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

Issue 123, 2024, May

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.

Click on any of the bulleted points below to go to a section of interest.

Public Health

Technology, Innovation, & Research

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Health of Older People

Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

Equity

Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

Disinformation

Workforce

Violence Prevention

Palliative Care

Addiction

Legislation

Disability

Public Health

World health statistics 2024: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals
The World health statistics report is the annual compilation of health and health-related indicators, which has been published by the World Health Organization since 2005. The 2024 edition reviews more than 50 health-related indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals and WHO's

Thirteenth General Programme of Work. It also highlights the findings from the Global health estimates 2021, notably the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. *Source: World Health Organization*

[The socioeconomic drivers and impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Implications for policy and research](#)
"The policy community, international and national, recognizes the significant health and economic impacts of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on individuals, households, health systems and society. It is seeking sustainable solutions but often neglects the socioeconomic and sociocultural drivers of AMR." *Source: European Observatory*

[Strengthening the EU response to prevention and control of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Policy priorities for effective implementation](#)
"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global public health challenge. It is driven by inappropriate antimicrobial use and poor infection prevention and control across human, animal, plant, and environmental health settings. With resistance to second and third-line antimicrobials growing the threat is profound." *Source: European Observatory*

[Commissioning community champions: lessons from a pandemic](#)
"During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a huge augmentation and expansion of community champions programmes in England, enabled by the availability of national funding. This provided a unique opportunity to capture learning on how community champions can support communities, what supports the commissioning of community champions, and what might contribute to their impact and sustainability." *Source: King's Fund (UK)*

[Tackling NCDs: best buys and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, 2nd ed](#)
"This document provides an updated list of "best buys" and other recommended interventions to address noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). It is based on Appendix 3 of the Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, which was first approved in 2013 and last updated in 2017. The global action plan, which was extended to 2030 by a World Health Assembly decision in 2019 has 6 objectives, the implementation of which at country level supports the attainment of the 9 voluntary NCD targets, and facilitates the realization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on good health and well-being." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox- 2024-2027](#)
"This Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox (2024–2027) outlines a road map for health authorities, communities, and stakeholders worldwide to control mpox outbreaks in every context, advance mpox research and access to countermeasures, and minimize zoonotic transmission." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Research prioritization for pandemic and epidemic intelligence: technical brief](#)
"Robust evidence from high-quality research is vital for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, forming the basis for effective collaborative surveillance and informed public health decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred innovation in data and laboratory science and improved our ability to detect,

assess and respond to health threats. However, research on surveillance methods and tools requires greater coherence and more efficient ways to translate research for evidence-based policy-making."
Source: World Health Organization

[Strengthening pandemic preparedness and response through integrated modelling](#)
"The far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the critical need for evidence-informed, transparent and inclusive decision-making. Policy-makers have grappled with complex choices amidst uncertainty. With the increasing threat of emerging pandemic-prone pathogens, new guidance released jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank elucidates the role of mathematical modelling – specifically integrated modelling – in addressing these challenges." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Restricting digital marketing in the context of tobacco, alcohol, food and beverages, and breast-milk substitutes: existing approaches and policy options](#)
"WHO has long recommended marketing restrictions in the contexts of tobacco and nicotine products, alcoholic beverages, foods and beverages with respect to children, and breastmilk substitutes. But the question of how to implement these recommendations has become more complex as digital media has grown and large online platforms have centered their businesses around advertising, and specifically around targeting of advertising to consumers based on their online activity or personal data they have shared. As a response to these challenges, this technical product examines how restrictions on digital marketing are implemented by Member States as part of broader marketing restrictions, describes current challenges specific to digital marketing and provides policy options and approaches that Member States can adopt to strengthen the design and implementation of restrictions." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Hooking the next generation: how the tobacco industry captures young customers](#)
"Young people across the world are urging governments to shield them from predatory tobacco marketing tactics. The industry targets youth for a lifetime of profits, creating a new wave of addiction. The latest data show that children are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than adults in many countries and globally an estimated 37 million youth aged 13–15 years use tobacco." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Trends in combination HIV prevention and HIV testing 2002-2022](#)
"This research brief presents data from NZ's HIV behavioural surveillance programme 2002-2022. The experiences of 18,679 participants are included, drawing on large and diverse samples each round. *Source: University of Auckland*

[Back to top](#)

Technology, Innovation, & Research

[Which technologies offer the biggest opportunities to save time in the NHS?](#)
"Drawing on new Health Foundation research – including a UK-wide clinical staff survey and expert interviews – this analysis spotlights clinicians' views about which technologies might help the NHS

boost productivity and release time for care, and sets out what steps will be important to realise these gains." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Getting the best out of the new world of remote and digital general practice](#)
"The Remote by Default research collaboration, an NIHR-funded project conducted by researchers from the Nuffield Trust, the University of Oxford and the University of Plymouth, asks whether remote consultations should really be the default option. When is this safe? What does it mean for different patient groups trying to get treatment, for doctors and their colleagues? This briefing summarises key findings, and actions required now from government and the NHS." *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[Patient Safety and Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges for Care Delivery](#)
"This IHI Lucian Leape Institute report describes three use cases for generative artificial intelligence (genAI) applications in clinical care, including a detailed review of benefits and potential risks for patient safety; recommendations and mitigation strategies; an appraisal of the impact of genAI on the patient safety field; and considerations for key groups." *Source: IHI Lucian Leape Institute*

[Leveraging digital technology in healthcare](#)
This research paper considers the role digital technology can play in improving patient outcomes and enhancing productivity in healthcare. Drawing on case studies, the paper finds that better integrating digital technology into everyday practice could save more than $5 billion a year and ease pressures on our healthcare system. The paper identifies ways in which governments can help realise the substantial gains on offer. *Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission*

[LOGIC: Good practice principles for mainstreaming Behavioural Public Policy](#)
"This report outlines good practice principles intended to encourage the incorporation of behavioural perspectives as part of standard policymaking practice in government and governmental organisations. Evidence from the behavioural sciences is potentially transformative in many areas of government policy and administration. The 14 good practice principles, organised into five dimensions, present a guide to the consistent production and application of useful behavioural science evidence. Governments and governmental organisations looking to mainstream behavioural public policy may use the good practice principles and case studies included in this report to assess their current policy systems and develop strategies to further improve them." *Source: OECD*

[The role of digital health technologies in women's health, empowerment, and gender equality: project report](#)
"A growing body of evidence shows that digital health technologies (DHTs) can improve women's health outcomes by overcoming ongoing socioeconomic, cultural and geopolitical barriers that inhibit their access to health care. Despite this, there has been no systematic assessment of the benefits of digital health for women's health. This project was devised to review the effects of DHTs on women's health and their potential to improve women's empowerment and gender equality by scoping peer-reviewed primary studies in this area." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Innovation for urban health: policy brief](#)
"This policy brief reflects and offers guidance on how national and subnational governments can catalyze and capitalize on social, technological, and institutional innovation for urban health,

including by maintaining a flexible, capable, and innovative public sector and supporting other sectors and communities. It draws on existing international guidelines, academic literature, and insights from a participatory workshop involving experts in research, policy, and practice. The brief is primarily intended for national and subnational decision-makers and their technical staff." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Science in the age of AI: how artificial intelligence is changing the nature and method of scientific research](#)
"This report explores how AI technologies, such as deep learning or large language models, are transforming the nature and methods of scientific inquiry. It also explores how notions of research integrity, research skills or research ethics are inevitably changing, and what the implications are for the future of science and scientists." *Source: The Royal Society (United Kingdom)*

[LSE Vitality Behavioural Health Incentives Program: Evaluating behavioural incentives for long term health](#)
"A new research program with Vitality UK and the Discovery Group to examine the effects and consequences of behavioural incentives for long term healthy habits and behaviours. The program will attempt to address a number of challenges including a better understanding of how to create healthy habits, which incentives are more effective to change healthy behaviours and what are the long-term consequences of such behaviours changes including effects on longevity, the health and the care system, the development of non-communicable diseases, dementia in later life among other." *Source: London School of Economics and Political Science*

[Serious Illness Care Research](#)
"To explore the current and future state of serious illness care research, the National Academies Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness hosted a public workshop in November 2023. Speakers identified research gaps and challenges and explored strategies and opportunities to further develop the evidence base to improve care for all those living with serious illness, their families, and care partners." *Source: National Academies Press*

[*Back to top*](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Working for a brighter, healthier future](#)
"This is the second in the series of biennial reports that comes on the wake of the Global Forum for Adolescents 2023 and is powered by its 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign. The report describes WHO's efforts to elevate adolescent health and well-being through collaboration and by coordinating new initiatives, addressing emerging needs and establishing ambitious objectives with its development partners and adolescents." *Source: World Health Organization*

[The economic and social costs of mental ill health](#)
"This analysis finds that the total cost of mental ill health in England in 2022 was £300 billion. Commissioned by the NHS Confederation's Mental Health Network, the report finds that the majority of these costs fall on people living with mental health difficulties and their families (£175bn)

through loss of earnings, informal care, a reduction in quality of life, and having to self-fund mental health support." *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

[**Ipsos Global Happiness Survey 2024 NZ Edition**](#)
"The new edition of Ipsos' Global Happiness report finds there's been a slight dip in happiness year-on-year as economic and political clouds loom overhead, but New Zealanders remain significantly happier than the global average." *Source: Ipsos*

[**Measuring the prevalence of mental health conditions and problematic substance use to advance hauora Māori: Findings from a scoping review**](#)
"The aim of this report is to provide an evidence base from which to move beyond psychiatric epidemiological studies that are embedded in European and North American paradigms." *Source: Flax Analytics (New Zealand)*

Back to top

Health of Older People

[**Preventing and Treating Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: Promising Research and Opportunities to Accelerate Progress: Proceedings of a Workshop–in Brief**](#)
"In response to a request from Congress, the National Institutes of Health asked the National Academies to conduct a study to assess the current state of research on Alzheimers Disease and Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) prevention and treatment, recommend research priorities, and identify strategies for overcoming barriers that impede scientific advancement. The resulting committee held a public workshop in January 2024 to explore promising areas of research that could catalyze scientific breakthroughs or accelerate the translation of discoveries into effective prevention and treatment strategies, as well as to discuss barriers to the advancement of research. The committee final report will be released in December 2024." *Source: National Academies Press*

[**Ka Mua Ka Muri A decade of ageing well in Aotearoa and beyond**](#)
"The journey to an equity-centric lens is just one of the elements of Ageing Well's new publication Ka Mua Ka Muri: A decade of ageing well in Aotearoa and beyond. The pukapuka [book] primarily tells the story of the second phase (2019-2024) of Ageing Well research, and dives into learnings and hopes for the future of ageing-related research in Aotearoa." *Source: National Science Challenges (New Zealand)*

Back to top

Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[**Scale of the challenge: obesity and the labour market**](#)
"Obesity is not a personal responsibility – it is caused by working conditions, changes in the built environment and our broken food system. Polling for this report shows the public are ahead of politicians: they want government intervention and a break from failed policies focused on individual responsibility." *Source: Institute for Public Policy Research*

[Food, diet, nutrition and cancer](#)
"This POSTnote summarises associations between diet, nutrition and cancer. It describes the dietary and nutritional factors associated with cancer risk, and interventions for cancer prevention." *Source: UK Parliament*

[Back to top](#)

Equity

[Co-production and engagement with communities as a solution to reducing health inequalities](#)
"This report outlines the principles of co-production and actions trusts can take to apply engagement methodologies across their organisation. It provides an overview of different forms of engagement and summarises the potential benefits to trusts, including improved patient experience and outcomes, and the delivery of more inclusive health care services that better meet the needs of local communities. The report also makes the connection between engagement, co-production and the broader health inequalities agenda, unlocking the potential for collaboratively developing solutions to address complex barriers to health services experienced by some communities." *Source: NHS Providers (UK)*

[Excellence through equality: Anti-racism as a quality improvement tool](#)
"This report comprises examples of anti-racist initiatives from BLN members. The network aims to strengthen the voice of black and minority ethnic communities and support the development of an NHS that meets the needs of all communities it serves." *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

[The public's views on the future of the NHS in England](#)
"This report brings together findings from public perceptions polling and deliberative research with the public, carried out by the Health Foundation in partnership with Ipsos, providing greater insight into what people really think and their priorities for improving the health service. The report covers perceptions of the NHS and the challenges it faces; the balance between primary and community care, and hospital care; funding levels; the funding model; and how to build confidence in government planning.   The report concludes with implications for the next government, including the case for wider changes to ministers' relationship with the NHS to ensure more independence from politics, taking a longer-term perspective in policy decisions and building in more independent scrutiny and public engagement." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Disinformation

[Disinformation: sources, spread and impact](#)
"This briefing explains how and why disinformation is spread. It evaluates real-world impact and outlines counter-initiatives and policy considerations." *Source: UK Parliament*

Workforce

[When a doctor leaves: Tackling the cost of attrition in the UK's health services](#)
"Drawing on new analysis, [the authors] set out the cost of medical attrition in the UK's health services and a series of urgent measures to better retain the workforce." *Source: British Medical Association*

Violence Prevention

[He Waka Eke Noa: Māori Cultural Frameworks for Violence Prevention and Intervention](#)
"He Waka Eke Noa is a co-designed Kaupapa Māori project that is driven by Iwi and Māori social service provider aspirations to investigate the role of cultural frameworks in strengthening family and sexual violence prevention and intervention policies, practices and programmes." *Source: Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki*

[Informed and safe, or blamed and at risk? Examining the merits and limits of domestic violence disclosure schemes in Australia and New Zealand](#)
"This project represents the first study in Australia and New Zealand to examine the degree to which a DVDS provides an effective intervention for victim-survivors of intimate partner violence in enhancing their safety. The findings from this project are relevant to current policy discussions and evaluations of the DVDS in all Australian states and territories, as well as in comparable international jurisdictions, including New Zealand, Canada, United States, Scotland, England and Wales." *Source: Monash University (Australia)*

[Essential Health Care Services Addressing Intimate Partner Violence](#)
"A National Academies committee was tasked with identifying essential health care services for women related to intimate partner violence (IPV) during steady state conditions, determining whether the essential health care services related to IPV differ during public health emergencies (PHEs), and identifying strategies to sustain access to those essential health care services during PHEs. This report, Essential Health Care Services Addressing Intimate Partner Violence, presents findings from research and deliberations and lays out recommendations for leaders of health care systems, federal agencies, health care providers, emergency planners, and those involved in IPV research." *Source: National Academies Press*

Palliative Care

[An essential part of the hospice: A report into the role of the Men's Sheds in hospices](#)
"Shared experiences in hospice and palliative care environment were crucial for Men's Shed members to develop supportive and confiding relationships. Participants described the Men's Shed as an essential part of the Hospice services." *Source: Marie Curie*

Addiction

[Understanding Gambling Harm: Insights from Our Report](#)
"This report outlines the necessary changes to establish a regional system of gambling harm prevention services that are easily accessible, fair, and responsive to the needs and preferences of whānau. The insights provided are based on the perspectives of whānau, communities, and the sector." *Source: Healthy Families (New Zealand)*

[A closer look: The addiction workforce in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
"In 2023, dapaanz commissioned a review of the addiction workforce in Aotearoa to better understand its size and scope, as well as to gain insights into working conditions, factors contributing to poor retention, and opportunities to develop and grow the workforce. Drawing on multiple datasets, both published and unpublished, the review (finalised in November 2023) drew from a range of sources, and included a series of workshops and discussions with sector representatives, as well as a distillation of findings from national and international literature." *Source: Dapaanz (New Zealand)*

Legislation

[He Arotake i te Ture mō ngā Huarahi Whakatau a ngā Pakeke | Review of Adult Decision-Making Capacity Law: Second Issues Paper (NZLC IP52, 2024)](#)
"The Second Issues Paper contains [the Law Commission's] detailed analysis of issues with the current law and suggests possible options for reform. The topics discussed in the Second Issues Paper are: The case for a new Act: Human Rights; Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Treaty of Waitangi; Tikanga; The purposes of a new Act; Decision-making capacity; Decision-making support; Court-ordered arrangements; Court-appointed representatives; Court-ordered decisions; Enduring powers of attorney; Documenting wishes about the future; Practical improvements and oversight; and Improving court processes." *Source: Te Aka Matua o te Ture | Law Commission*

Disability

[Understanding behaviours of concern for children with disability](#)
"This practice guide draws on research evidence and practitioner knowledge to provide an overview of approaches to understanding the behaviours of children with disability and the concept of 'behaviours of concern'. It includes some practical principles for working with children with disability and their families." *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

[Parent-focused interventions to support the behaviours of children with disability](#)
"This resource summarises the evidence about the effectiveness of parent-focused interventions designed to support children with intellectual disability and autistic children who display behaviours

9

of concern. The review aims to support practitioners who work with children with disability and their families, but may not be specialists in providing disability support, to understand what parent-focused interventions include and the characteristics of effective interventions." *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

The information available on or through this newsletter does not represent Ministry of Health policy. It is intended to provide general information to the health sector and the public, and is not intended to address specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity.