

Policy Matters



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

Parents under pressure

If parents struggle, so do their children. That's the conclusion of a major [new advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General](#) that calls for policy change, along with more programs and help from across society, to support parents and caregivers. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the financial and other stresses faced by parents and caregivers.

And children under pressure

The 13th annual report on the well-being of British children [has just been released](#) by The Children's Society. It shows a continued decline in children's well-being, with nearly a quarter of households with children struggling financially.

China now leads the US on key technologies

For the past two decades, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute has been tracking global trends in high-impact research across critical technologies. [It finds that China is now ahead of the US](#) in fifty-seven of the sixty-four technologies tracked, with emerging economies, like India, catching up. You can explore the [data here](#).

Researchers trade truth for prestige

When it comes to trading truth for a place in a prestigious journal, it's no contest, according to a [new paper](#) from Queensland University of Technology. In order to be published in top journals, authors are willing to "hold their noses" to satisfy requests from editors and referees to cut data.

The state of the climate in Africa

In 2023, Africa was 1.28 degrees hotter than the 1961–1999 average, and it's warming slightly faster than the global average. The continent is experiencing heat waves and floods, too. [WMO's latest report](#) has all the data.

British fashion does little to reduce emissions

The fashion industry is responsible for 12% of global greenhouse emissions, yet [an analysis](#) of British Fashion Council members shows that just 4% have emission reduction targets.

Lessons from COVID-19

[This paper](#), submitted by the e61 Institute to Australia's Covid Inquiry, analyzes the effectiveness of the financial support measures provided by the Australian government during the pandemic.

The high cost of cheap tuna

The tuna on your supermarket shelf comes at a high cost to humans and the environment. For example, it's thought that 128,000 fishers are in forced labor. In Greenpeace USA's [third scorecard](#) measuring the human rights and sustainability practices of sixteen US supermarkets' tuna supply chains, only two achieved a passing score.

Where's the best place to work in the US?

The "Best and Worst States to Work in the U.S." index was created by Oxfam in 2018 to show which states were doing the most to protect low-wage workers and working families. [The latest edition](#) ranks the District of Columbia at the top, with North Carolina at the bottom. ([See where your state ranks.](#)) The report was conceived to help federal policymakers improve the national landscape, so Harris and Trump might like to take note of the accompanying [policy recommendations](#).

Internet resilience is central to modern conflict

[A new paper from Chatham House](#) draws on the conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine for key insights on elements of internet resilience such as digital infrastructure, conflict dynamics, and policy priorities.

Federal lobbying is at a record high

Interest groups spent \$2.2 billion lobbying the US government during the first half of 2024, according to a [new analysis](#) by OpenSecrets. This spending puts the year on track to set a new nominal record for federal lobbying expenditures.

The precarious state of the UK health system

Pressure on the healthcare system is not unique to the UK, but the country ranks last against ten peers when it comes to hospital waiting times. At least few complain that cost is a barrier to access. However, the cumulative impacts of the pandemic and below-average spending growth have left UK health services [in a more precarious state](#) than those in most other surveyed countries.

Get your research recognized

Entries are now open for the Hidden REF Competition 2024. The Hidden REF was launched to raise awareness of the research outputs and roles that are vital to research but overlooked by traditional research evaluation. If you're involved in research and want to raise awareness of your own work or the work of others, now's your chance. But hurry—submissions must be [received by September 13th](#). *Policy Commons* is a supporter of the Hidden REF and will host all competition entries.

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.

You may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Visit us!

