Amplifying Member Data to Drive Change

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voluntary health scotland

VHS as a ‘voice’ for members

‘We collaborate to provide the national voice for third sector health organisations in Scotland.’

‘Our members are at the heart of everything we do’

Aims:

- Amplify the voice and influence of third sector health organisations
- Contribute to and promote the evidence base for health policy and practice



What our members tell us about health data

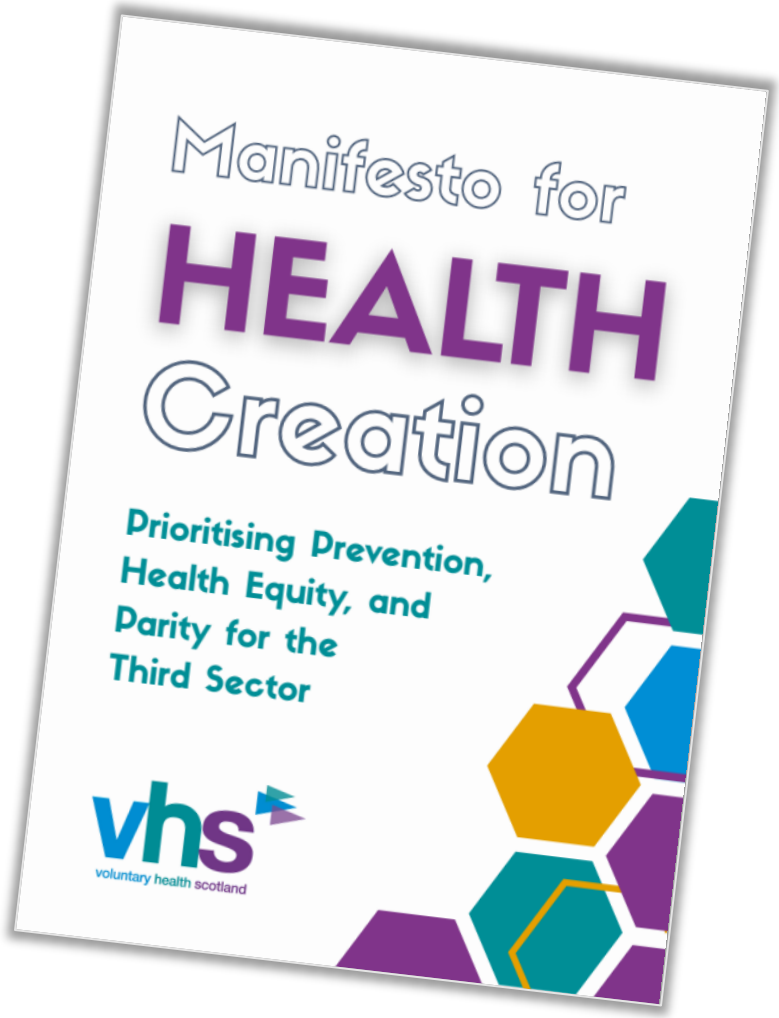
- National datasets are often not accessible for third sector partners.
- Datasets often do not have sample sizes that allow for analysis of intersectional health inequalities.
- Data produced by the third sector is not valued as highly as academic data by decision-makers.
- Evidence produced by the third sector is often used for funder reporting rather than being fed into decision-making

“If we are constantly calling for the same types of evidence, then new ideas and innovation do not have a chance.”

Influencing change

Manifesto Ask: Improve health measures and datasets.

'A meaningful shift to prevention and health equity can only be achieved if national outcomes and indicators for health reflect this. It is therefore essential to ensure that health data is robust, accessible and focused on enabling health creation.'



Third sector as a rich data source

- Vital data regarding intersectional health inequalities
- Qualitative data and the voice of lived-experience
- Data to support innovation and systems change
- Research partnerships with academia and other national bodies



Amplifying VHS member data

- Events
- Newsletters and social media
- Influencing decision-makers
- Publications and reports
- Social research projects







Next steps

- Election 2026 and beyond – Influence around Manifesto for Health Creation
- SCLWN Review
- Social Research Series: Intersectionality in Health
- CEMVO Anti-racism workshops
- Community Visits



Get in touch if you have research or evidence you would like to share, or if you have an idea for partnering with VHS!