



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

Issue 103, 2022, September

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](#)

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

[Equity](#)

[Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity](#)

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Family Violence](#)

[Drug Use](#)

[Cancer](#)

Public Health

[How to talk about the building blocks of health: A communications toolkit for people working in public health](#)

"Almost every aspect of our lives impacts our health and ultimately how long we will live – our jobs and homes, access to education and public transport and whether we experience poverty or discrimination. These factors are often referred to as the wider determinants of health. This toolkit sets out how we can frame communications to tell a more powerful story about health. This is to increase understanding of the role that the wider determinants play in our health, and support for action to address them." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control in outbreak preparedness, readiness and response at the health care facility level

“Infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics are increasing in frequency, scale and impact. Health care facilities can amplify the transmission of emerging infectious diseases or multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) within their settings and communities. Therefore, evidence-based infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in health care facilities are critical for preventing and containing outbreaks, while still delivering safe, effective and quality health care. This toolkit is intended to support IPC improvements for outbreak management in all such facilities, both public and private throughout the health system. Specifically, this document systematically describes a framework of overarching principles to approach the preparedness, readiness and response outbreak management phases.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Lead in drinking-water: Health risks, monitoring and corrective actions

Lead is a priority chemical hazard that should be included in national drinking-water quality standards and monitored as part of drinking-water quality surveillance. This document provides practical guidance to support the assessment and management of lead contamination in drinking-water supplies. Step-wise guidance is provided to support action when elevated lead concentrations are detected in drinking-water. It also explains why lead in drinking-water is an important issue and sources of lead exposure in water supplies. *Source: World Health Organization*

Dietary and inhalation exposure to nano- and microplastic particles and potential implications for human health

“WHO has reviewed the state of evidence on microplastic in drinking water and published a report assessing the risks to human health in August 2019. To continue WHO’s effort to assess the potential health risks associated with exposure to microplastic, a project aiming to look at the exposure from the environment, including exposure via food, water and air has been undertaken. With the support of an international group of experts assembled in 2019, WHO has assembled and reviewed the available data published up to December 2021 and assessed the risks to human health from exposure to microplastic particles from the environment. As a result of this work, WHO identified research needs and defined the scope of future work needed on microplastic particles to address current uncertainties.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Rapid Expert Consultation on Self-Tests for Infectious Diseases

“This rapid expert consultation summarizes the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for the future development and usage of self-tests for circulating infectious diseases and future outbreaks and pandemics. It draws from expert input and published research from previous public health emergencies, as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.” *Source: National Academies Press*

Antimicrobial Resistance and the Social Sciences: A Narrative Review

“The purpose of this narrative review is to explore how social sciences research may contribute to our understanding of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antibiotic prescribing in human health and inform mitigation strategies. This review describes the extant social sciences literature, identifies emerging themes and proposes areas for further investigation. The review identifies over 80 examples of social sciences research related to AMR.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease (Canada)*

[Back to top](#)

Equity

[Studying Historical Successes \(and Failures\) for Equity-Centered Approaches to Vaccinating Indigenous Communities, Undocumented Immigrants, and Communities of Color: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief](#)

“Communities of color experience significantly higher rates of COVID-19 infection compared to White Americans, but have gotten vaccinated at a slower pace. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity hosted a public webinar to discuss lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and previous vaccination efforts that could improve vaccination rates among communities of color. Five participants including Indigenous tribal authorities, state public health workers, labor advocates, and academics discussed the history of vaccination and disease control efforts for minority populations during and before the COVID-19 pandemic. This Proceedings of a Workshop-In Brief summarizes the content of the workshop discussions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Good practices in managing infectious diseases in prison settings: a snapshot of responses to COVID-19 implemented around the globe between May and September 2020](#)

“This report captures various health-related policies and practices that were implemented inside prisons and other places of detention during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended as a resource for policy-makers, prison managers and health-in-prisons practitioners, highlighting the preparedness, responsiveness, risk assessment, risk mitigation and case management of COVID-19 inside prisons. The report presents good practices from countries and regions, selected according to specific criteria, in enhancement of health-care practices in prisons.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Back to top](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Perinatal mental distress: An under-recognised concern](#)

“Perinatal mental distress is an under-recognised condition that can have serious consequences for a woman and her baby, and potentially also lead to intergenerational cycles of compromised wellbeing. This evidence brief gives an overview of the state of perinatal mental distress in Aotearoa, the underlying social and biological risk factors, and some prevention and management approaches. Early universal screening with a culturally appropriate tool is important, as is raised awareness of perinatal distress to reduce stigma and encourage women/whānau to seek help.” *Source: Koi Tū: Centre for Informed Futures*

[Heads Up: Rethinking mental health services for vulnerable young people](#)

“From preventative to targeted support, through to a reformed NHS CYPMH service, the Commission makes a range of recommendations to put children and young people’s mental health at the heart of decision-making.” *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

[Responding to the Current Youth Mental Health Crisis and Preventing the Next One](#)

“Mental health concerns are affecting children and youth in every community. Mental health providers are witnessing increased numbers of patients and increased severity in reported concerns. In the midst of this crisis, communities are exploring strategies for addressing children and youth’s mental health, including increased investment in prevention. Given this current crisis, and the unprecedented response and potentially increased funding, there are opportunities to learn how to better incorporate prevention and promotion strategies into systems and programs for children and youth support.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Drug Use

[The challenges, opportunities and strategies of engaging young people who use drugs in harm reduction: Insights from young people with lived and living experience](#)

“The meaningful inclusion of young people who use or have used drugs is a fundamental aspect of harm reduction, including in program design, research, service provision, and advocacy efforts. However, there are very few examples of meaningful and equitable engagement of young people who use drugs in harm reduction, globally. Youth continue to be excluded from harm reduction programming and policymaking; when they are included, they often face tokenistic efforts that lack clear expectations, equitable work conditions, and are rarely afforded agency and autonomy over decision-making.” *Source: International Drug Policy Consortium*

[Back to top](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[How to make change happen in general practice](#)

“In this document we set out four principles drawn from this evidence to highlight how to make change happen. For each principle we describe why it matters, and what it might mean for those working in general practices and in ICSs. However, it is worth noting that these ideas would equally apply at a national or place level.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

[Patient-initiated follow-up: will it free up capacity in outpatient care?](#)

“This NIHR RSET briefing explains what we know from the available evidence and earlier evaluations of PIFU (Patient-Initiated Follow-Up) about how personalising follow-up impacts service use and patient experience and outcomes.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[The economics of medication safety](#)

“Poor medication practices and inadequate system infrastructure—resulting in poor adherence, medication-related harms, and medication errors—too often results in patient harm. As many as 1 in 10 hospitalizations in OECD countries may be caused by a medication-related event and as many one in five inpatients experience medication-related harms during hospitalization. Together, costs from avoidable admissions due to medication-related events and added length of stay due to preventable hospital-acquired medication-related harms total over USD 54 billion in OECD countries. This report includes four components; it 1) assess the human impact and economic costs of medication safety events in OECD countries, 2) explores opportunities to improve prescribing practices 3) examines the

state-of-the art in systems and policies for improving medication safety, and 4) provides recommendations for improving medication safety at the national level.” *Source: OECD*

[Exploring the consequences of greater price transparency on the dynamics of pharmaceutical markets](#)

“For some time, governments, stakeholders and civil society have been voicing the need for greater transparency in pharmaceutical pricing. The 2018 OECD report Pharmaceutical Innovation and Access to Medicines suggested that increased price transparency could promote public accountability, while potentially delivering efficiencies to health systems by including economic considerations in coverage, treatment decisions and budget allocation. Despite this, precisely what should be made more transparent, and how greater transparency would affect the functioning of markets, have been poorly characterised. To help frame the policy debate, the OECD undertook an exploration of the potential consequences of greater price transparency on market dynamics. The work included a roundtable and a series of semi-structured interviews, with participation by 19 experts in pharmaceutical pricing, economics of pharmaceutical markets, competition, and law. With an extensive review of the current practice and relevant literature as a preface, this report presents the key findings from those consultations.” *Source: OECD*

[Back to top](#)

Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[The relationship between health risk factors and the neighbourhood environment](#)

“This report explores whether the selected factors in our neighbourhood environment are associated with socioeconomic disadvantage and obesity, physical inactivity, insufficient fruit and vegetable consumption and the daily consumption of sugar sweetened drinks.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Targeting Structures, Communications, and Beliefs to Advance Practical Strategies for Obesity Solutions](#)

The Roundtable on Obesity Solutions of the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held the virtual public workshop Shifting the Paradigm: Targeting Structures, Communications, and Beliefs to Advance Practical Strategies for Obesity Solutions on April 19, 2022. The workshop was the first in a series of three workshops to explore how to bridge evidence gaps within foundational drivers of obesity and translate knowledge toward actionable solutions. It examined the connections between obesity and structural racism, health communication, and biased mental models and social norms, as well as the interactions of these drivers with the evidence base and workforce, to uncover potentially practical strategies for intervention. *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Family Violence

[Shining light on the shadow : the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on abuser behaviour](#)

“This report discusses some victim-survivors’ experiences of abuser behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is based on responses to a Backbone survey released in March 2022 from 35 women victim-survivors with 68 dependent children, who live throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.”
Source: The Backbone Collective (New Zealand)

[The choice : violence or poverty](#)

“The data that is published here for the first time reveals both the shocking extent of domestic violence suffered by women who are now single mothers, and outlines in grim detail the economic, health and other consequences of the choice these women made to leave the violence. The findings are both new and confronting and have major policy ramifications for how we address domestic violence, and to the policy-induced poverty that is its outcome for far too many women and children.” *Source: Paul Ramsay Foundation (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

Cancer

[Innovation in Cancer Care and Cancer Research in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

“The COVID-19 pandemic has led to dramatic adjustments in cancer care delivery and cancer research. To examine these changes, the National Cancer Policy Forum of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a virtual workshop, Innovation in Cancer Care and Cancer Research in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in July 2021.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

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.