

# Use of the North American HIA Practice Standards: A Practitioner's Perspective

Dr. Tia Henderson  
Upstream Public Health

# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Minimum Elements
- Practice Standards
- Examples of use
- Benefits
- Challenges

# Many HIA Guidelines

- INTERNATIONAL
- EUROPE
- UK COUNTRIES
- CANADA
- AUSTRALIA

September 2006 **IAIA**  
Special Publication Series No. 5

**Health Impact Assessment**  
International Best Practice Principles

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT MAY BE DEFINED AS A COMBINATION OF

THE  
AN,  
THE  
ITIES

**European Policy**  
**Health Impact Assessment**



London



**Health Impact Assessment:**  
**evidence on health**

**Health Impact**  
**Assessment Guidelines**

*September 2001*

Australia

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**REPORT**

TPH Health Impact Assessment  
Framework

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

A GUIDE

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PUBLIC HEALTH

# Background

- N.A. Minimum Elements
- N.A. Practice Standards

## Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment

*North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group*

Version 2  
November 2010

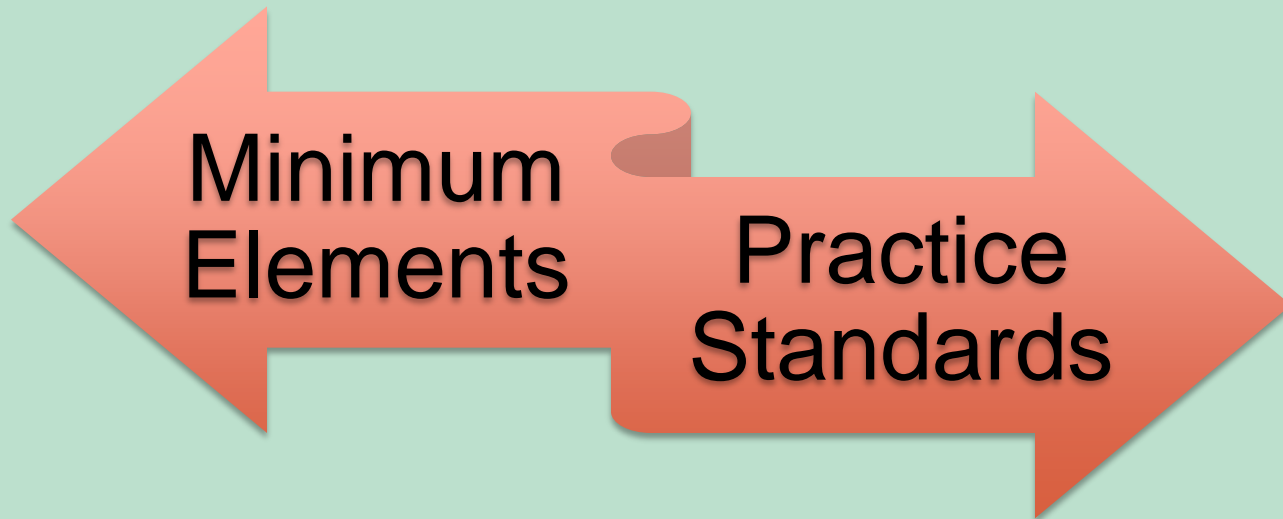
# N.A. Minimum Elements for Practice

1. HIA is initiated to **inform a decision-making process**, and **conducted in advance** of a policy, plan, program or project decision;
2. Utilizes a **systematic analytic process** with the following characteristics:
  - Scoping phase **comprehensively considers potential impacts....**
  - Solicits/utilizes **stakeholder input**
  - Establishes **baseline conditions...**
  - Uses best available evidence **to judge magnitude, etc. on human health...**
  - **Rests** conclusions and **recommendations on...synthesis of evidence....**
3. Identifies **appropriate recommendations....**
4. Proposes a **monitoring plan....**
5. Includes **transparent, publicly accessible documentation** of [the whole HIA]....



**The Minimum Elements  
are  
Building Blocks**

# Continuum of HIA Practice



# N.A. HIA Practice Standards

- General HIA process standards
  - Includes all 6 stages
  - Stakeholder input is meaningful
  - Respect needs/timing of decision making process it evaluates
  - Multidisciplinary...
- Expanded Standards for all 6 HIA Stages



A vertical double-headed arrow is painted on a dark asphalt surface. The arrow points both upwards and downwards. In the center of the arrow, the words "THE EXTRA MILE" are painted in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

THE EXTRA MILE

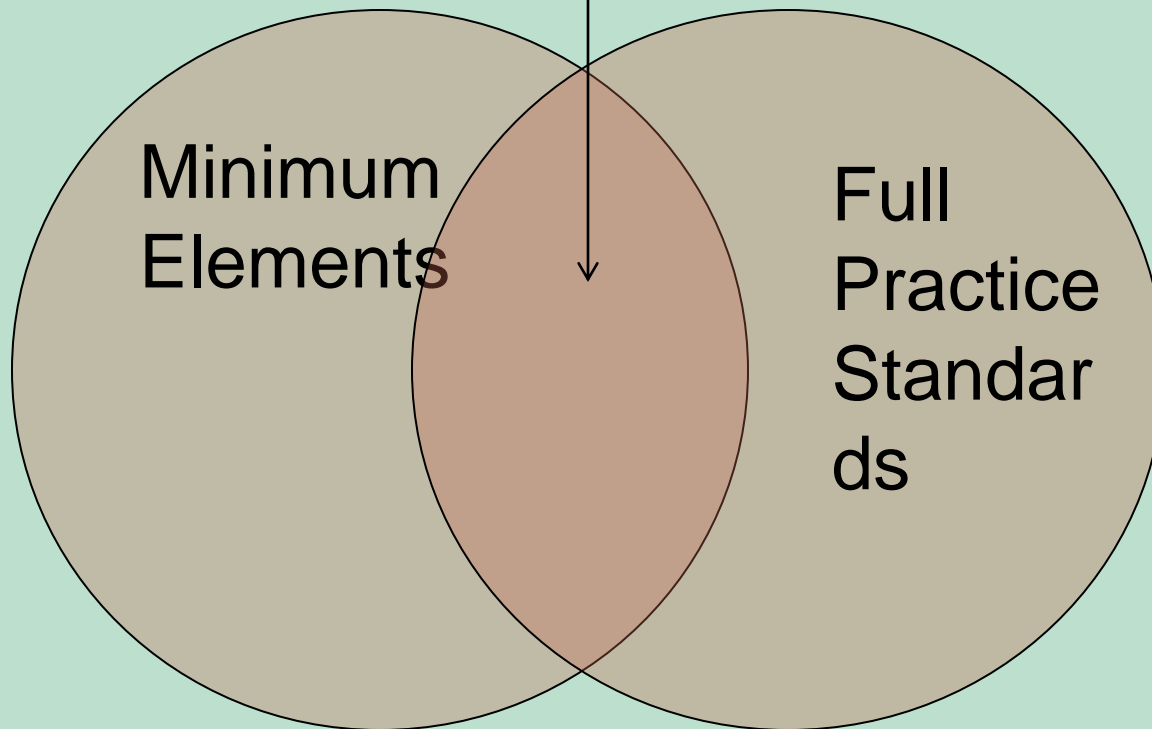
# N.A. Elements, Standards & HIA

## Scale

Type	Desk Based	Rapid	Intermediate	Comprehensive	
Duration & Staff	2-6 weeks, 1 full time person	6-12 weeks, 1 full time person	12 weeks – 6 mo's, 1 full time and a half time person +	6 – 12 mo's, 2 full time people +	
Health Impacts	Broad overview, fewer impacts	More detailed overview, fewer impacts	Thorough assessment, more impacts	Comprehensive assessment, many impacts	
Time & Resources	Limited	Limited	Moderate time & resources	Significant time & resources	
Methods	Existing data	Existing data	Multiple sources; mixed methods; existing and new data collection	Multiple sources; mixed methods; existing and new data collection	
Stakeholder Input	Limited	Limited	To multiple	To multiple stages	
<b>Minimum Elements</b>		<b>→</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Practice Standards</b>

Adapted from: Harris et al. 2007, Health Impact Assessment: A practical guide

# Many HIAs Use Some of Both



*HIA Practice*

# *Certificate of Excellence*

Standardized practice  
leads to

# Credibility



Standardized Practice  
Sets Bar  
for

Quality

# Example: Met Minimum Elements +

## Transportation Policies in the Eugene Climate and Energy Action Plan

- **City plan**
- **Intermediate HIA**
- **Short timeline (~4 months)**
- **Utilized literature information from previous related HIA on state-wide policies reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled**
- **Limited funding and staff resources**

# Using Minimum Elements

## **Benefits:**

- **Basic standard of quality for analysis**
- **Basic level of engagement of stakeholders so no major issues/considerations were missed**
- **Ensured maintained protocol of HIA (e.g. stages)**

## **Barriers to All Practice Standards:**

- **Limited funding and staff resources**
- **Short timeline**

# Example: Met Most Practice Standards

## Farm to School and School Garden HIA in Oregon

- State policy
- Comprehensive HIA
- Short timeline (7 months for scoping, assessment and legislative testimony on preliminary findings before final report)



# Using N.A. Practice Standards

- Ensured high quality analysis, HIA methods, stakeholder engagement
- Gave public a set of standards to refer to for HIA methods
- Helped plan each HIA stage
- Helped document major decisions

# Project Management Reference Tool

## Scope Development:

- ✓ Establish the individual or team responsible for conducting the HIA.
- ✓ Decision and decision alternatives identified.
- ✓ Potential significant health impacts identified.
- ✓ Potential pathways between decision elements and health impacts identified in logic model.
- ✓ Research questions developed for impact analysis.
- ✓ Demographic, geographical and temporal boundaries developed for impact analysis.
- ✓ Evidence sources and research methods expected for each research question developed.
- ✓ Vulnerable subgroups of the affected population(s) identified.
- ✓ Identify standards or process, if any, that will be used for determining the significance of health impacts.
- An approach to the evaluation of the distribution of impacts identified.
- Identify roles for experts and key informants.

HIA Step	8/1	8/15	8/30	9/15	9/30	10/15	10/30	11/15	11/30	12/15	12/30	1/15	1/30	2/5	2/15	2/28	3/1	
Scoping																		
Assessment							Lit review, Econ analysis, logic pathway development											
				F2S Survey 1														
Reporting												Preliminary recommendations 1st Draft						
Monitoring impact on decision																		
Evaluation																		

# Tool for Process Evaluation

Table 1f Phase 7: MONITORING

Standard	Meet	Did Not Meet	Met but Did Not Include
The HIA should include a follow-up monitoring plan to track the decision outcomes as well as the effect of the decision on health impacts and/or determinants of concern.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Note: As of this writing, a revised monitoring plan has not been developed. The HIA team is planning to develop a revised monitoring plan by January, 2012 and to implement the revised monitoring plan.</i>			

## Practice Standards Evaluation Checklist

From Portland Rental Inspections Program Health Impact Assessment  
(Based on the "Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment" (version 2, 2010))

Minimum Elements Section

Oregon Public Health Institute

1.1	Did the HIA include the stages of screening, scoping, assessment, recommendations and reporting?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No/Somewhat(explain): _____ _____
1.2	Does the HIA include a follow-up monitoring plan to track decision outcomes and implementation?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No/Somewhat(explain): _____ _____
1.3	Does the HIA have written goals that can be evaluated?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No/Somewhat(explain): _____ _____

# Challenges in Using Practice Standards

## Interpretation

- Scope Standard: “a plan for external and public review of scope”
  - How “public”?
  - How long of a time period to give for public review?
  - Outcome of public review?

# Challenges in Using Practice Standards

Timing of decision can be a barrier to meeting some standards

- Resources (staff, funding) available
- Fast timeline

# Challenges in Using Practice Standards

Level of stakeholder engagement

- Resources available
- Timing

# Summary: Use of Practice Standards

## Benefits

- Credibility
- Quality of practice
- Quality of analysis

## Challenges

- Short timeline
- Few staff
- Small \$
- Use of minimum elements helps in these cases



Image from The Kimber Blog, Blogspot