Addressing the Determinants of Health using Health Impact Assessment

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Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Who we are

HIP is transforming the policies and places people need to live healthy lives.

We believe that health should be considered in all decision making.

We raise awareness of and collaboratively use innovative data, processes and tools that evaluate health impacts and inequities.

Through training and mentorship we also build the capacity of impacted communities and their advocates, workers, public agencies, and elected officials to conduct health-based analyses and use them to take action.
Incorporating Health into Decision-Making

The world would look different

- Development
- Farm Policy
- Incarceration
- Immigration
- Ports
- Education

Why Health?

Limitations to economics-based decision-making

- Externalities
- Disparities
- Money is not the same as happiness

A health frame can be persuasive

- People understand health personally
- Health is an indicator of quality of life and well-being
- Health is a shared value
- People are morally outraged by health inequities
**HIA Definition**

**Health Impact Assessment**
A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. Health impact assessment provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

National Research Council, 2011.

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**Factors Responsible for Population Health**

Health status is determined by: genetics 20 – 30%; health care 10%; social, environmental conditions, and behavior 60 – 70%  

*Health Affairs, 2002*
HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy affect and lead to health outcomes?

HIA Purposes

Through Analysis and Reporting:
Judge health effects of a proposed project, policy or policy
Provide recommendations
Shape public decisions & discourse
Analyze health disparities
Make health impacts more explicit

Through the HIA Process:
Build relationships & collaborations
Build consensus
Engage & empower community
Recognize lived experience
### Steps of a HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Determines the need and value of a HIA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a workplan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Provides:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) a profile of existing health conditions</td>
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<td>2) evaluation of potential health impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Provide strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Includes:</td>
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<td>1) development of the HIA report</td>
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<td>2) communication of findings &amp; recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Tracks:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) impacts on decision-making processes and the decision</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) impacts of the decision on health determinants</td>
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### NEPA and Comprehensive Health Analysis

HIA is one approach to conducting a comprehensive health analysis under NEPA. Language in the following support inclusion of a comprehensive health analysis in EIA:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Council on Environmental Quality regulations
- Executive Orders 12898 and 13045
- CEQ guidance on Executive Order 12898

A comprehensive analysis of health in EIA would include:

- A systematic scoping of potentially significant direct, indirect and cumulative health impacts of the proposed action
- Analysis of baseline health conditions and determinants of health
- Analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative health impacts of the proposed action
HIA as a Collaborative Process

Why engage others in the HIA process?
- Broad range of people affected
- Data, information, resources
- Relationship building
- Capacity for advocacy
- Empowerment

Who has engaged?
- Community organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Research groups
- Academics
- Public health agencies
- Planning, regulatory, and other agencies
- Elected officials
- Private industry and developers

Roles in HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Identify and prioritize topics for HIAs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>Identify health issues to be studied</td>
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<td>Prioritize research questions</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Conduct literature reviews</td>
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<td>Research existing conditions data</td>
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<td>Conduct surveys, interviews, focus groups</td>
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<td>Conduct data analysis</td>
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<td>Interpret and ground truth data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Identify and prioritize recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Write, review and edit final report</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop a communication, media and advocacy plan to report findings to decision-makers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Collect data on impacts</td>
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<td>Hold decision-makers accountable for decision agreements and mitigations</td>
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</table>
119 HIAs Completed or In Progress

Map Courtesy of A. Dannenberg, A. Wendel, CDC NCEH

HIP HIA & TA Project Examples

HIAs

Built Environment
- Humboldt County General Plan
- Pittsburg Railroad Ave Specific Plan
- Jack London Gateway development
- South LA housing development
- Long Beach Downtown Plan
- I-710 Corridor Project

Federal / State / Local Policies
- Paid sick days legislation
- School discipline policies in CA
- Alternatives to Incarceration in WI

Training & Technical Assistance

Health Impact Project (RWJ/Pew)
- Cap & Trade – California
- State budget – New Hampshire
- County agricultural plan – Hawaii
- Smart metering – Illinois
- Coal gasification plant – Kentucky
- Farm-to-School – Oregon
- Light rail transit line – Minnesota

Place Matters Sites (Kellogg)
- School funding policy – Oakland
- Recycling facility permit– Albuquerque
- Gender pay equity legislation – Detroit
Project Example 1

A Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the
Jack London Gateway Development

JLG Project Description

Proposal
Build 55 units of low-income senior housing and retail near JLG shopping mall in West Oakland

Project sponsor
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), a non-profit developer

Project site
Borders Freeway 980, near Port of Oakland
Members of West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative interested in using the project as a case study for HIA

Community health-related concerns included:
- Air quality - respiratory disease
- Noise - sleep disturbance, social cohesion
- Retail - fresh produce, pharmacy
- Safety - pedestrian, crime

In 4 meetings over 3 months, the community

- Selected the project (Screening)
- Engaged EBALDC in discussions
- Scoped and prioritized concerns about project (Scoping)
- Conducted research and found evidence supporting concerns (Assessment)
- Developed suggested mitigations
- Wrote letter to EBALDC and Planning Commission (Reporting)
JLG Outcomes

Oakland Planning Commission asked EBALDC to work with community and implement mitigations

EBALDC made many concessions

- Installing filtered air systems in common space and residential units
- Placing bay windows instead of balconies on the freeway side of building
- Changing main entrance from highway side to neighborhood side

Building opened on September 2, 2009

HIA Project Example 2

Los Angeles and Long Beach Maritime Ports
Health Impact Assessment
Draft Template Scope Proposal

For more details, see:
http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/PortsHIA/index.html
http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/8/106/0
The Case for using HIA on Port Plans

The Ports are making efforts to reduce any negative impacts they are causing. Despite this, health near ports is worse than elsewhere in LA and CA. Examples:

Asthma
Cardiovascular disease
Depression
Premature death

Ports would benefit from:

Increased collaboration & consensus building (and decreased controversy & litigation)
Community focus on health issues of greatest concern
Opportunity to raise awareness about Port initiatives
Collaborative mitigation development
Well-defined methods to address EJ issues

Goals for Creating this HIA Scope Template

Increase stakeholder understanding of HIA and what an HIA on a proposed port project/plan could cover

Advance discussions about conducting HIAs on port proposals

Create a template scope that could be narrowed/refined after a particular port proposal is selected

Generate ideas for how to move forward with starting an HIA (i.e., next steps)
Overview of the Draft HIA Scope (1 of 5)

Overarching parameters

Decisions that could be assessed – proposed projects or master plans & alternatives, including no-build

Geographic boundaries – communities within predefined distance of port and of port-related activities that would be impacted by proposal

Temporal boundaries – current and future impacts over predefined time period

Sensitive uses – residential neighborhoods, low-income housing, senior centers/housing, schools/child care, parks

Population & community vulnerabilities – poverty, prevalence of chronic disease, English language proficiency, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, housing conditions, existing pollution exposure

Overview of the Draft HIA Scope (2 of 5)

Topics covered

Air pollution
Noise pollution
Water pollution
Traffic & rail
Displacement
Economic effects
Neighborhood livability
Port revenue & funding

For each topic
Pathway diagram
Summary of evidence
Baseline conditions research questions
Impact research questions
Examples of potential mitigations
References
In a meta-analysis of 43 studies of noise exposure and heart disease, road traffic noise was associated with higher risk for myocardial infarction and ischemic heart disease. There is a statistically significant relationship between traffic volume and the number of vehicle-pedestrian collisions. Unemployment is associated with premature mortality from cardiovascular disease, hypertension, depression, and suicide. After adjusting for individual-level socioeconomic status, a review found that all but two of 25 reviewed studies reported a statistically significant association between at least one measure of neighborhood socioeconomic context and health outcomes including mortality, infant/child health, chronic diseases among adults, mental health, and health behaviors.
Research questions – examples

**Baseline:** What is the current prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the impacted areas, compared to in the region and in the rest of the state?

**Impact:** How will projected changes in air quality impact prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the impacted areas and region?

**Baseline:** What is the prevalence of chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension) in the impacted areas and region?

**Impact:** How will projected changes in jobs and availability of goods and services impact chronic disease prevalence?

**Baseline:** What are the rates of physical activity (e.g. walking, biking, recreation) among populations in the impacted areas?

**Impact:** How will projected changes to neighborhood resources and the local economy impact rates of physical activity in the impacted areas?

Questions?