



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.

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

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Public Health](#)

[Health Data](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms](#)

[Children's Wellbeing](#)

[Health of Older People](#)

[Alcohol & Drug Use](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Updated Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan](#)

"This updated Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030 builds upon its predecessor and sets out clear actions for Member States, the WHO Secretariat and international, regional and national partners to promote mental health and well-being for all, to prevent mental health conditions for those at-risk and to achieve universal coverage for mental health services. While the updated action plan includes new and updated indicators and implementation options, the original four major objectives remain unchanged: more effective leadership and governance for mental

health; the provision of comprehensive, integrated mental health and social care services in community-based settings; implementation of strategies for promotion and prevention; and strengthened information systems, evidence and research.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Back to top](#)

Health Data

[Health at a Glance 2021](#)

“Health at a Glance provides a comprehensive set of indicators on population health and health system performance across OECD members and key emerging economies. These cover health status, risk factors for health, access to and quality of health care, and health resources. Analysis draws from the latest comparable official national statistics and other sources. Alongside indicator-by-indicator analysis, an overview chapter summarises the comparative performance of countries and major trends. This edition also has a special focus on the health impact of COVID-19 in OECD countries, including deaths and illness caused by the virus, adverse effects on access and quality of care, and the growing burden of mental ill-health.” *Source: OECD*

[Secondary use of health data in Europe](#)

“Open and trusted health data systems can help Europe respond to the many urgent challenges facing its society and economy today. The global pandemic has already altered many of our societal and economic systems, and data has played a key role in enabling cross-border and cross-sector collaboration in public health responses.” *Source: Open Data Institute*

[Back to top](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Working collaboratively in an ICS: freeing up opportunities in community pharmacy](#)

“Community pharmacy is an integral part of the NHS and has a vital role to play as a full partner within a primary care network (PCN). Medicines’ safety and optimisation are widely recognised as part of its unique skill set but, increasingly, community pharmacy is collaborating with partners in primary care to deliver integrated clinical services in integrated care systems (ICSs).” *Source: NHS Confederation*

[Back to top](#)

Health of Older People

[Global status report on the public health response to dementia](#)

“Halfway into the implementation of the Global dementia action plan, the Global status report on the public health response to dementia takes stock of actions driven by Member States, WHO and civil society since the adoption of the global action plan, identifies barriers to its implementation especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlights areas where urgent, accelerated action is required. The report includes updated estimates on dementia burden and costs globally based on WHO’s Global Health Estimates 2019 and the Global Burden of Disease study 2019. It also uses data

submitted by 62 of WHO Member States to the Global Dementia Observatory. The report shows that while some progress is being made, urgent increased efforts are needed globally to reach the dementia targets by 2025.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Consumer experiences of self-managing a home care package](#)

“This research investigated consumers’ experiences of self-managing a home care package. Thirty participants were asked to describe what was good about self-management and what was not good. Participants were also asked for suggestions about ways to improve self-management. Participants were also asked to compare experiences of self-management with the traditional model of home care (i.e. provider-managed).” *Source: Aged Care Matters (Australia)*

[Comparing Nations on Timeliness and Coordination of Health Care](#)

“The charts that follow present the international survey’s findings on timeliness and coordination of care: how quickly and easily older adults are able to get care when they need it, including through video or telephone appointments; and how well ongoing care is coordinated for patients with multiple chronic conditions.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

[Back to top](#)

Public Health

[A healthy future – tackling climate change mitigation and human health together](#)

“This report summarises the evidence of how climate change mitigation actions could promote human health in the near term, through ‘co-benefits’. The main health co-benefits of climate mitigation or net-zero policies stem from actions to phase out fossil fuels, implement more energy-efficient housing, promote healthier dietary choices, and encourage more active travel (walking and cycling). Other benefits can accrue from providing healthy and productive employment opportunities and greater access to nature.” *Source: Royal Society (UK)*

[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*

[Commissioning support for applying behavioural science and delivering evaluation for public health](#)

“Addressing increases in these diseases through preventive action is a public health priority. A growing interest in understanding and applying behavioural science within public health practice has culminated in the publication of a national public health strategy. However, recent research has found that local authority public health commissioners and service providers face a range of barriers to the use of evidence from behavioural science. A range of implementation interventions and system changes are likely required over time to increase behavioural science use amongst public

health commissioners and service providers. This study focused on a prototype commissioning support tool that was designed to address some of the barriers.” Source: Public Health England

[Gambling-related harms evidence review](#)

“A review looking at the prevalence, risk factors and public health harms associated with gambling and the economic and social burden.” Source: *Public Health England*

[Modelling life trajectories of body-mass index](#)

“Body-mass index (BMI) tends to follow a typical trajectory over the life-course of an individual, increasing in early life while decreasing after middle age. To be able to reflect these trends in the OECD Strategic Public Health Planning for Non-Communicable Diseases (SPHeP-NCDs) model, this paper analyses longitudinal BMI data from 22 countries to build a mixed, autoregressive model predicting an individual’s BMI based on their sex, age and previous BMI. The resulting model shows how young people are likely to see an increase in BMI year-on-year, even if they already have overweight or obesity. It also shows that a healthy weight in childhood does not protect against future overweight, as BMI continues to increase well into adulthood even for children who start off with a healthy weight. The results of this analysis will be incorporated in the OECD SPHeP NCDs model, to better simulate the longer-term impact of interventions, in particular interventions targeting childhood obesity.” Source: *OECD*

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19

[Experiences of COVID-19 for takatāpui, queer, gender diverse, and intersex young people aged 16-24](#)

“COVID-19 did not impact all groups to the same degree; people identifying as takatāpui, non-binary, trans, and having a disability were more adversely affected. The findings outlined in the research body provide a more nuanced look at where Rainbow identities intersect.” Source: *Point & Associates (New Zealand)*

[COVID-19 in long-term care: Impact, policy responses and challenges](#)

“The COVID-19 crisis has hit the long-term care (LTC) sector particularly hard, with large numbers of people dependent on care and particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 have fallen ill, and a disproportionate rate of LTC workers both exposed to, and infected by, COVID-19. The analysis presented in this report describes the effects of COVID-19 on LTC in OECD countries, mainly showing infection rates and mortality of LTC recipients. It takes stock of the wide range of policy responses that countries have implemented, detailing the changes over time on testing strategies, reduction of interactions and isolation measures, digitalisation of services, and workforce. The report also assesses emergency preparedness in the sector, as well as workforce, organisational and coordination challenges. Finally, the report analyses how policy responses affected care continuity and the well-being of residents while also outlining the effectiveness of vaccination.” Source: *OECD*

[Determinants of COVID-19 vaccination and views of parents about vaccination of children in Australia: August 2021](#)

“This paper provides the first detailed, publicly available analysis of the socio-economic and attitudinal determinants of COVID-19 vaccination amongst both Australian adults and Australian parents’ views about vaccinating their children in the future.” *Source: Centre for Social Research and Methods (ANU)*

[Communication Strategies for Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

“This rapid expert consultation identifies actionable guidance that state and local decision makers can use to communicate with the public to build confidence in and promote the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Children’s Wellbeing

[Screen time: the effects on children’s emotional, social, and cognitive development](#)

“In today’s digital world, children are growing up with screens and digital devices pervading almost every aspect of their lives. This is a new phenomenon not even seen in the previous generation. The document explores the evidence of how screen time affects children’s socio-emotional and cognitive development.” *Source: Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures*

[What works to improve young children’s social, emotional and behavioural wellbeing?](#)

“The development of social, emotional and behavioural skills during early childhood is crucial to children’s overall development and later life. However, some children experience difficulties that may compromise their development and future opportunities. This rapid evidence review identifies national and international prevention and early intervention programs that are effective at improving the social, emotional and behavioural health of at-risk children under the age of five.” *Source: Child Family Community Australia, Australian Institute of Family Studies*

[The state of the world’s children 2021](#)

“The State of the World’s Children 2021 examines child, adolescent and caregiver mental health. It focuses on risks and protective factors at critical moments in the life course and delves into the social determinants that shape mental health and well-being.” *Source: UNICEF*

[Back to top](#)

Alcohol & Drug Use

[World Drug Report 2021](#)

“Consisting of five separate booklets, the World Drug Report 2021 provides an in-depth analysis of the global drug markets and paints a comprehensive picture of the measurable effects and potential impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the world drug problem.” *Source: United Nations*

[Monitoring alcohol affordability in Aotearoa New Zealand: 2020 update](#)

“In 2018, Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency published a report which looked at the trends of alcohol prices and affordability in Aotearoa New Zealand. This brief report presents an

update on these findings with an emphasis on trends between 2017 and 2020.” Source: *Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency*

[Back to top](#)

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