

Health Impact Assessment

- PART 1: Introduction (8-9:30)
 - Survey for evaluation
 - Introduction to project (MDH staff)
 - Introduction to Design for Health team and to participants
 - Overview of day.
 - Public health for planners; Planning for public health folks
- PART 2: Design for Health HIA Tools (9:30-2:00)
 - Basics of HIA
 - HIA Preliminary Checklist
 - HIA Rapid Assessment Part 1
 - HIA Rapid Assessment Part 2
 - HIA Threshold Analysis
- PART 3: Other Tools and Next Steps (2:00-4:30)
 - Other HIA tools
 - Trying out HIA
 - Next Steps—Volunteer point people

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Basics of HIA

1. What is HIA? Another form of assessment
2. HIA explained: Current practice, theory, and emerging concerns
3. Why do HIA?

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HIA? What It Is

- "A **combination of procedures, methods and tools** by which a **policy, program or project** may be judged as to its **potential effects** on the health of a population, and the **distribution of those effects** within the population"
World Health Organization, Gothenburg Consensus Paper, 1999

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- Emerged in the 1980s and 1990s in multiple locations
 - large scale infrastructure projects in developing countries
 - healthy public policies movement in Canada and Central/Eastern Europe)
- Strong influence from EIA
- Centers of activity in Europe, Canada, and Australasia
- WHO a key player (esp Denmark Office); also University of Liverpool
- Aim to improve **decision making**, increase **participation**

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HIA? Determinants of Health

Causes of health include

- biology,
 - individual behavior,
 - social and economic context,
 - access to various services, and
 - the environment
- HIAs tend to deal with the lower end of the list / outer part of the diagram



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<http://www.rotherhampct.nhs.uk/hia/determin.gif>

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HIA Explained: Typical Formats

- **Screening**: screening tools filter out projects that don't need an HIA (typically in terms of impacts, size, reversibility, resources etc)
 - **Scoping**: determines what should be assessed and how
 - **Desktop or mini HIA**: quick assessment to aid decision makers
 - **Rapid assessment or appraisal**: workshop which may be invited or fully open
 - **Intermediate**: some systematic analysis but does not require as much work as an EIA.
 - **Full**: most involved form of an HIA, like a full environmental impact assessment
 - **Integrated HIA**: HIA is integrated with other impact assessments
- Often combined e.g. screening, scoping, and rapid
- Also health questions can be integrated in typical participation processes, data analyses, etc. though this is **not typically called HIA**

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HIA Explained: Typical Steps

Steps in HIA Process	HIA Formats (may be used alone or in combination)
1. Screening	• Screening
2. Scoping	• Scoping
3. Impact assessment	• Desktop or mini HIA • Rapid assessment or appraisal • Intermediate • Full • Integrated HIA
4. Reporting	
5. Evaluation and monitoring	

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HIA Explained: What to Do after Screening

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Based on http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/files/Health_Impact_Assessment_A_Practical_Guide.pdf
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HIA Explained: When in a Process to Do it

Typical Policy Process	Possible HIA Input
1. Set Broad Goals/ Determine Needs	Rapid HIA for public input on broad topic and/or technical screening + scoping
2. Collect Data	Rapid/participatory HIA to get local knowledge, technical health data
3. Analyze Data	Technical HIA analysis tools (e.g. statistical, GIS), assess against thresholds
4. Draft Proposal	Prospective HIA: Preliminary, rapid, or full HIA for technical and/or participatory review
5. Refine Proposal	
6. Implement	
7. Evaluate, Monitor, and Update	Retrospective HIA to evaluate implemented plan, policy, or program and prepare for update


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HIA Explained: Comparing Assessment Tools

	Scope	Content	Outcomes
Health impact assess.	Policies, plans, and projects at multiple scales	Human health – varies from wide to narrow focus	Awareness, engagement, communication, mitigation
Environmental impact assess.	Projects, plans, programs, policies w/ federal funding or potential impacts	Environment, health, sustainability, economy, cumulative impacts	Awareness, project changes, environmental quality , mitigation
Social impact assess.	Projects, plans, programs, and policies	Population, community structures, resources, family/individual change	Engagement, assist marginalized groups , changes in project
Sustainability indicators	Projects, plans, programs, or policies	Economic, environmental, social/equity	Awareness , changes to policy or program, information

HIA Explained: Current Practice

- To date primary focus assessing social programs and facilities (e.g. hospital redevelopment, home winterization)
- Dannenber et al. (2007) document 27 completed HIAs in US:
 - most of policies or programs (e.g. Farm Bill) or developments (e.g. senior housing)
 - Only eight at a planning scale



HIA Training

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HIA Explained: Range of Approaches

	Participatory	Hybrid	Quantitative
View of Health	Holistic	Evidence-based	Defined, observable aspects
Disciplinary Roots	Sociology	Sociology, env. sciences, professions	Epidemiology, toxicology
Approach	Democratic	Tools to fit situation	Expert-driven
Quantification	Vague	Thresholds, associations	Precise
Types of Evidence	Key informants, popular concern	Combined forms of knowledge	Measurement
Precision	Low	Mixed	High

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Modified from http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/files/Health_Impact_Assessment_A_Practical_Guide.pdf
http://www.ph.ucsf.edu/his/health-impact/training/pdfs/Intro_to_HIA_04132007.pdf

HIA Explained: Kinds of Questions

- HIA's may emphasize different concerns
 - Topics (one or more)
 - Significance, equity, cost-effectiveness...
- Examples:
 - What are the health effects of closing a street to motorized traffic? (*general assessment*)
 - What is the most cost effective way of giving an underserved community access to healthy food? (*cost-effectiveness*)
 - How would cut-backs in park programming affect the health of different age, gender, and ethnic groups? (*equity*)
 - Are there substantial health benefits from stormwater management programs? (*significance*)

Design for Health November 2009 Draws on: http://www.ph.ucla.edu/health-impact/training/pdfs/Intro_to_HIA_04132007.pdf

Appendix 1 continued: Screening Tool for Health Impact Assessment

10. Checklist http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/files/Health_Impact_Assessment_A_Practical_Guide.pdf

ANSWERS FAVOURING DOING A HIA	TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE	ANSWERS FAVOURING NOT DOING A HIA
HEALTH IMPACTS		
Yes / not sure	Does the initiative affect health directly?	No
Yes / not sure	Does the initiative affect health indirectly?	No
Yes / not sure	Are there any potentially serious negative health impacts that you currently know of?	No
Yes / not sure	Is further investigation necessary because more information is required on the potential health impacts?	No
No	Are the potential health impacts well known and is it straightforward to suggest effective ways in which beneficial effects are maximised and harmful effects minimised?	Yes
No	Are the potential health impacts identified judged to be minor?	Yes
COMMUNITY		
Yes / not sure	Is the population affected by the initiative large?	No
Yes / not sure	Are there any socially excluded, vulnerable, disadvantaged groups likely to be affected?	No
Yes / not sure	Are there any community concerns about any potential health impacts?	No
INITIATIVE		
Yes / not sure	Is the size of the initiative large?	No
Yes / not sure	Is the cost of the initiative high?	No
Yes / not sure	Is the nature and extent of the disruption to the affected population likely to be major?	No
ORGANISATION		
Yes	Is the initiative a high priority/important for the organisation/partnership?	No
Yes	Is there potential to change the proposal?	No
FOR =	TOTAL	AGAINST =

What issues such as significance, equity, and cost-effectiveness are being screened for?

There's a copy of this in your packet

HIA Explained: Emerging Concerns

- Quality:** Useful? Accurate? Clarity? Inclusivity?
- Costs and benefits of the HIA:** Should HIA be prioritized over other uses of funds? Is HIA a burden?
- Topics analyzed in HIA:** Breadth? Importance vs. ease of measurement.
- Knowledge:** Is there enough science? *Are causal pathways understood (if X and Y exist, does X lead to Y)?* How does local knowledge fit?
- Link to policy:** How appealing, specific, and relevant?
- Subpopulations:** Identification, relative risk, local knowledge, equity?
- Administering body:** Interdisciplinary tool but often lacks a home in any one agency

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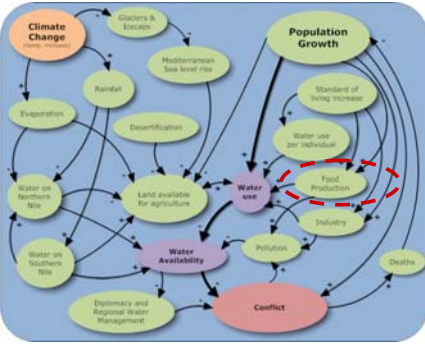


Theory

Healthy Food

↓

Better Health



Theory

Healthy Food

↓

Better Health

Will a policy to increase food production improve health?


Yes?

No?

Complicated causal path
some predispose, some enable, some modify, some mediate with the environment
http://www.american.edu/led/ice/images4/203hc_causal_diagram.jpg

3. Why do HIA?

- Allies:** HIA provides new allies and constituencies
- Social focus:** Health provides a humanistic, equity-based lens
- Rigor:** Taps into rigorous public health research literature
- Breadth:** HIA casts a wider and stronger net for issues
- Assessment:** A means to benchmark
- Report:** Summarizes health issues



Voting similar to Rapid HIA

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Liberty on the Lake, Stillwater



Would it be worth doing an HIA for this existing development?

Potential issues:

- Allies?
- Social concerns?
- Rigor?
- Breadth?
- Benchmarking?
- Costs of HIA?
- Focus populations?
- Who would do it?