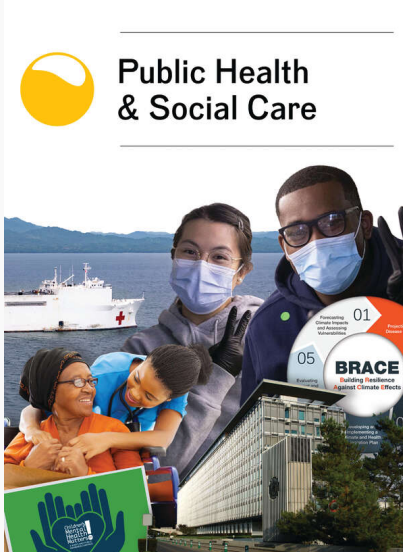


Policy Matters



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



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

“Suffering that is hard to comprehend”: UK infected blood inquiry report

More than fifty years since the first victims received infected blood, [the official inquiry into the scandal has published its seven-volume report](#).

Testing the waters: priorities for mitigating health risks from wastewater pollution

At a time when more people are wild swimming and enjoying water-based recreation, a major report by the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering calls for an upgrade of the UK's sewage system and increased testing of the country's waterways to [mitigate health risks](#).

COVID reduced life expectancy

Life expectancy, especially in places like Mexico City, KwaZulu-Natal, and Peru was knocked back by COVID, according to a massive 2021 study of the [global burden of disease](#).

What's been the impact of Louisiana's aggressive abortion bans on patients and clinicians?

To gauge on-the-ground human rights impacts in Louisiana since Roe v. Wade, four organizations conducted extensive fact-finding in the state beginning in May 2023. Among other discoveries, [the research shows](#) how Louisiana's abortion bans violate federal laws meant to protect patients.

Australia's aging population is getting more diverse—and more challenging

Australia's nation-building migration program may keep Australia's demography younger, but as migrants age, they fuel greater diversity at the top of the age pyramid. [These trends pose new challenges](#). What are the characteristics of a more diverse older population? How does this translate to well-being in old age? How does the trend affect the needs and demands for care—and access to care—in residential and community settings?

Housing First works—right across the board

There's a perception that Housing First principles cannot be applied across different accommodation options for those experiencing homelessness. [This study of Australia-based Foundation Housing's lodging shows it can work](#).

Community Health Needs Assessment

Serenity Behavioral Health Systems (SBHS) provides mental health, addictive disease, and developmental disability services to Richmond County and the wider East Central Georgia community. The organization just released its new [Community Needs Assessment](#).

It's Healthcare Documentation Integrity Week

National Medical Transcriptionist Week has traditionally been a weeklong celebration of the contributions of healthcare documentation specialists, who help ensure complete and accurate patient health records. We're not alone in this! There are many healthcare professionals who contribute to the integrity of the medical record, so our celebration will now more aptly be titled Healthcare Documentation Integrity Week, organized by [The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](#).

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

Other reports that caught our eye this week:

Link rot on government websites—city websites are the worst

Pew Research has been digging into the [rate at which content disappears from government, city, and news websites](#). It's not pretty. Twenty-five percent of all pages that existed between 2013 and 2023 are gone. (And that, of course, is why *Policy Commons* saves all reports in a dark archive).

Migratory freshwater fish are disappearing

Based on abundance information from the Living Planet Database for 1,864 populations of 284 native migratory freshwater fish species, [we find that globally, the index has declined by 81%](#). The majority of species, 65 percent, have declined on average, while 31 percent have increased on average, with the majority of species trends being either very positive or very negative.

Did climate change make last winter wetter than normal?

We know it rains “all the time” in Ireland and the UK, but for anyone living in northwestern Europe since last November (which includes one of your editors), it was much stormier and wetter than normal. Why? According to [Weather Attribution, it's down to climate change](#).

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 an organization is being talked about and by whom. Now, with our new *Mentions* tool, you’ll know.

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

Toby Green & Gary Price
Policy Matters

Thanks for staying informed with *Policy Matters* from *Policy Commons*. We choose reports from definitive sources around the globe that are data-rich and timely. Most often they’ll be hot off the press, but sometimes we’ll include older reports we’ve just uncovered. From time to time, we also share key product updates and information through this channel.

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