

Health Impact Assessment:

A Practical Framework for Identifying Environmental Human Health Effects & Relevant Policy Solutions

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Outline

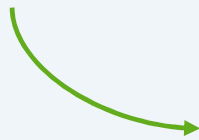
- Context for HIA
- What is HIA?
- Steps of HIA
- Examples of HIA
- Opportunities for HIA

The Problem

Policy, program and project decisions made in sectors that do not consider health as their primary mission generally do not take into account potential effects on human health, often resulting in unintended negative consequences & missed opportunities to improve health

HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy



affect

and lead to health outcomes



Definitions of HIA

A combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential effects of a policy, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects. *(IAIA 2006, adapted from World Health Organization 1999)*

A pragmatic, six-step approach that helps translate the best available public health data into practical information that's useful to a decision maker in planning a new program or policy. *(Health Impact Project 2009)*

The HIA Process

- **Screening**: *Is HIA feasible and likely to add value?*
- **Scoping**: *What are the important health effects, who are the affected populations, what is available evidence?*
- **Assessment**: *What are the baseline conditions and likely health effects?*
- **Recommendations**: *Develop health-based recs and a feasible plan for implementing them*
- **Reporting**: *Disseminate the report to the public, stakeholders, solicit input*
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**: *monitor results of HIA, monitor health outcomes; evaluates the HIA process*

HIA Ex: Jack London Gateway Development

Authors: Human Impact Partners & SFDPH

Decision: Plan for 61 new senior housing units close to 2 freeways & Port of Oakland

Impact: air quality, noise, safety, retail access

Recommendations: air quality monitoring; installation of ventilation systems; noise-insulating windows; pedestrian protection medians; traffic calming measures; and many others



Outcomes:

- Many recommendations adopted.
- Additional HIA projects were funded.
- Healthy Development checklist adopted by the development committee.

HIA Ex: Children's Health & Home Energy Costs

Authors: Boston Medical Center

Decision: State-matched Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Impact: indoor air quality, food insecurity, access to healthcare, housing instability

Recommendations: ↑ outreach to families, ↑ monitoring of utility shut-offs; use energy insecurity scale; ↑ funding for LIHEAP



Outcomes:

- Re-framed state LIHEAP contribution as health-supporting benefit.
- State increased funding for LIHEAP.

Analytical Framework



- Broad framework: considers multiple determinants and dimensions of health
- Considers direct, indirect, and cumulative pathways
- Both qualitative and quantitative methods used, as is expert opinion
- Focus: predicting outcomes or pathways/linkages, in order to manage effects

Key Points of HIA

- Solutions-oriented
- Pragmatic
- Not for EVERY policy decision
- Applies to active decisions
- Proactive
- Can speed approval
- Flexible

Opportunities for HIA

- Capitalize on momentum at state & federal level
 - White House Obesity Taskforce Report
 - CPPW Cities/states using HIA
 - States proposing HIA legislation (MA transportation bill)
 - Congress taking note (Healthy Places Act Marker Bill)
- HIA as valuable tool for cross-sector collaboration
- Integration of HIA into Nat'l Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process
 - 40 years of NEPA practice
 - But, minimal consideration of health
 - HIA proven way to address human health

Discussion?

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Integrating HIA into the environmental impact statement process:

Decision: proposed expanded oil leasing in Alaska's North Slope, necessitating an EIS



Impact: contamination of local food sources, dietary changes, social ills, air pollution, increased tax revenue

Outcomes:

- Tribal gov't became a "cooperating agency" – role that allows formal participation in EIS
- The community health agency drafted an HIA through this role
- The lead federal agency incorporated the HIA into the EIS