

# Grey literature on health

**What is grey literature? It is literature produced by non-commercial publishers, such as public institutions, universities, research institutes and civil society. It contains a lot of useful content, but is often hard to find as it is scattered across different loca-**

**tions. EIGE has collected grey literature on gender equality and you can access our collection through a simple search interface. EIGE's collection of grey literature is available in several EU languages and documents come from all EU Member States.**

## The relevance of gender in health

Health policy needs to adequately explore and address the combination of social and biological sources of differences in women's and men's health. An understanding of the interaction between sex and gender in the development and management of health can be beneficial in terms of prevention, intervention and outcome.



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## Grey literature in EIGE's library

EIGE's library hosts one of the largest collections of gender-related literature related to health. The collection presents **good practices** of current policies throughout Europe as well as **gender indicators** aimed at assessing gender equality in health. Several

resources focus on the ways in which the EU has mainstreamed gender into **policy processes** for health. You will also find **research reports** and **statistical documents** providing data on key gender issues related to health.

## Gender differences in health

Gender plays a crucial role in the incidence and prevalence of **specific pathologies**. This is due to the interrelation between sex-related biological differences and socioeconomic and cultural factors that affect the behaviour of women and men.

In the library you will find several resources that explain why some diseases are more common for women and others for men. Some affect women exclusively. You will also find information on how gender roles and norms affect women's health. Several resources also show the different implications that employment conditions have on the **health and safety of women and men**.

Another important aspect covered in our grey literature resources concerns the **interaction between climate**

**change, gender and health**. The main focus is on how gender norms, roles and relations are important factors in determining vulnerability and ability to adapt to the health impacts of climate change.

### Reading list

*Discrimination against women and young girls in the health sector — Study;*

*Gender issues in safety and health at work — a review — European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.*

## Inequality in access to health services

Several resources in the library highlight the problem of **unequal access to healthcare**. Gender plays a role in the incidence and prevalence of certain type of pathologies (as described above), but also in their treatment and impact in terms of well-being and recovery.

Gender inequalities also cut across other forms of inequality, such as poverty, economic disadvantage, disability, age, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Several resources show how these factors intensify gender inequality in healthcare and increase vulnerability in access to health services.

Finally, in the library you will find resources referring to the ways that **gender-mainstreaming** can make a significant contribution to reducing health inequalities and providing equal access to services for both women and men.

### Reading list

'Social and economic circumstances of sex differentials in poor health of an elderly population';

*Gender Matters — Toolkit for implementing gender mainstreaming in the health sector.*

## Health consequences of gender-based violence

Many resources stress the presence of gender-based violence and its consequences on women's health.

Violence against women is widespread and universal. It crosses all boundaries and can occur in all society groups, regardless of education, age, financial situation, religious beliefs, family situation, cultural/ethnic background, etc.

Gender-based violence has serious health consequences for women, from injuries to unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, depression and chronic disease.

In the library you can also find resources on **harmful practices** and their serious long-term health consequences.

### Reading list

*Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.*

### About EIGE

The European Institute for Gender Equality is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond, by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable information on gender equality in Europe. With over 800 000 items, EIGE's Resource and Documentation Centre is a one-stop shop for gender knowledge. Access our collection of policy documents, books, articles, studies, specialised databases and more at [www.eige.europa.eu](http://www.eige.europa.eu)

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