Governing Health Futures 2030:
Key findings and recommendations of The Lancet and Financial Times Commission

The Commission’s report, published in October 2021, calls for a radical rethink in approaches to digital transformations in health.

Digital technologies and data are changing approaches to health and the design of health systems, but governance models haven’t kept up. This has created uneven effects globally, endangered democracy, limited the agency of patients and communities, and compromised trust and human rights.

In 2019, The Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing health futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world was established to explore how to maximise the benefits and reduce the risks of digital transformations to create better health futures, particularly for children and young people who stand to inherit the governance models designed today.

Nineteen Commissioners from a range of sectors and disciplines were brought together to develop a report. They considered a wide range of governance approaches, ethical guidelines, and institutional responsibilities that must be considered to improve health and wellbeing in an increasingly digital world. The Commission worked closely with Partners to support inclusive dialogues with key stakeholders, with young people and consulted the private sectors through convenings organised by the Financial Times.

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KEY FINDINGS

A value-based framework for governing health futures
Most countries are yet to adopt an approach based on data solidarity, digital trust, human rights, accountability, and public participation. These are the keys to advancing universal health coverage, reducing inequities and resolving privacy concerns.

Addressing digital determinants of health
A solidarity approach to health data and addressing digital determinants of health are important for maximising the public health value of digital transformations. However these are missing from most governance approaches.

Putting young people at the centre
Young people are excited about the benefits digital transformation will have for their health and wellbeing and concerned about the risks. Young people’s views and needs are almost never prioritised in policy development or technology development.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1. Address the role of digital technologies as determinants of health
2. Build a governance architecture that fosters trust
3. Govern health data to increase its public value
4. Invest in the enablers of digital transformations for public health

Read the full report on our website www.governinghealthfutures2030.org