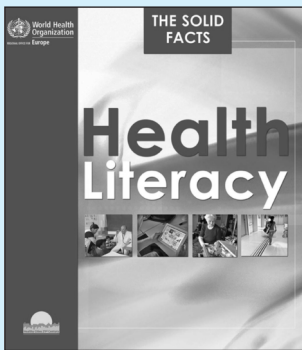


BOOK REVIEWS

HEALTH LITERACY. THE SOLID FACTS
Edited by Ilona Kickbusch, Jürgen M. Pelikan,
Franklin Apfel and Agis D. Tsouros
WHO
2013
VII + 73 pages



As societies grow more complex and people are increasingly bombarded with health information and misinformation, health literacy becomes essential. People with strong health literacy skills enjoy better health and well-being, while those with weaker skills tend to engage in riskier behaviour and have poorer health.

With evidence from the recent European Health Literacy Survey, this report identifies practical and effective ways public health and other sector authorities and advocates can strengthen health literacy in a variety of settings, including educational settings, workplaces, marketplaces, health systems, new and traditional media and political arenas.

The report can be used as a tool for spreading awareness, stimulating debate and research and, above all, for informing policy development and action.

HEALTH LITERACY TOOLKIT
For low - and middle - income countries

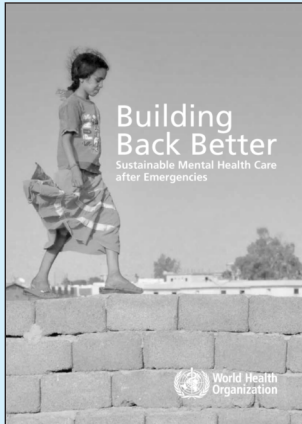


This series of information sheets introduces health literacy, its relevance to public policy, and the ways it can be used to inform the promotion of good health, the prevention and management of communicable and non-communicable dis-

eases, and the reduction of health inequities. It provides information and links to further resources to assist organizations and governments to incorporate health literacy responses into practice, service delivery systems, and policy.

This publication seeks to inform: governments, politicians and policy makers at all levels; academic institutions; public, civil society, and non-governmental organizations; and practitioners; relevant private sectors promoting health and well-being; communities, community-based organizations and social networks; WHO and other UN partners and development organizations.

BUILDING BACK BETTER
Sustainable Mental Health Care after Emergencies
WHO
2013
104 pages



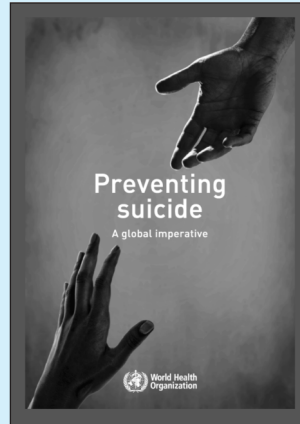
In spite of their tragic nature, and notwithstanding the human suffering they create, emergency situations are also opportunities to build better mental health care. The surge of aid, combined with sudden, focused attention on the mental health of the population, creates unparalleled opportunities to transform mental health care for the long term.

By publishing this information, the World Health Organization aims to ensure that those faced with emergencies do not miss the opportunity for

mental health reform. Emergencies are not only mental health tragedies, but also powerful catalysts for achieving sustainable mental health care in affected communities. We do not know where the next major emergency will be, but we do know that those affected will have the opportunity to build back better. Reading this publication is an excellent way to prepare for and respond to that eventuality.

The ten cases that form the core of this report show how it can be done. Early commitment towards a longer-term perspective for mental health reform is key to success. The report summarizes lessons learnt and key overlapping practices emerging from these experiences.

PREVENTING SUICIDE
A Global Imperative
WHO
2014
89 pages



Suicide impacts on the most vulnerable of the world's populations and is highly prevalent in already marginalized and discriminated groups of society. It is not just a serious public health problem in developed countries; in fact, most suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries where resources and services, if they do exist, are often scarce and limited for early identification, treatment and support of people in need. These striking facts and the lack of implemented timely interventions make suicide a global

public health problem that needs to be tackled imperatively.

This report is the first WHO publication of its kind and brings together what is known in a convenient form so that immediate actions can be taken. The report aims to increase the awareness of the public health significance of suicide and suicide attempts and to make suicide prevention a higher priority on the global public health agenda. It aims to encourage and support countries to develop or strengthen comprehensive suicide prevention strategies in a multisectoral public health approach. For a national suicide prevention strategy, it is essential that governments assume their role of leadership, as they can bring together a multitude of stakeholders who may not otherwise collaborate. Governments are also in a unique position to develop and strengthen surveillance and to provide and disseminate data that are necessary to inform action. This report proposes practical guidance on strategic actions that governments can take on the basis of their resources and existing suicide prevention activities. In particular, there are evidence-based and low-cost interventions that are effective, even in resource-poor settings.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EUROPEAN UNION HEALTH POLICIES BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Edited by Greer S.L., Fahy N., Elliott H.A., Wismar M., Jarman H., Palm W.

**WHO
2014
159 pages**



What does the European Union mean for health and health systems? More than one would think. The EU's health mandate allows for a comprehensive set of public health actions. And there are other EU policies, though not health related, which have important consequences for governing, financing, staffing and delivering health services. In other words: EU actions affect the health of Europe's population and the performance of health systems.

Given how important health systems are, we need the informed debate on the role of the EU and its contribution. But this is not easy because EU health policy is difficult to comprehend. There is no single strategy with a neat body of legislation implementing it; rather, there are many different objectives and instruments, some of which appear in unlikely places.

Understanding the EU role in health is especially important now, when health systems have to deal with a plethora of challenges, the European social model is confronted by the threat posed by the financial crisis, and the EU is facing increasing euro-scepticism in politics.

This short book makes EU health policy in its entirety (and complexity) accessible to political and technical debate. To this end the volume focuses on four aspects of EU health policy:

- the EU institutions, processes and powers related to health;
- the EU action taken on the basis of this health mandate;
- the non-health action affecting health and health systems;
- and, because of its growing importance, financial governance and what it means for European health systems.

This book is aimed at policymakers and students of public health and health systems in the EU who want to understand how the EU can add value in their quest improving population health and the performance of health systems in Member States.

SAFE MANAGEMENT OF WASTES FROM HEALTH-CARE ACTIVITIES. SECOND EDITION

Edited by Chartier Y., Emmanuel J., Pieper U., Prüss A., Rushbrook P., Stringer R., Townend W., Wilburn S., Zghondi R.

**WHO
2014
385 pages**



This is the second edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) handbook on the safe, sustainable and affordable management of health-care waste - commonly known as "the Blue Book". The original Blue Book was a comprehensive publication used widely in health-care centres and government agencies to assist in the adoption of national guidance. It also provided support to committed medical directors and managers to make improvements and presented practical

information on waste-management techniques for medical staff and waste workers.

In many countries, knowledge about the potential for harm from health-care wastes has now become more prominent to governments, medical practitioners and civil society. Increasingly, managers and medical staff are expected to take more responsibility for the wastes they produce from their medical care and related activities. The indiscriminate and erratic handling and disposal of waste within health-care facilities is now widely recognized as a source of avoidable infection, and is synonymous with public perception of poor standards of health care.

It has been more than ten years since the first edition of the Blue Book. During the intervening period, the requirements on generators of health-care wastes have evolved and new methods have become available. Consequently, WHO recognized that it was an appropriate time to update the original text. The purpose of the second edition is to expand and update the practical information in the original Blue Book.

The new Blue Book is designed to continue to be a source of impartial health-care information and guidance on safe waste-management practices. The editors' intention has been to keep the best of the original publication and supplement it with the latest relevant information. The audience for the Blue Book has expanded. Initially, the publication was intended for those directly involved in the creation and handling of health-care wastes: medical staff, health-care facility directors, ancillary health workers, infection-control officers and waste workers. This is no longer the situation. A wider range of people and organizations now have an active interest in the safe management of health-care wastes: regulators, policy-makers, development organizations, voluntary groups, environmental bodies, environmental health practitioners, advisers, researchers and students. They should also find the new Blue Book of benefit to their activities.