

# Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

National HIA Meeting

April 3-4, 2010

Washington D.C.

Good health is determined by more than money spent on the health-care system

	US Rank in World
Life Expectancy	<b>#32</b>
Health Care Spending	<b>#3</b>

Almost 50% of adults in the US suffer from at least one chronic illness, and obesity, which contribute to many health conditions, are costly to the health care system, and reduce productivity

Poor health is not distributed equally among all populations (SES, age and race/ ethnicity)

Those who currently have poor health are “vulnerable” to negative health impacts from future decisions

# Factors Responsible for Population Health



Health status is determined by:

Genetics: 20–30%

Health care: 10%

Social, environmental conditions, and behavior: 60–70%

*J Health Affairs, 2002*

# Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

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

A health lens can augment decision-making processes by highlighting

Externalities, disparities, or benefits to health

Money is not the same as happiness



A health frame can be persuasive

Health is a shared value

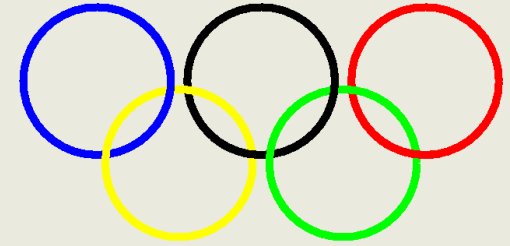
Health is an indicator of quality of life

People are surprised and concerned by health inequities

## 1996 Olympic Games

- 24 hour public transportation
- Addition of public buses
- Reduction of auto travel and congestion
- Public announcements

Was shown to decrease acute childhood asthma events



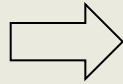
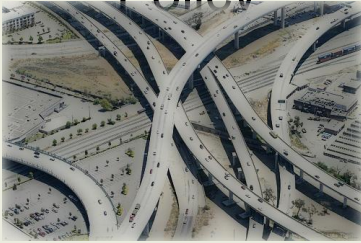
## Introduction of EZ Pass

- Reduced traffic congestion
- Reduced motor vehicle emissions
- Reduce disparities

Resulted in reduction of low birth-weight infants



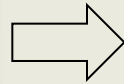
## Highway Policy



- Increases in driving and traffic
- Lack of physical activity
- Air pollution
- Traffic injuries

Estimated costs of traffic-related health outcomes in the US could be as great as \$400 billion annually

## Education Policy



- Has lead to disproportionately poor education among low income and minorities
- Impacts opportunities for jobs and income, as well as life expectancy

## 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. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

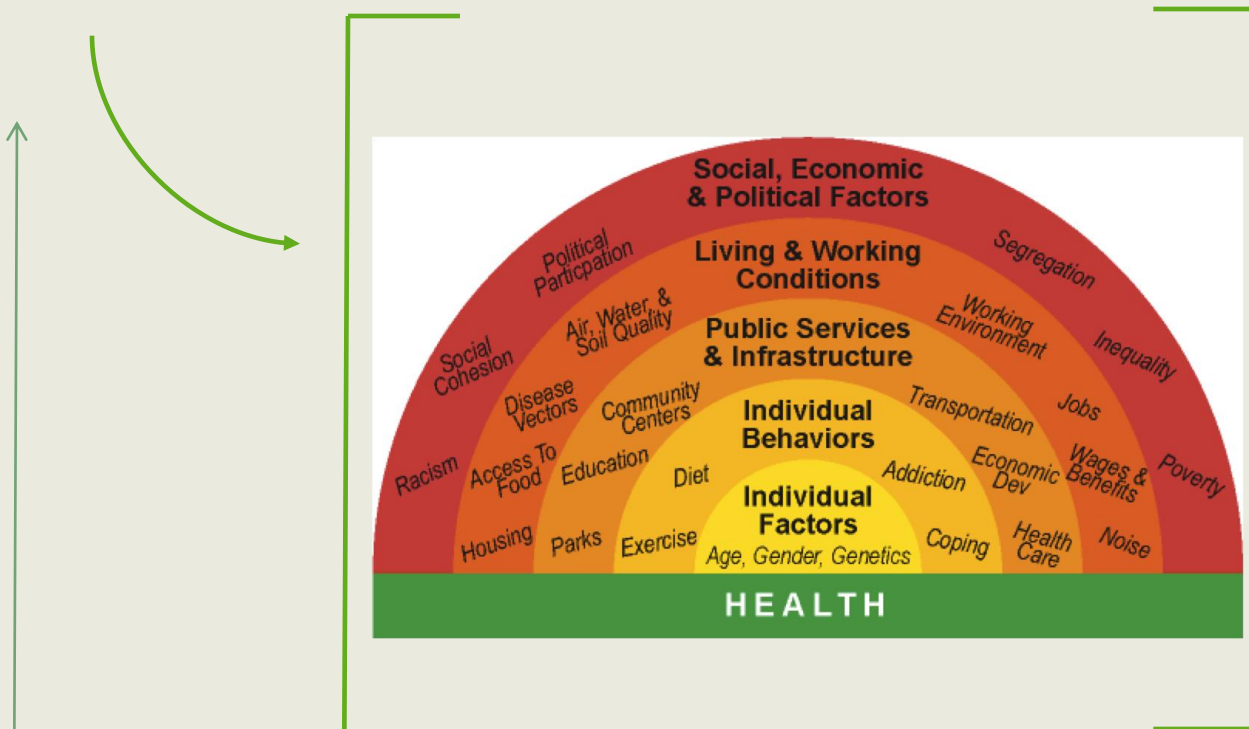
National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011



# HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

*How does the proposed project, plan, policy*

*affect*



*lead to health outcomes*

*recommendations*

## Through HIA report and communications

Judge health effects of a proposed project, plan or policy

Highlight health disparities

Provide recommendations

Raise awareness among decision makers and the public

Make health impacts more explicit



## Through the HIA process

Engage & empower community

Recognize lived experience

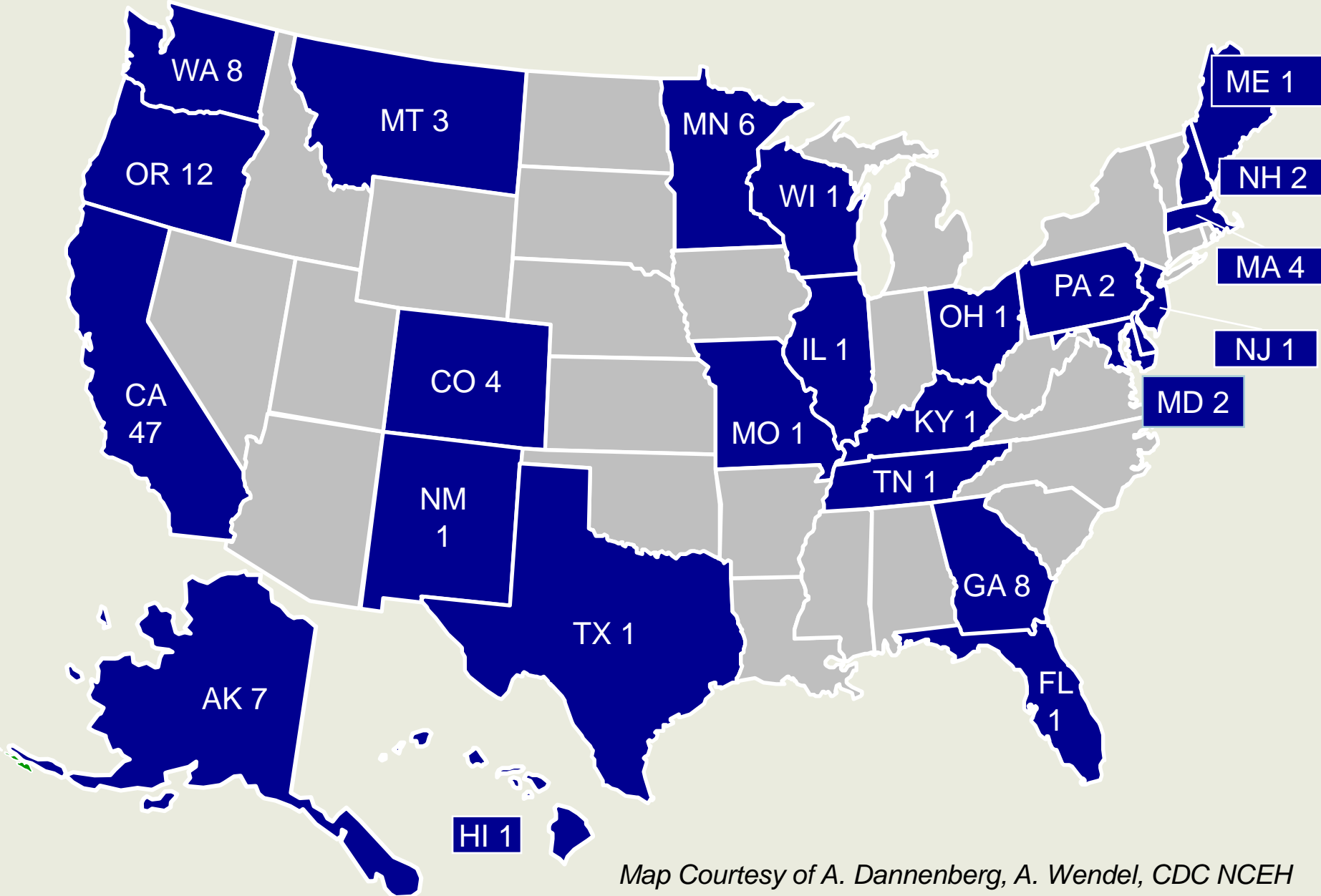
Build relationships & collaborations

Improve the evidence

Improve transparency in decision making

1969	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires study of environmental & health effects ( <i>however, health impacts have not been adequately addressed in EIA</i> )
1980s	WHO encourages Health Promotion/Healthy Public Policy in 1986 Ottawa Charter
1990s	England, Acheson Report recommends analysis of impacts of policy on health inequities WHO publishes <i>Gothenburg Consensus Paper on HIA</i> First HIA in US (SFDPH, Living Wage)
2000s	World Bank requires HIA of all large projects HIA on proposed Alaska North Slope Oil Lease (first integrated HIA into federal EIA) Large industry increasingly adopts internal standards for HIA as good business practice
2010s	North American HIA Practice Standards Released HIA used around the world and, as of 2010 119 HIAs completed or in progress across the U.S.

# 119 HIAs Completed or In Progress (2010)



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

Screening	Determines the need and value of a HIA
Scoping	Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a workplan
Assessment	Provides: 1) a profile of existing health conditions 2) evaluation of potential health impacts
Recommendations	Provide strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts
Reporting	Includes: 1) development of the HIA report 2) communication of findings & recommendations
Monitoring	Tracks: 1) impacts on decision-making processes and the decision 2) impacts of the decision on health determinants

<b>HIA Principle</b>	<b>An HIA should . . .</b>
<b>Democracy</b>	Involve and engage the public, and inform and influence decision-makers
<b>Equity</b>	Consider distribution of health impacts, paying attention to vulnerable groups and recommending ways to improve proposed decisions for affected groups
<b>Sustainable Development</b>	Judge short- and long-term impacts of a proposal
<b>Ethical Use of Evidence</b>	Use evidence to judge impacts and inform recommendations; not set out to support or refute a proposal, and should be rigorous and transparent
<b>Comprehensive Approach to Health</b>	Be guided by the wider determinants of health

Equity is a core value within HIA and there are many ways to incorporate it during the process, including:

Select proposals that are likely to have disproportionate positive or negative impacts on vulnerable populations.

Authentically engage, involve, and develop leadership of stakeholders from vulnerable populations at all stages of the HIA process.

Ensure a goal of the HIA is to evaluate outcomes for vulnerable populations.

In scoping, ask and prioritize questions about impacts on vulnerable populations.

Disaggregate data and analysis by geography, race/ethnicity, income, gender, and/or age when possible

Identify recommendations that maximize the health benefits for those already facing adverse impacts/health disparities.

Communicate the HIA results to vulnerable communities in culturally appropriate ways.

A diverse group of stakeholders should be involved in the HIA process

HIA's are inherently multidisciplinary

Some stakeholder groups, like public health agencies, may be responsible for taking more of a lead on the HIA project than others

Other stakeholders to involve include: community residents/organizations, public agencies, policy makers, businesses



Populations likely to be impacted by a decision should be involved and have an oversight role in the HIA process



HIA has been used throughout the world in a broad array of decision contexts, in various sectors of government and society

## State / Local Policies

### Education:

- School discipline
- School funding

### Labor:

- Paid sick days
- Hiring practices
- Pay equity

### Alternatives to Incarceration

### Agricultural

### Energy

## Land Use and Transportation

### New Housing or Mixed-Use Dvpt

### Public Housing Redevelopment

### Commercial Projects

### Infrastructure Projects

### General Plan Updates

### Specific and Area Plans

### Zoning Plans

### Transit-oriented Development

### Transit Corridor or Station Plans

### Highway or Arterial studies

### Natural resource extraction

Because there are few legal mandates for HIA in the US, HIA is most often conducted as a voluntary practice

HIA is required in some cases, by project specific legislation, to comply with EIA requirements, or other HIA regulation

NEPA is the only regulatory requirement for conducting health analyses in public decisions. Historically, EIAs have not done this well.

HIA can be used to influence decision-making processes within or outside of the EIA process.

Directly affect the decision (design or alternatives)	Jack London Gateway
Raise awareness	I-710 Corridor Project
Change the way an issue is discussed, and how health is considered in institutional decision-making practices	Paid Sick Days
Build new collaborations	Humboldt General Plan Update
Increase stakeholder engagement in decision making	Pittsburg TOD Specific Plan
Gain public or institutional support and/or resources for HIA	
Ignored by decision makers	Concord Naval Weapons Station

# Health on Wheels

## HIA Application on Planned TOD



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*The information provided in this seminar is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice. Public Health Law & Policy does not enter into attorney-client relationships.*

# Step 1: Screening

Determines need and value

- ✓ Assess the need for health analysis



- ✓ Station Area Plan – long term guide to redevelopment for areas within a ½ mile of Lake Merritt station
- ✓ Changes affecting land use, circulation, building design, public spaces – all linked to health
- ✓ Regional priority development area
- ✓ Lack of consideration of health in most planning processes

Jack London

Central

Lake Merritt

Lake Merritt Open  
Space and Recreational  
Opportunities

Commercial and Residential  
Areas of East and Central  
Oakland

# Step 1: Screening

Determines need and value

- ✓ Assess the need
- ✓ Engage partners
  - ✓ Multi-disciplinary
    - ✓ APEN, AHS, EBALDC, TransForm, HIP
  - ✓ Highly engaged and motivated

# Step 2: Scoping

Determine what to evaluate and how

✓ Identify critical health issues, corresponding indicators, and available data sources

✓ Affordable Housing

✓ Economic Development

✓ Parks and Open Space

✓ Public Safety

✓ Public Transportation



# Step 2: Scoping

Determine what to evaluate and how

- ✓ Identify critical health issues, corresponding indicators, and available data sources
- ✓ Collaboratively decide on priorities and create a workplan

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Determine what to evaluate and how

- ✓ Identify critical health issues, corresponding indicators, and available data sources
- ✓ Collaboratively decide on priorities and create a workplan
- ✓ Develop an external communication strategy

# Step 3: Assessment

## Existing conditions and evaluation of health impacts

- ✓ Assemble existing or collect new data on existing conditions
  - ✓ *High concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  significantly exceeding action threshold*
  - ✓ *PA pedestrian injuries/collisions (490/sq.mi.) are 3x higher than the rest of Oakland (146/sq.mi)*
  - ✓ *Over 80% PA is renter occupied*
  - ✓ *Rents in the PA are 70% compared to the City overall*

# Step 3: Assessment

Existing conditions and evaluation of health impacts

- ✓ Assemble existing or collect new data on existing conditions
- ✓ Analyze impacts of the proposed plan



# Lake Merritt Station Area Plan

**Draft Preferred Plan**

November 2011

# Step 4: Recommendations

## Strategies to manage health impacts

### ✓ Transportation

*Support proposed 2-way conversions with traffic calming solutions*

*Prioritize streetscape improvements for problem areas*

*Designate commercial parking areas for cyclist and pedestrian safety*

### ✓ Housing

*Plan for affordable housing as an development incentive*

*Mitigate displacement through affordable housing*

*Maintain existing proportion of affordable housing*

*Plan and develop family housing (2 bedroom units)*

*Ensure value capture from publicly-owned parcels*

# Interim HIA Impacts

- ✓ Build capacity to engage in technical planning process
- ✓ Raise the profile of health
- ✓ Provide timely healthy analysis to influence land use plan



# Step 5: Reporting

Develop HIA report and communication findings and recommendations

- ✓ Discussion and formal comments submitted on Draft Preferred Plan
- ✓ Public meetings
- ✓ Anticipated comments on Draft Station Area Plan
- ✓ Other communication strategies



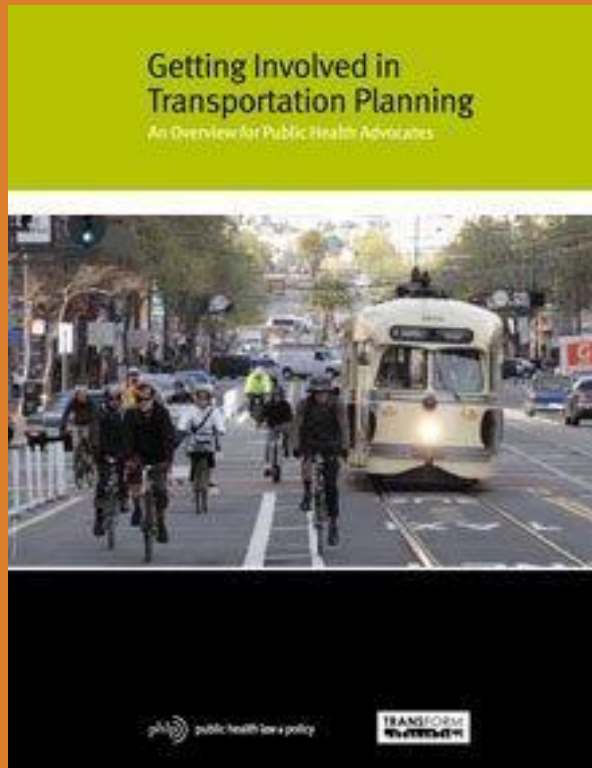
# Step 6: Monitoring

Track impacts on decision-making process and health determinants

- ✓ Final Station Area Plan
- ✓ Implementation that supports economic, environmental, and community goals
  - ✓ BART, Laney College
- ✓ Health considerations become part of all planning decisions
- ✓ Participatory planning process

*TOD Project – Approve final draft of Specific Plan and subsequent implementation*

# Resources



✓ Publication (April 2012):  
Project HIA Report

✓ Webinar (Summer 2012):  
*Title*

✓ Publication (late 2012):  
Guide to Healthy TOD

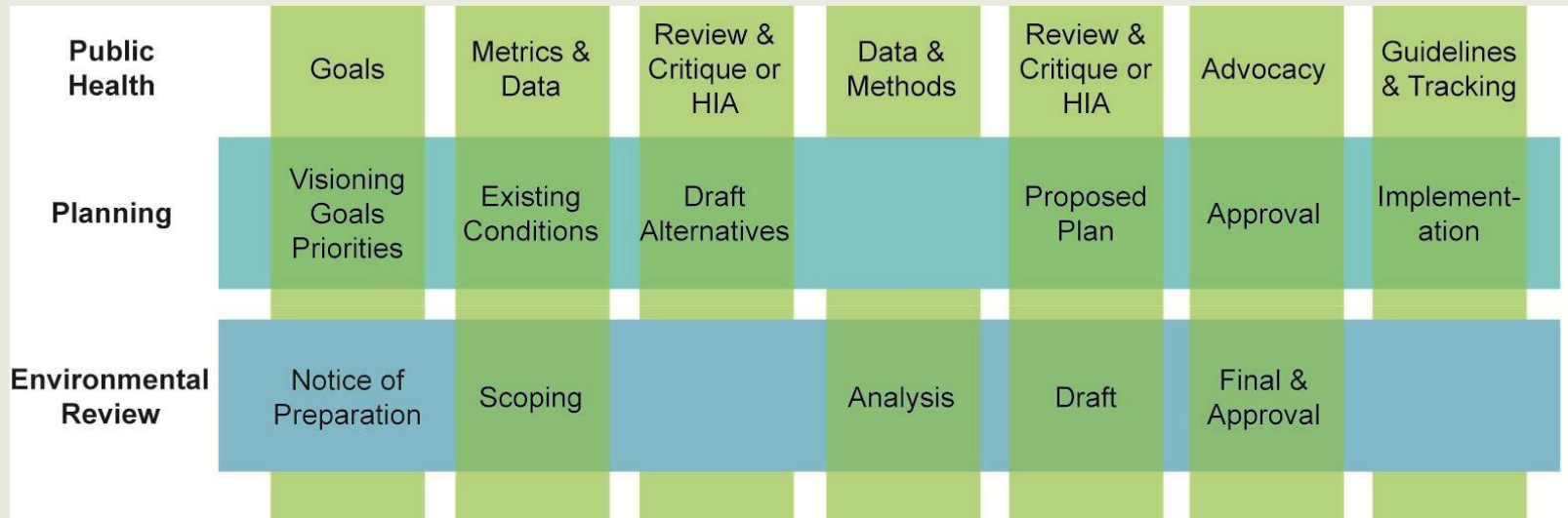
Thank you!

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# Weaving Health into Planning

HIA is one of many approaches to conducting a comprehensive health analysis



Similarly, there are many ways for health to be woven into planning processes



A HIA Toolkit: A Handbook to Conducting HIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

[www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/11/81](http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/11/81)

National Research Council: *Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment*

Human Impact Partners HIA resources

[www.humanimpact.org/hips-hia-tools-and-resources](http://www.humanimpact.org/hips-hia-tools-and-resources)

San Francisco Department of Public Health

[www.sfpbes.org](http://www.sfpbes.org)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services – HIA Toolkit

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hia/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hia/)

Health Impact Project (Pew & RWJF)

[www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org)

UCLA HIA Clearinghouse

[www.hiaguide.org](http://www.hiaguide.org)

The Health Impact Project  
(Pew Charitable Trusts and the RWJ Foundation)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The California Endowment

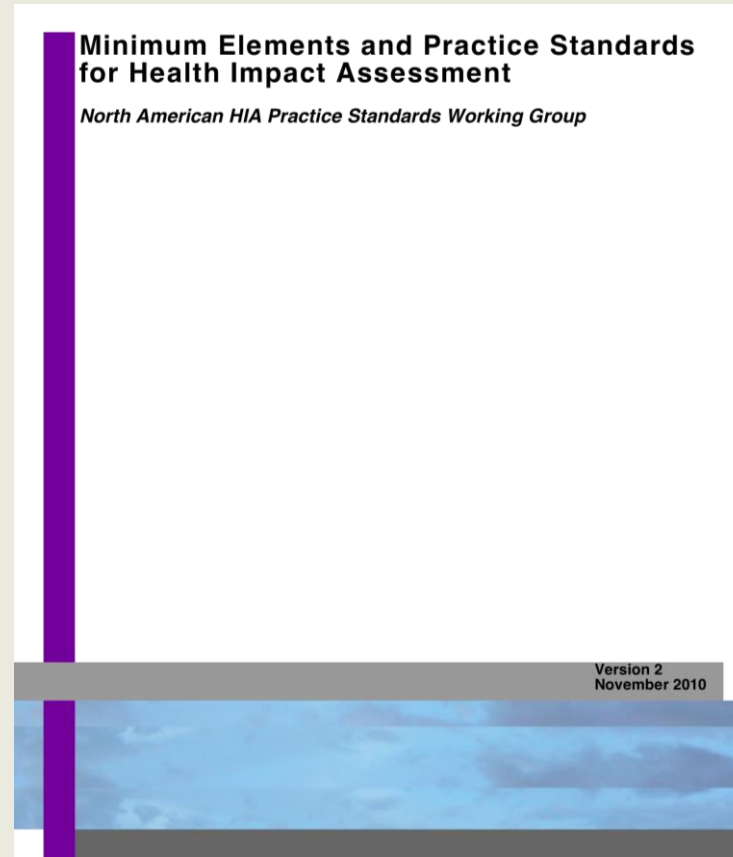
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Kellogg Foundation

Annie E. Casey Foundation

## Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment



<http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/11/9>

## The Society of Practitioners of HIA

Open to all practitioners, experienced or novice, and those interested in learning about HIA

Aims to promote leadership and quality in the field of HIA

[www.hiasociety.org](http://www.hiasociety.org)