health Economics (UK)*

[Realising The Broader Value of Vaccines in the UK: Ready for Prime Time?](#)

“To drive change towards recognising and rewarding the broader value of vaccines in the UK, this third report sets out actionable short- and long-term recommendations.” *Source: Office of Health Economics (UK)*

[Health and Wellbeing Interventions in Healthcare: A rapid evidence review](#)

“The aim of this report was to undertake a rapid review of the evidence base of health and wellbeing interventions used in healthcare and their implications for wellbeing outcomes. The findings would add to current knowledge about wellbeing interventions that are commonly implemented, if there is any evidence of their efficacy, and what future research still needs to be undertaken in this area. The review captures papers written in the English language, published in the last 10 years which focussed specifically on wellbeing interventions (both physical and mental wellbeing) in healthcare settings.” *Source: Institute for Employment Studies (UK)*

[Engaging men earlier: a guide to service design](#)

“This handbook provides a set of principles upon which wellbeing initiatives for men should be based, drawn from what men have told us is important to them. By following these principles, wellbeing initiatives are more likely to be effective for, and appeal to, men going through tough times before reaching crisis point.” *Source: Samaritans (UK)*

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COVID-19

[The COVID Decade: understanding the long-term societal impacts of COVID-19](#)

“The British Academy was asked by the Government Office for Science to produce an independent review on the long-term societal impacts of COVID-19. This report outlines the evidence across a range of areas, building upon a series of expert reviews, engagement, synthesis and analysis across the research community in the Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts (SHAPE).” *Source: British Academy*

Shaping the COVID decade: addressing the long-term societal impacts of COVID-19

“In order to consider how to look to the future and shape the COVID decade, the authors suggest seven strategic goals for policymakers to pursue: build multi-level governance; improve knowledge, data and information linkage and sharing; prioritise digital infrastructure; reimagine urban spaces; create an agile education and training system; strengthen community-led social infrastructure; and promote a shared social purpose.” *Source: British Academy*

Racism and xenophobia experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand during COVID-19: a focus on Chinese and Asian communities

“The purpose of this research was to document the prevalence, nature and pattern of racism and xenophobia experienced by people in the COVID-19 context, particularly among Tangata Whenua, Chinese, other Asian peoples (apart from Chinese), and Pacific peoples.” *Source: New Zealand Human Rights Commission*

Covid-19 recovery and resilience: what can health and care learn from other disasters?

The authors “set out to understand what the health and care system can learn from the experience of recovery from other disasters. While Covid-19 can feel like an entirely unique event, there are parallels with and lessons to be learned from other disasters from the past 20 years.” *Source: King’s Fund*

In the wake of the pandemic: preparing for long Covid

This policy brief, written for decision-makers, is in two parts. First, it summarizes what is known about this condition, reviewing evidence on the mechanisms involved, who and what proportion of those infected get it, how it affects them, and what is known about diagnosis and treatment. Second, it brings together examples of how European countries are responding to this new condition.” *Source: World Health Organization Europe*

Digital health during the COVID-19 pandemic: Learning lessons to maintain momentum

“This report has been developed by the Patient Coalition for AI, Data and Digital Tech in Health, which aims to unite representatives from patient advocacy groups, including Patient Safety Learning, Royal Colleges, medical charities, industry and other stakeholders committed to ensuring that patient interests. The report highlights that uptake of digital health technologies has been limited, while patient experience of technologies including video conferencing and mobile apps has been mixed. Although patients strongly believe in the value of digital health, there are still significant concerns about using it, particularly around data collection and sharing.” *Source: Patient Safety Learning*

Public health foresight in light of COVID-19

“The COVID-19 pandemic caught the world unprepared and has changed the shape of public health – and of our lives – for the foreseeable future. A group of senior public health officials from national and regional public health agencies across Europe came together to discuss current developments, the interrelated complexities and implications for their work in the near and long-term future. This report reflects their insights into some of the most pressing societal challenges and trends for public health in the years ahead, adopting a

broad definition of health which encompasses social and environmental factors.” *Source: EuroHealthNet*

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Child & Youth Health

[Loneliness in Young People: Young people’s experiences of loneliness and ideas for policy solutions](#)

The authors worked “with the Mental Health Foundation (MHF) Young Leaders policy group to understand what loneliness means to young people and how it affects their lives. The Mental Health Young Leaders are a group of 14–25-year-olds from diverse backgrounds and a range of different lived experience.” *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

[Young People’s Mental and Emotional Health: Trajectories and Drivers in Childhood and Adolescence](#)

“This report investigates how mental and emotional health (MEH) changes as children move into and through adolescence, as well as the individual-, family-, school- and area-level factors that drive positive and poor MEH. To supplement the quantitative analysis, virtual focus groups were conducted with young people aged 14 to 16. These had a mixture of genders, backgrounds and experiences related to mental health.” *Source: Education Policy Institute (UK)*

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Public Health

[Public Policy Competencies for Public Health: A Review of the Literature](#)

“This report is intended to inform public health professionals about the trends and tendencies over the past 15 years or so related to what public health schools, organizations, and authorities have done and are doing with regard to developing competency frameworks as one tool for increasing their ability to intervene in public policy. In addition to presenting the findings, we suggest that increasing organizational capacity in this area is a promising way to move policy work forward.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (Canada)*

[Tools and Methods for Integrating Health into Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policies and Strategies](#)

“This document presents the results of a scoping review of the literature on existing tools and methods for integrating health concerns into climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (Canada)*

[This report comes with a health warning](#)

“The health of more than 12 million people – equivalent to the populations of Greater London and Greater Manchester combined - is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Millions in the UK are vulnerable to blistering heatwaves and major flood events, made more likely by climate change. [This] latest report was launched February 2021 in collaboration with the UK

Health Alliance on Climate Change and Priestley International Centre for Climate. It shows that approximately 1.8 million people in the UK are living in areas at significant risk of flooding - a number which could increase to 2.6 million by 2050. Just under 12 million people in the UK are also dangerously vulnerable to future summer heatwaves, particularly the elderly or people with pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease.”
Source: Climate Coalition (UK)

[How transport offers a route to better health](#)

“This long read examines the challenges of shifting towards a transport system that better supports health. It sets out how transport affects health, the difficulties in moving towards greater use of public transport and the effects of COVID-19 on travel patterns.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Through a gender lens: women and tobacco in the WHO European Region](#)

“This report provides a brief summary of some of the challenges, old and new, that women and girls face in the context of the tobacco epidemic in the WHO European Region, outlining the gendered nature of tobacco use and exposure and how the tobacco industry continues to target them through gendered messaging. It also provides recommendations for approaches and policy interventions that take a gender lens to tobacco control.” *Source: World Health Organization Europe*

[Experiences of domestic violence among women with restrictive long-term health conditions](#)

“This report describes the domestic violence experiences of women with restrictive long-term health conditions during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, using survey data collected in May 2020 from over 8,000 Australian women who were in a current relationship.”
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[We can't prevent childhood obesity by education alone: lessons from the evidence base](#)

“This briefing examines randomised control trials across a range of countries and settings. It analyses the focus of the trials through a wider determinants of health lens, and compares the focus of interventions against previously mapped causes of obesity – which show that approximately 60 per cent of the causes come from living and working conditions, such as housing or transport, or wider conditions, such as income equality or land use.” *Source: University of Bristol (UK)*

[Childhood overweight and obesity: the impact of the home environment](#)

“This report aims to provide a resource to inform overweight and obesity prevention strategies and policies for children and their families. It looks at the individual and family factors in the home environment—where a child lives and grows—that affect childhood overweight and obesity. These factors, along with broader community and society influences, affect a child’s likelihood of becoming overweight or obese.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[COVID-19 and Obesity: The 2021 Atlas](#)

“Obesity is recognised as both a disease in its own right and a condition that increases the likelihood of developing a wide range of non-communicable diseases. Less well-known is the fact that obesity also increases the likelihood that infectious diseases will lead to serious consequences. This is most clearly apparent in the global spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the resulting pandemic of COVID-19.” *Source: World Obesity Federation*

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Respiratory Health

[New Zealand COPD Guidelines](#)

“The NZ COPD Guidelines have been developed by the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation’s (ARFNZ) working group of respiratory health experts led by Dr Stuart Jones from Middlemore Hospital and Professor Bob Hancox from the University of Otago, with the goal of improving diagnosis, and laying out clear recommendations for assessment and management of this respiratory disease.” *Source: Asthma and Respiratory Foundation New Zealand*

[Potential limited: the economic cost of uncontrolled asthma](#)

“This research, commissioned by Sanofi, found that people with uncontrolled asthma are on average financially worse off, earning around £3,000 less per year than the average adult. Beyond the personal impact, the report estimates that every year, the condition is linked to a massive £2 billion loss to the UK economy due to lower pay.” *Source: Demos*

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Disability & Social Care

[Stories from social care leadership: Progress amid pestilence and penury](#)

“The King’s Fund carried out interviews with people working within social care and those accessing its services: we asked three essential questions. Where do those interviewed think leadership in social care lies? How effective is it? And what might be done to improve it?” *Source: King’s Fund*

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Health Workforce

[Skills for the future health workforce](#)

“The landscape of health services delivery is undergoing significant transformation from fragmented and disease-centred toward integrated and people-centred care. Health workers find themselves at the centre of this transformation that demands from them commensurate changes in the skill-set employed in day-to-day practice, among other challenges. The paper identifies transversal (core) skills that are becoming increasingly crucial for all front-line health workers to reap the potential benefits of people-centred care, such as better patient and population outcomes, higher productivity, and higher retention/job satisfaction combined among the workers themselves.” *Source: OECD*

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Health of Older People

[Planning for older people post-Covid-19](#)

“The COVID-19 pandemic and responses are likely to impact many older people’s wellbeing for some time. To inform services looking to support older people, Te Pou has produced this factsheet. It compiles useful published data sources and presents relevant data describing prevalence and service use across the service domains described in the Ministry of Health’s (2020) Kia Kaha, Kia Māia, Kia Ora Aotearoa: COVID-19 Psychosocial and Mental Wellbeing Recovery Plan.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

[Global report on ageism](#)

“This report outlines a framework for action to reduce ageism including specific recommendations for different actors (for example, government, UN agencies, civil society organisations, private sector). It brings together evidence on the nature and magnitude of ageism, its determinants and its impact. It outlines what strategies work to prevent and counter ageism, identifies gaps and proposes future lines of research to improve understanding of ageism.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[The Cost of Waiting for Long-Term Care: Findings from a Qualitative Study](#)

“The research team conducted qualitative research to explore the reasons why some people choose to wait for long-term care homes with longer waitlists and to examine the experiences of family caregivers of older immigrants throughout their long-term care application and waiting journey. This research paper presents the findings from focus groups and individual interviews with family caregivers of older immigrants from five different ethnocultural communities, waiting for long-term care placement.” *Source: Wellesley Institute*

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Drug & Alcohol Use

[Public attitudes on policy interventions to reduce alcohol harm](#)

“In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the SAFER initiative (SAFER) to help combat the effects of alcohol-related harm, by focusing on the most cost-effective policy interventions (‘best buys’). The best buys focus on drink driving; advertising, sponsorship and promotion; screening; availability; and pricing. This report presents the attitudes of New Zealand adults to the SAFER policy interventions from the 2019/20 Alcohol Use in New Zealand Survey (AUiNZ).” *Source: Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency*

[Alcohol Use in New Zealand Survey \(AUiNZ\) 2019/20 – Māori results 2019/20](#)

“This is one of three reports highlighting the results from the first Alcohol Use in New Zealand Survey (AUiNZ). This report describes the results for Māori respondents, and focuses on providing detailed within-Māori comparisons.” *Source: Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency*

[Alcohol Use in New Zealand Survey \(AUiNZ\) 2019/20 – High-level results 2019/20](#)

“This is one of three reports highlighting the results from the first Alcohol Use in New Zealand Survey (AUiNZ). This report describes the high-level results for all respondents.”
Source: Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency

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Health Communication

COVID-19 Vaccination Communication: Applying Behavioral and Social Science to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Foster Vaccine Confidence

“Although newly developed COVID-19 vaccines are poised to be a powerful tool in the control of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, the public’s confidence in and willingness to receive the vaccines will determine the outcome of this mass-scale public health intervention. This report, which was developed in consultation with leading experts in social and behavioral sciences and public health, outlines evidence-informed communication strategies.” *Source: National Institutes of Health*

Understanding vulnerability to online misinformation

“Several large-scale research projects have started during the crisis with the aim of understanding the nature, prevalence and spread of health-related misinformation online. However, relatively little is known about who is vulnerable to believing false information and why. This is crucial for developing more targeted and effective interventions which tackle the root causes of misinformation rather than just its symptoms. To address this gap, researchers from The Alan Turing Institute’s public policy programme have conducted original research using a survey and assessments to understand (1) which individuals are most vulnerable to believing health-related falsities and (2) the role played by the content that individuals are exposed to.” *Source: Alan Turing Institute (UK)*

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