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

Basics of HIA

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

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

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

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

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
HIA Explained: Typical Steps

Steps in HIA Process
1. Screening
2. Scoping
3. Impact assessment
4. Reporting
5. Evaluation and monitoring

HIA Formats (may be used alone or in combination)
- Screening
- Scoping
- Desktop or mini HIA
- Rapid assessment or appraisal
- Intermediate
- Full
- Integrated HIA

HIA Formats (may be used alone or in combination)
- Screening
- Scoping
- Desktop or mini HIA
- Rapid assessment or appraisal
- Intermediate
- Full
- Integrated HIA

HIA Explained: What to Do after Screening

Level of Health Impact (scale, significance, reversibility, etc)
- Low
- High

Level of Resources (organizational capacity, funds, etc)
- Low
- High

HIA Explained: When in a Process to Do it

Typical Policy Process Possible HIA Input
1. Set Broad Goal/ Determine Needs
2. Collect Data
3. Analyze Data
4. Draft Proposal
5. Refine Proposal
6. Implement
7. Evaluate, Monitor, and Update

Prospective HIA: Preliminary, rapid, or full HIA for technical and/or participatory review
- Rapid HIA for public input on broad topic and/or technical screening +scoping
- Technical HIA analysis tools (e.g. statistical, GIS), assess against thresholds

Retrospective HIA to evaluate implemented plan, policy, or program and prepare for update

HIA Explained: Comparing Assessment Tools

| Outcomes       | Scope          | Content                        | HIA Explained: Range of Approaches
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Awareness       | Human health – varies from wide to narrow focus | Participatory
| engagement      | Environment, health, sustainability, economy, cumulative impacts | Hybrid
| communication   | Aware, project changes environmental quality, mitigation | Quantitative
| mitigation      | Population, community structures, resources, family/ individual change | Defined, observable aspects
| Engagement      | Economic, environmental, social/equity | Evidence-based
| changes to policy or program, information | Participatory

HIA Explained: Current Practice

- To date primary focus assessing social programs and facilities (e.g. hospital redevelopment, home winterization)
- Dannenberg et al. (2007) documented 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
HIA Explained: Kinds of Questions

- HIAs 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)

HIA Explained: Emerging Concerns

- 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

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
Basics of HIA

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

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?