

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

The State of AI

Stanford's AI Index Report is recognized globally as one of the most credible and authoritative sources for data and insights related to artificial intelligence. [The seventh edition](#) arrives at a moment when AI's influence on society is never far from the headlines. Featuring more [original data](#) than ever before, the report includes new estimates on AI training costs, detailed analyses of the responsible AI landscape, and an entirely new chapter dedicated to AI's impact on science and medicine.

AI—innovation and disinformation

CIGI has [released a paper on the concentration of AI innovation](#), using a unique combination of firm-level data sources and policy indicators; and *The Future of Free Speech* analyzes generative AI models with web interfaces (“chatbots”) and [their policies on disinformation, misinformation, and hate speech](#).

AI and the Olympics

Even the International Olympic Committee has caught the AI bug. They've just released [a report looking at the impact AI can deliver for the Olympic Movement](#).

Climate—two stunning reports

Plastic production—a wrecking ball for the climate

By the middle of the century, global emissions from plastic production, which are already four times higher than those of the airline industry, could triple to account for one-fifth of the Earth's remaining carbon budget, according to [a report](#) from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Neil Tangri, science and policy director at GAIA, said the findings make it clear that plastic production is a “wrecking ball for our climate.”

Climate—a wrecking ball for the global economy

Even if CO2 emissions were to be drastically cut starting today, the world economy is already on track to be one-fifth smaller by 2050. “Our analysis shows that climate change will cause massive economic damage within the next 25 years in almost all countries around the world, including highly developed ones like Germany, France and the United States,” said PIK's Leonie Wenz, [who led this study](#).

Europe—much more than a single market

When Jacques Delors proposed Europe's single market, the EU was half the size it is today, there were two Germanys, and the term BRICS didn't exist. Thirty years on, the single market is the cornerstone of today's EU. But is it still fit for purpose? Enrico Letta, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, has just [published a thorough examination](#).

Why isn't local policymaking evidence based?

A sensible view is that policymaking should be based on evidence. But it often isn't. [This paper, from the Centre for Cities, considers why and sets out a framework](#) for evidence-based policymaking for local government.

Semiconductor supply chains for economic security

This [CETaS Research Report](#) presents the findings of a unique collaboration between The Alan Turing Institute, London, and Chung-Ang University, Seoul. It presents fifteen recommendations to enable a closer partnership between the UK and Korea across semiconductor supply chains and the AI sector.

America's rivers of shame

America's rivers and clean water supplies are in crisis. Forty-four percent of waterways are too polluted for swimming or fishing. Freshwater species are going extinct faster than ocean or land species. Ybet a 2023 Supreme Court ruling slashed Clean Water Act safeguards, leaving many small streams and wetlands unprotected. [This report pinpoints ten rivers of most concern](#).

Military expenditure increases in all regions

It's hardly a surprise that the global deterioration in peace and security is driving military expenditure. SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme [has the data](#) and [released a factsheet](#).

Children's media lives

Over the past ten years, the UK's official media regulator, Ofcom, has been tracking eight-to-seventeen-year-olds to learn about their media habits and attitudes. The result is a [unique longitudinal study that provides](#) evidence about the motivations and context for media use by children and adolescents.

What's going to be in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module?

In the weeks leading up to its launch next month, we're sharing examples of what you'll find in our forthcoming *Public Health and Social Care* module. This week:

Drug shortages, now normal in the UK, are made worse by Brexit. That's the conclusion of a [new report from the Nuffield Trust](#). Mark Dayan, the report's lead author, said,

“The rise in shortages of vital medicines from rare to commonplace has been a shocking development that few would have expected a decade ago.”

In news that should surprise no one (except perhaps anti-vaxxers), a report from the Office of Health Economics finds that [vaccines' ROI can be as high as 19](#). That's a return of \$4,637 for each individual's full vaccination course.

Read more about our new *Public Health and Social Care* module [here](#).

Announcing *Mentions*—a new tool for measuring impact

“There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” – Oscar Wilde

Until now, it's been very hard to measure how often any organization is being talked about and by whom. Now, with our new *Mentions* tool, you'll know.

To learn about how *Mentions* tells you much more about impact than journal citations alone, speak to your Coherent Digital representative or [read more here](#).

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