

Policy Matters



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

Welcome back!

Does your work gain the recognition it deserves?

Getting recognition is hard—especially when the scales are tipped in favor of research that’s formally published in journals and books. That’s why we’re supporting the 2024 Hidden REF Competition, an initiative that celebrates research reports and roles that are vital to research but overlooked by traditional research evaluation. [Learn more and throw your hat in the ring](#). But hurry! The deadline for submissions is September 13th.

Which sponsors “won” the Paris Olympics?

The Paris 2024 Olympics promised to deliver a greener Games. But how green were the Games’ sponsors? Using data dug from sponsors’ own sustainability reports, New Weather [put the top polluters on the podium](#) (and they’re probably not too keen on collecting their medals).

Debt relief would allow 5 million children to go to school

A [new paper](#) shows that if debt repayments owed by poor countries—currently averaging 22% of government revenue—were reduced, 5 million more kids could go to school and 17 million would benefit from clean water.

Aid workers: 2023 was the deadliest year yet

Last year was the [deadliest for aid workers ever recorded](#), with fatalities more than double the annual average. The death toll was driven mainly by the war in Gaza, but Sudan and South Sudan also saw record numbers of aid workers killed.

Antisemitism on campus

What are the factors that have contributed to a heightened hostile environment at many colleges since October 7? [This study](#) investigates the evolving dynamics of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiments on campuses in the US.

New mpox outbreak

The mpox epidemic first seen in the Democratic Republic of Congo last November has now been declared a public health emergency by WHO, [as it is now spreading across other African countries](#). Cases are appearing among travelers to Europe, triggering a [risk assessment](#) from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Wildfires and pregnancy

More wildfires mean more air pollution. That can exacerbate reproductive health challenges, especially among marginalized communities. [Experiences from Oregon](#) indicate that public health officials are not doing enough to educate and help pregnant women.

2023: the hottest year on record

[State of the Climate in 2023](#), a Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events, and other data collected by environmental monitoring stations and instruments on land, water, ice, and in space.

Do Americans support book bans in schools?

Book challenges and restrictions in US public schools have increased dramatically since 2021. To find out what the American public thinks, Knight Foundation surveyed a random national sample of more than 4,500 adults and [found](#) that most trust schools to make the right choices.

Policy Commons: the backstory

Toby was interviewed about the *Policy Commons* backstory last month for the Grey Lit Café podcast. Listen to the thirty-minute episode [here](#) or via your usual podcaster.

Policy Matters: don’t keep it to yourself

If you find this newsletter useful, why not recommend it to your colleagues? Signing up is easy! Just enter your email in the box at the foot of any page of *Policy Commons*.

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