

Policy Matters



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

Big Finance still funding Big Oil

The world's wealthiest countries are [still financing oil, gas, and fossil fuel projects to the tune of USD 47 billion a year](#), according to the latest analysis of the Public Finance for Energy Database, a project of Oil Change International. Formerly called the Shift the Subsidies Database, [it's the only publicly available database](#) tracking international finance for energy from government-owned institutions across multiple countries.

When is aid spending not spent on aid?

When it's spent on housing refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. [A new report from the UK's official development agency](#) shows that over a quarter of the country's aid (ODA) is spent on "in-donor refugee costs," which is more than four times the amount the UK government actually spends on humanitarian aid.

Testing, Testing, One, Two, Three

COVID-19 and climate are both impacting music festivals. [This first-of-a-kind report provides](#) a comprehensive overview of the scope and scale of the Australian music festival industry, as well as insights into the social, cultural, and economic impacts of music festivals and the challenges that festival organizers face.

When is living with HIV a crime?

Ohio has six laws that criminalize the conduct of people living with HIV, but [this Williams Institute report finds that enforcement](#) in Ohio is primarily concentrated in just a handful of counties and disproportionately affects Black people and women.

SOGI in the higher education workplace

[Gender and racially based employment disparities](#): Differences in perceptions of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and workplace discrimination remain significant issues in the field of educational measurement, according to a new report from AERA, NCME, and WIM. And for those working in Higher Education, the AAAS recently [released a roadmap for US educational institutions](#) aiming to undertake collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data, offering location-based recommendations for whether and how they should collect SOGI data.

Power to the English!

Is power in England too centralized? Many think it is. [This report considers five recent proposals and evaluates their devolutionary potential](#) along four axes: power, money, governance, and political culture.

Everything you need to know about TikTok

The Congressional Research Service has written some answers to [frequently asked questions](#) about TikTok.

Understanding suicidality in veterans

Suicidality (suicide ideation, plans, and attempts) presents as an important opportunity for proactive suicide prevention interactions to alleviate suffering for veterans, their families, and communities. [This study](#) provides information on the demographics and health of veterans who have had a suicide-related contact with police and/or paramedics in Queensland, Australia, and their interactions and pathways through the health system.

Dam good

The [European dam-removal movement achieved another record-breaking year](#). A remarkable 487 barriers were removed in fifteen European countries in 2023, a fifty percent increase over last year's record number. These removals led to the reconnection of over 4,300 kilometers of rivers, boosting biodiversity, restoring ecosystems, and enhancing climate resilience.

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:

Toxic, politicized, and ideological

The scope of [the independent review of gender identity services for children and young people](#) (Cass Review) is huge. Hilary Cass set out to review all the available evidence that's the basis of gender medicine globally. She also tried to answer the puzzling question of why the number of children seeking referrals to gender clinics in the UK and in other developed countries began an exponential rise in around 2014, and why so many more girls began seeking treatment. Cass said her work developed into a 24-hour-a-day obsession to try to help improve things and placed her at the vortex of a debate she describes as "toxic, ideological and polarised."

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

Have something new to share with the *Policy Commons* community?

☐☐ Many thanks to Stewart Lansley ☐☐ for telling us about his recent post, [Wealth, inequality, and the return of "luxury capitalism,"](#) for Renewal's blog. If you want to publicize a job, event, or new publication to our 100,000 Policy Matters readers, do [let us know](#).

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.

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