



March 2025

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Women's Health

Women & Cancer '12 Million Reasons for Action'



European Cancer Organisation

6 March 2025 | 11:00-12:15 CET

In November 2024, the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) published its policy paper, on Women and Cancer, underscoring the failure of healthcare policies across Europe to adequately address the needs and conditions of women affected by cancer. Ahead of International Women's Day, ECO together with MEP Romana Jerković will host a high-level event at the European Parliament on 6 March to discuss how best to strengthen the rights of millions of women in Europe who are either cancer patients or survivors.

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Key trends and policy asks in cardiovascular health for women and girls

MEP Elena Nevado del Campo and European Society of Cardiology

5 March 2025 | 15:00-16:30 CET

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains a leading cause of death globally, with women experience higher mortality rates and worse outcomes following acute cardiovascular events than men. These gender disparities highlight the need for tailored cardiovascular strategies that address the specific risks and healthcare challenges faced by women. Through different interventions, and a panel discussion, this event works towards policy outlooks on addressing cardiovascular inequities.

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The Voice of Mothers: Uncovering the Truth Behind the Numbers

Make Mothers Matter (MMM)
11 March 2025 | 14:30-15:30 CET

MMM unveils its State of Motherhood in Europe 2024 Survey Results. Through an engaging and interactive format, this event will combine a quiz with a moderated discussion featuring leading experts in maternal and mental health, gender equality, and workplace policies. Participants will gain valuable insights into the systemic barriers mothers encounter and explore actionable solutions to improve recognition and support for motherhood across Europe.

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MEPs for Women's Health

European Institute for Women's Health

For International Women's Day, the European Commission will release a Roadmap for Women's Rights. Women's health is a topic that cannot be ignored in such a roadmap, meaning the discussion should be front and centre. The European Institute for Women's Health has been in close touch with MEPs and can now announce that the MEPs for Women's Health group is re-launched, providing a platform for discussions in the European Parliament context.

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International & European Institutions



The European Commission and UNICEF announce a new partnership to improve health outcomes for children

UNICEF

Some of the largest challenges faced by children, especially amongst vulnerable groups, include stagnating vaccination rates, mental health, tobacco use and obesity. To encourage policy to counteract these crisis, UNICEF and the European Commission will provide resources, using a budget of 2 million Euros from the EU4Health budget.

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Health equity for persons with disabilities: guide for action: executive summary

World Health Organization

Following up on a report released in 2022, WHO has released an executive summary on how to counter health inequities faced by people with a disability. It provides recommendations to Member States to ensure an estimated 1.3 billion people who experience significant disabilities are not left behind. Especially keeping in mind that this number is likely to keep growing.

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International Migrants Day 2024: WHO works to ensure health-care access at every step of migration journey

WHO Europe

Migration has been a hotly debated topic, and will increasingly be so in 2025. Together with the International Organization for Migration, WHO Europe called attention to the fact that, not only is migration normal, it is an extremely important topic to discussing public health. Migrants have a right to the highest attainable standard of health, but also play a significant role in healthcare systems across the world.

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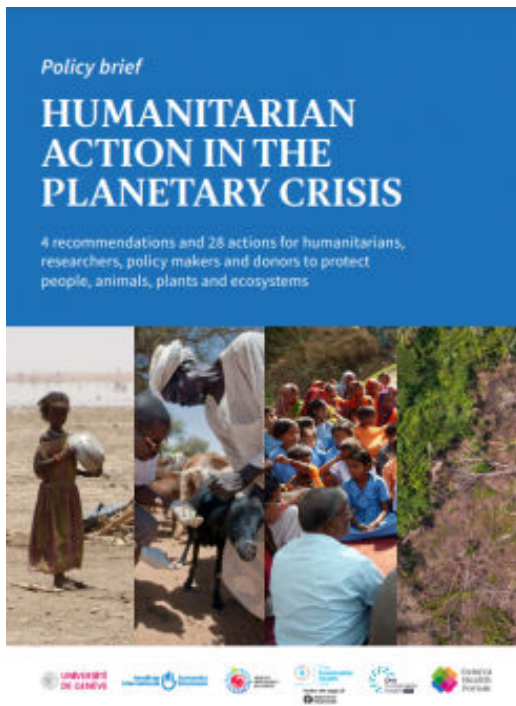
10.6% of EU population struggled to keep homes warm

Eurostat

The amount of people in Europe who cannot adequately heat their homes has increased by 1.3 percentage points from 2022 to 2023. The inequities between countries remains stark, with a disproportionate burden in southern and eastern Europe. Energy poverty has large effects on health, especially among vulnerable and marginalised groups. These numbers show that much remains to be done to right this injustice.

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Research Developments



Policy Brief – Humanitarian Action in the Planetary Crisis

Geneva Health Forum

The concept of 'One Health' explains how in almost all facets of life, health will play a role or be impacted. This new policy brief focuses specifically on humanitarian action, exploring how natural disasters, conflicts, and displacement and their impact on ecosystems, food systems, and public health are more serious in low-resource settings. The researchers provide 4 key recommendations and 28 actions on how humanitarian action can effectively address these issues

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Umbrella review of social inequality in digital interventions targeting dietary and physical activity behaviors

Nature

Using digital tools can be prove very helpful in improving population health. It comes with great opportunities, but there are risks of increasing inequities. In this review, researchers conclude that there is a particular risk of inequities in digital tools and health behaviour along gender lines. They also state that income and education could be important determinants, but further research is required.

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Modelling the impact of environmental and social determinants on mental health using generative agents

Nature

There is little research done on the effects of socio-environmental determinants on mental health. The social and physical surrounding both can have large effects on development on mental disorders. Researchers from Germany have used large-language models to model these effects, allowing for a new way of doing mental health research.

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THE LANCET

Building leadership in disability inclusion in health

The Lancet

Health systems across the world generally do not prioritise the needs of people with a disability, evidenced by a 14-year life expectancy gap compared to people without a disability. Though there are developments, they go quite slowly, partly attributable to a lack of leadership in this field. There are examples of inspiring leadership stories, but strong political will and support is required to lift this to a higher level.

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Gender inequalities in prescribing and initiation patterns of guideline-recommended drugs after acute myocardial infarction

BMC Public Health

Researchers from Spain have looked into gender disparities in cardiovascular health, specifically in heart attack (AMI). What they find is that women are generally older, at lower socio-economic status and have greater comorbidities. This points to that fact that an intersectionality lens and gender-sensitive strategies are relevant in addressing such disparities.

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Stigmatization of People with Mental Illness -A Matter of Milieu-Specific Worldviews? Results from a Population-Based Survey in Germany

Frontiers

People with schizophrenia and people with depression often face stigmatisation in society. Researchers from Germany explored what causes this stigmatisation, focusing particularly on how social, cultural and political orientation influences manifestations of stigma. In specific milieus, these manifestations differ significantly; understanding the causes why is useful to tailor intervention further

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In the Media



Gender equality: A challenge that also affects mental health

El País

Mental ill-health manifests itself in different ways among individuals. Statistics from Spain now show that inequities can also be identified along gender lines; between men and women. Women tend to express emotional distress more internally, while men tend to express it more externally. Biological, environmental and social variables all have an effect on how these inequities form. Being aware of these causes is crucial to ensure effective policy to improve mental health and reduce inequities.

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Sugary drinks linked to millions of new diabetes and heart disease cases – study

The Guardian

It is generally well-known that sugary drinks are extremely unhealthy. A new study in *Nature Medicine* illustrates this, showing that 2.2 million cases of diabetes and 1.1 cases of heart disease can be linked to consumption of such drinks. It also comes with large inequities, with low- and middle income countries disproportionately affected by NCDs and mortality, and marketing of sugary drinks. This equity dimension is particularly important; the combination of social and commercial determinants.

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Tackling inequality through data: the professor of primary care

The BMJ

Data and health inequities are two topics that are often mentioned in tandem. In this interview, medical student Azeem Majeed is asked about how influencing factors from outside of the healthcare setting impact health inequities. Majeed points to the importance of data in guiding health policy. The current data gaps are "like driving a car with a blindfold on" he says.

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Other News



Navigating disability and irregular status in Europe



Navigating disability and irregular status in Europe

PICUM

There are many intersecting factors that may limit access to core services. Our health depends both on our access to healthcare and access to other services. In a new report, PICUM sheds light on the situation of people who are navigating both disability and irregular migration status in Europe. In this way, they become part of a conversation in which they are too often overlooked.

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HIA-TO - Health Inequality Impact Assessment for Tobacco Control in Belgium

Sciensano

The effects of tobacco use on our health are evident, but the health inequities that come from smoking are not as widely researched. Sciensano cooperated with VUB to evaluate how tobacco control impacts health disparities in particular. The main outcome of the study is to identify these impacts and use the results to help set goals for both reducing smoking rates and improving health equity

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The Quality Health Information for All Commission: reinventing health communication for the digital era

Nature Medicine

Access to good quality health information is an important driver for someone's ability to be healthy. Whether in physical or digital environments, misleading information has far-reaching effects. Especially in combination with political, social and commercial determinants, poor health information can lead to large health disparities.

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Do community-based digital health inclusion programmes contribute to tackling health inequalities in disadvantaged population groups?: a qualitative study of experiences of a city-wide programme in the North of England

BMC Public Health

With increasing digitalisation of healthcare systems, the question on digital inclusion is very relevant. Research in the UK looked into community-based digital inclusion interventions and their effect on. They conclude that such initiatives are important and should be rolled out and evaluated further.

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EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: 18941013532-08

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