



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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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Health system recovery from Covid-19: International lessons for the NHS](#)

"The challenges confronting the NHS in recovering from the pandemic are huge, with elective services that were scaled down during the worst of the crisis now with waiting lists of over 6 million patients. Yet worldwide, the pandemic has left even the most well-equipped health systems vulnerable. What approaches have other countries used to move towards recovery, and what might the NHS learn? This major new Nuffield Trust report looks across 16 different countries to gain an understanding of the recovery challenge worldwide." *Source: Nuffield Trust*

[Benefit design: the perspective from health financing policy](#)

“Given the central importance of public financing to make progress towards universal health coverage (UHC), government policy on benefit design, including both service entitlements and conditions of access, significantly influences health system performance. Benefit design considers how all public funds are used and should be based on evidence and developed through a systematic process involving key stakeholders. Reducing uncertainty over entitlements and conditions of access, in particular co-payments, both reduces barriers to accessing services and improves financial protection. Finally, aligning benefit design with a range of health financing policies, as well as service with delivery objectives, provides a powerful way through which policy makers can drive positive change in their health systems.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Rise like a phoenix: Health at the heart of a resilient future for Europe](#)

“This special issue of Eurohealth provides reflections on the main themes of the 2021 European Health Forum Gastein, one of the leading health policy conferences in Europe bringing together a mix of public policy-makers, civil society, researchers and private sector representatives. The theme of the 2021 edition focused on how we can address the root causes and systemic failings that have allowed COVID-19 to flourish and looking forward, build resilience to fight for solidarity, equity and transformation in health.” *Source: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

[Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations](#)

“This white paper sets out measures to make integrated health and social care a universal reality for everyone across England regardless of their condition and of where they live.” *Source: GOV.UK*

[What enabled health service innovation during the pandemic? Crisis, staff, system, or management?](#)

“A perspectives brief...by the AHHA’s Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research discusses the key enablers of innovative allied health models of care and practice changes within Queensland’s publicly funded health services during the pandemic preparedness phase.” *Source: Deeble Institute*

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Alcohol Related Issues

[Population-wide interventions for reducing alcohol consumption: what does the per capita consumption indicator say?](#)

“Population-wide interventions are the most cost-effective approach to tackle the root causes of and reduce overall alcohol consumption and harm. Many global commitments and surveillance systems use per capita alcohol consumption to track progress in implementing alcohol control policies. The alcohol per capita consumption presents many advantages as an indicator, including being readily available, extremely reliable, comparable across settings and closely associated with alcohol-related harm.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Health warning labels on alcoholic beverages: opportunities for informed and healthier choices](#)

“Experimental studies indicate that warning labels can impact self-reported intention to reduce consumption. Although health warning labels are talked about as one policy approach to curb the consumption of alcohol, they can be implemented and evaluated in various ways that can affect

whether they can be considered effective. The effect of health warnings labels is optimized when reinforced by other policies that curb alcohol consumption.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Digital marketing of alcoholic beverages: what has changed?](#)

Exposure to alcohol marketing increases the acceptability of drinking alcohol, at an earlier age of onset and influences drinking behaviours, including heavy episodic drinking. The digital ecosystem provides opportunities for marketing companies to position increasingly covert advertising. These new advertisements target individual consumers based on the data that has been gathered about them, allowing marketers to optimize their strategies. Policy- and decision-makers concerned to regulate and enforce digital marketing to reduce harm risks need to keep pace with the constantly evolving digital marketplace. *Source: World Health Organization*

[Addressing alcohol consumption and socioeconomic inequalities: how a health promotion approach can help](#)

“This Snapshot is part of a series of briefs tackling critical issues related to the determinants driving the acceptability, availability and affordability of alcohol consumption and how it affects people and their communities. The briefs result from a quick scanning of the recent evidence on the topic, insights from leading experts, consultation with selected countries, and discussions during webinars convened to create a platform to match evidence, practice, and policies. It is intended for a broad audience, including professionals working in public health and local and national alcohol policy focal points, policy-makers, government officials, researchers, civil society groups, consumer associations, the mass media and people new to alcohol research or practice.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder \(FASD\): An update on policy and practice in Australia](#)

“This paper outlines developments for the prevention of FASD and the diagnosis and support of children and young people living with FASD in Australia. It describes some of the key policy and practice initiatives since 2016, including the National FASD Strategic Action Plan 2018-2028, and considers further opportunities for responding to the needs of children and families affected by FASD. This paper is intended to provide an overview of the key issues for child and family practitioners who may encounter children and families living with FASD.” *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

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Public Health

[Emerging trends and technologies: a horizon scan for global public health](#)

“This publication presents the findings of a global horizon scan, conducted by a group of international experts, on emerging technologies and trends relevant to global public health conducted in 2020 and 2021. The group identified 15 new and emerging technologies and scientific advances that may have a significant impact on global health over the next two decades.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Protecting the Miracle of Modern Medicine](#)

“Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Protecting the Miracle of Modern Medicine discusses ways to improve detection of resistant infections in the United States and abroad, including monitoring

environmental reservoirs of resistance. This report sets out a strategy for improving stewardship and preventing infections in humans and animals. The report also discusses the strength of the pipeline for new antimicrobial medicines and steps that could be taken to bring a range of preventive and therapeutic products for humans and animals to the market.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Antimicrobial Resistance in the EU/EEA - A One Health response](#)

“Evidence that AMR can spread between animals, humans and the environment is mounting. Reducing the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals, replacing them where possible and rethinking the livestock production system in a One Health approach is essential for the future of animal and public health.” *Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*

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COVID-19

[Mental Health and COVID-19: Early evidence of the pandemic’s impact: Scientific brief, 2 March 2022](#)

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the mental health and wellbeing of people around the world while also raising concerns of increased suicidal behaviour. In addition access to mental health services has been severely impeded. However, no comprehensive summary of the current data on these impacts has until now been made widely available.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Medicine Access

[Shortages of medicines in OECD countries](#)

“Even in wealthy economies, access to medicines is increasingly affected by medicine shortages – an issue exacerbated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this paper was to examine the extent and nature of medicine shortages in OECD countries (pre-COVID-19) and explore the reasons for this growing global problem.” *Source: OECD*

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Mental Health

[Increasing access to treatment for women with common maternal mental health problems](#)

“This briefing paper provides a summary of research by the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science: The economic case for increasing access to treatment for women with common mental health problems during the perinatal period.” *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

[The economic case for investing in the prevention of mental health conditions in the UK](#)

“This report provides an overview of the economic case for the prevention of mental health conditions.” *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

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Child & Youth Wellbeing

[“Nothing about us, without us”. Tips for policy-makers on child and adolescent participation in policy development](#)

“Decision-makers have a professional and moral obligation to ensure that adolescents are involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of all relevant legislation, policies and services. Adolescents need to be included in developing the programmes affecting their lives, whether at school, in their communities or at national and international levels. This guide outlines the rationale for including children and adolescents in decision-making. It presents guidance on how participation with young people can be planned and executed to inform policy and practice developments and calls for policy-makers to prioritize both marginalized and seldom-heard adolescents and young children in decision-making.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Delivering for youth: How governments can put young people at the centre of the recovery](#)

“Governments across the OECD are investing significant resources to address the immediate and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that the crisis has affected different age groups differently and that its repercussions will be felt by many for decades to come, it is crucial to adopt an integrated public governance approach to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. This policy brief presents the views of a non-representative sample of 151 youth organisations from 72 countries, including 100 youth organisations based in 36 OECD countries, on how young people have been experiencing the crisis and related government action. It is complemented by an analysis of the measures adopted across 34 OECD countries and provides recommendations on how to deliver a fair, inclusive and resilient recovery for young people through a range of public governance approaches.” *Source: OECD*

[RECOVER – Reconnecting mothers and children after family violence: the child–parent psychotherapy pilot](#)

“Developed in the United States, child–parent psychotherapy (CPP) is a therapeutic model of care for mothers and their children which aims to enhance relationships and reduce trauma. The RECOVER study tested the feasibility of providing this model of care in Australia to mothers and their pre-school-aged children who are affected by intimate partner violence.” *Source: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety*

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Equity

[Addressing racial and ethnic inequities in data-driven health technologies](#)

“Data-driven technologies offer great potential for the delivery of health and care in general and may have a specific part to play in helping to reduce disparities in health. The UK holds some of the best health data sets globally and has the ability to bring together comprehensive and longitudinal data for over 65 million people . It is imperative that the benefits of this data are maximised for public benefit. The Government has invested capital and driven initiatives to improve these data sets. However, at the same time, there has been little exploration of whether and how AI and data-

driven technologies could be utilised to help improve the health of minority ethnic groups and as such, a better evidence base is required for this.” *Source: Imperial College London*

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Nutrition & Obesity

[World Obesity Atlas 2022](#)

“Since 2019, World Obesity has published an annual Atlas on obesity around different themes, complementing the data collected within World Obesity’s Global Obesity Observatory. These Atlases have provided projections for child and adult obesity, highlighting how far countries are from reaching the WHO global targets on obesity.” *Source: World Cancer Research Fund International*

[Approaches to Assessing Intake of Food and Dietary Supplements in Pregnant Women and Children 2 to 11 Years of Age](#)

“The four-day workshop series explored the evidence on methodological approaches to assessing intake of food and dietary supplements in pregnant women and children 2 to 11 years of age. Obtaining reliable and valid dietary intake information for these population groups is particularly difficult - in pregnancy, rapid changes in nutrient needs and dietary intakes occur, and in young children, much of dietary intake is consumed outside the home and is often misreported by the children or their proxy reporters. To advance the quality of the science in these areas, the workshop had four goals: identify the suite of current methods used in dietary assessments, including food and dietary supplements, in pregnant women and children 2 to 11 years of age; identify the methodological challenges and opportunities in improving current methods; explore methodologies in other disciplines and their application in dietary assessments in those populations; and discuss factors to consider when implementing dietary assessment tools in those populations. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions of the workshop series.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Primary Care

[Coordination of health care: patient and primary care factors associated with potentially preventable hospitalisations for chronic conditions](#)

“This study investigates the relationship between aspects of a patient’s health and primary care experiences and their likelihood of also having a potentially preventable hospitalisation (PPH) for a chronic condition during the survey period. While patient health measures (self-rated health status, being a frequent user of GP services, significant polypharmacy) were associated with chronic condition PPH, patient perceptions of experiences (such as GP awareness of the patient’s health care history, GP involving the patient in care decisions) generally were not.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Digital and remote primary care: the inverse care law with a 21st century twist?](#)

“The pandemic has brought significant changes to how people access primary care services, including the rise of online bookings and remote consultations. Are they changes in the right

direction? In this long read, Charlotte Paddison discusses whether the shift towards digital primary care risks making access easier for people with less need and harder for those more likely to be in poorer health – and describes the actions that would help in getting access right.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

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