

Navigating the World of HIA Resources

Saqi Maleque Cho, MSPH
Senior Associate, Health Impact Project

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Healthy Places

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Health Impact Assessment

Health impact assessment (HIA) is commonly defined as "a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which an 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" (1995 (Lofgren consensus statement, http://www.aahr.org/docs/2005/05/20050501_lofgren_statement.pdf).

HIA is used to evaluate objectively the potential health effects of a project or policy before it is built or implemented. HIA can provide recommendations to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse health outcomes. The HIA framework is used to target potential public health impacts and considerations to the decision-making process for plans, projects, and policies that fall outside of traditional public health services, such as transportation and land use. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends HIA as a planning resource for implementing Healthy People 2020 (9).

The major steps in conducting an HIA include:

- Screening (identify projects or policies for which an HIA would be useful),
- Scoping (identify which health effects to consider),
- Assessing risks and benefits (identify which people may be affected and how they may be affected),
- Developing recommendations (suggest changes to proposals to promote positive or mitigate adverse health effects),
- Reporting (present the results to decision-makers), and
- Evaluating (determine the effect of the HIA on the decision).

HIA is similar in some ways to environmental impact assessment (EIA). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impact of their proposed actions on social, cultural, economic, and natural resources prior to implementation. Proposed actions may include projects, programs, policies, or plans. HIA, unlike EIA, can be a voluntary or a regulatory process that focuses on health outcomes such as obesity, physical activity, asthma, injuries, and social equity. HIA has been used within EIA processes to assess potential impacts to the human environment. For more information on NEPA, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/nea/overview.cfm>.

For more information on CDC's participation in the NEPA process, [click here](#).

HIA consists of a diverse array of qualitative and quantitative methods and tools. Detailed rapid HIA can be completed in a few days or weeks while comprehensive HIA may require months. The decision to conduct a rapid or a full HIA is often determined by available time resources.

IMPACT

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- IMPACT
- Consultancy
- Training
- Research
- Contact IMPACT
- HIA Information & Reports

IMPACT - International Health Impact Assessment Consortium

IMPACT is based in the Division of Public Health, a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre, at the University of Liverpool. The Unit, which is self-financing, was established in 2000.

IMPACT aims to improve health and reduce health inequalities locally, nationally and internationally, through Health Impact Assessment (HIA). More specifically we seek to promote the integration of HIA into policy planning. We achieve our aims through:

- 1.
- 2.

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ADVANCING SMARTER POLICIES FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES



UCLA Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning



- HIA home
- About HIA
- HIA network
- Examples of HIAs
- HIA and policy
- Use of evidence
- Tools and methods
- News and events



National Research Council Report Gives Guidance on Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Project director and Research Council committee member Aaron Vennart, M.D., comments on the new report, "Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment." [MORE >](#)

HIA IN THE UNITED STATES

Click here to search an interactive map



HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

HIA supports healthier communities by helping policy makers see and address the impacts on human health when considering decisions in other areas, like transportation, agriculture and energy. [more >](#)

WHAT'S NEW

MAR 13 **CBS News: NY Assembly calls for fracking health impact study**

Health Impact Assessment A Practical Guide



HIA-CLIC: The UCLA Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center

This website is designed to collect and disseminate information on health impact assessment (HIA) in the United States. In these pages you will find about HIA

The HIA Gateway

Managed by West Midlands Public Health Observatory on behalf of the Association of Public Health Observatories

HIA Home MWIA SEA Reports Guides & Evidence Links APHO

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HIA Menu

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WELCOME TO THE HIA GATEWAY

The HIA Gateway (funded by the Department of Health, England) provides access to resources and information on Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for those new to HIA, practitioners of HIA and those wishing to commission HIAs or some other Impact Assessment process (i.e. Integrated Impact Assessment, Mental Well-being Impact Assessment and health-related Strategic Environmental Assessment). It is both a National and International site.

Ever attempt has been made to address the issue of copyright but if you are concerned that copyright has been infringed on any of your material please contact the [HIA Gateway](#).

UCB HIA

- Navigation
- EBHIG
- Health impact assessment
- location
- objects and Research
- temp

UCBHIG

UC Berkeley Health

Health Impact Assessment

The HIA Connect website provides resources and information about health impact assessment (HIA). Health impact assessment:

- Assesses plans, projects, programs or policies before they are implemented;
- Predicts the health impacts of these proposals; and
- Recommends changes to maximise positive health impacts and minimise



Heal News and information on Health Impact Assessment (HIA). An activity of the International Association for Impact Assessments's Health Section.

About UCBHIG

The UC Berkeley Health Impact Group (UCBHIG) is a

www.humanimpact.org

HIP HUMAN IMPACT PARTNERS

University: [Harr](#)

Website

www.sfhph.org

Staff Mission Partners Publications Annual Report

Program on Health, Equity and Sustainability

1300 Market St., Suite 918, San Francisco, CA 94102
 (415) 774-1888

PHES In the News!

Registration Open! HIA Summer Training Course July 16-19, 2012

SFHPH is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the fifth annual summer training course for health impact assessment (HIA) practitioners. The overall goal of the course is to provide current and future practitioners of HIA experience using available procedures, regulations and tools to implement an HIA. Registration is open through June 29, 2012, however spots are limited so early registration is encouraged. Visit the [SFPH HIA Training page](#) for more details and the registration form.

HDMT Training May 7, 2012

SFHPH is excited to announce an upcoming training for the [Health Development Measurement Tool](#) on May 7, 2012 in San Francisco, CA. The training will provide an introduction to the HDMT and website, demonstrate how HDMT indicators and data can be used, illustrate how HDMT development targets can be applied to land use projects, and help consider the ways that the HDMT framework and content is relevant to your work. [REGISTER for May 7, 2012 HDMT Training](#)

Green Connections Kick-Off Event February 15th

The [Green Connections program](#) is a SF Planning Department initiative to increase pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, open space and the waterfront by re-envisioning city streets and paths as "green connectors" that can be built over time. Please join the Planning Department and project partners, which include the SF Department of Public Health, at the kick-off event on Wednesday, February 15 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the LGBT

STAY INFORMED Your Email Address

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Health Impact Assessment A Practical Guide

News

HIA Practical Guide

HIA News

News

CHETRE is facilitating a three day HIA training course in Sydney from 5- 7 October 2011. Click here for more information about the course and you can register online here

Moving Forward Equitly: policy proposals for Spain

IAIA12 word cloud

Health Impact Assessment Blog

Heal News and information on Health Impact Assessment (HIA). An activity of the International Association for Impact Assessments's Health Section.

Health

About UCBHIG

The UC Berkeley Health Impact Group (UCBHIG) is a

Outline

Centers and Experts

Types of Resources Available

Key HIA Resources

Resources by Step of HIA

Where to go: HIA Centers and Experts in the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Places <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm>



Human Impact Partners <http://www.humanimpact.org/>



Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center (HIA-CLIC)
<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/hiaclic/>



San Francisco Department of Environmental Health
Program on Health, Equity and Sustainability
<http://www.sfphes.org/>



Health Impact Project, www.healthimpactproject.org

Where to go: International Centers and Experts

World Health Organization (WHO) Health Impact Assessment <http://www.who.int/hia/en/>



HIA Blog
<http://healthimpactassessment.blogspot.com/>



HIA Connect <http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/>



HIA Gateway
http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HIA

apho

IMPACT/International HIA Consortium
<http://www.liv.ac.uk/ihia/>



Types of Resources Available

Type	Step in HIA	Sector	Audience
Policy Briefs and Reports	Screening	Built Environment	HIA practitioner
Case Studies	Scoping	Transportation	Policymaker
Presentations and Webinars	Assessment	Housing	
Training Materials	Recommendations	Natural Resources and Energy	
Toolkits and Guides	Reporting	Agriculture and Food	
Literature and Data Sources	Monitoring and Evaluation	Education	
HIA Reports		Labor and Employment	
		More...	

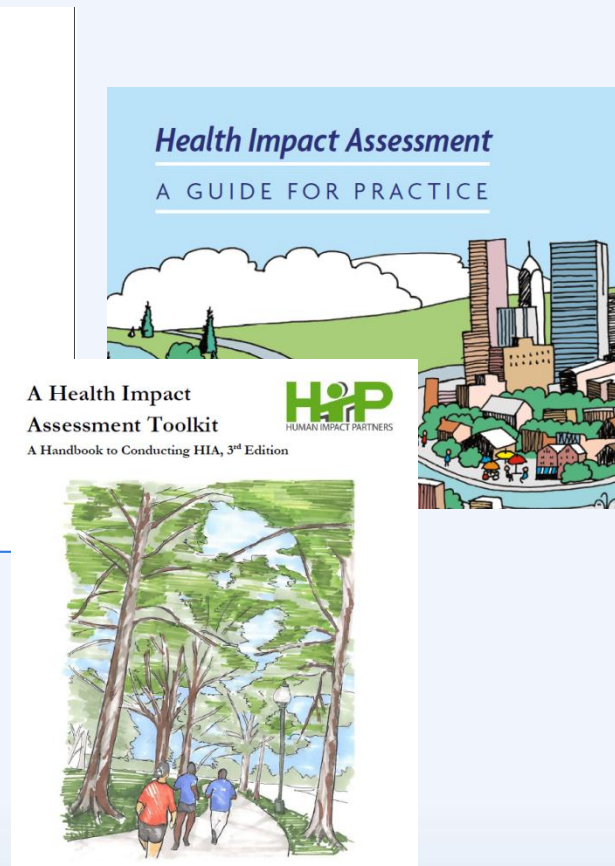
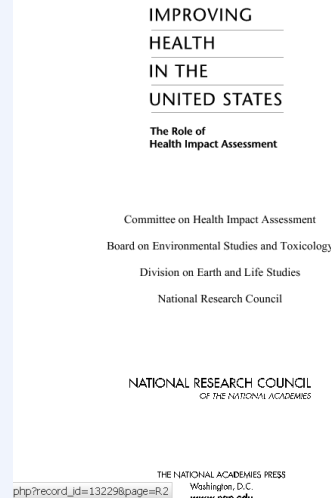
Key Resources

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

Health Impact Assessment: A Guide for Practice, Rajiv Bhatia

Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment (Version 2), North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group

A Health Impact Assessment Toolkit: A Handbook on Conducting HIA, 3rd Edition, Human Impact Partners



Map of HIA in the United States

MAP VIEW LIST VIEW CUSTOMIZE THE MAP BELOW

HIA of a Poultry Litter-Fired Power Plant

Organization(s): Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs Organization

Sector: Natural Resources and Energy

An HIA to inform the zoning and permitting decisions associated with a proposal to build a poultry litter-fired power plant as part of Virginia's federally-mandated plan to reduce water pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. [More >](#)

LEGEND

- HIA
- Health Impact Project-Funded HIA
- Multiple HIAs

CUSTOMIZE THE MAP Make changes below to find the information that interests you

Status

In Progress

Complete

Organization Type

All

Educational Institution

Government Agency

Non-profit Organization

Decision-Making Level

All

County

Federal

Local

Sector

All

About HIA in General

Agriculture and Food

Built Environment

To make multiple selections, hold the Control key

Reset / Clear Generate Link Export as CSV

Tell Us About Your HIA

Are you working on an HIA?
Have you done one in the past?

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HIA of a Poultry Litter-Fired Power Plant

Location: Richmond, Virginia

Organization(s): Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs Organization

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is conducting an HIA to inform decisions regarding a proposed biomass power plant that would burn poultry litter in Virginia. The proposed power plant is a key initiative in Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan, which seeks to limit pollution to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in accordance with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandate. Fibrowatt LLC has proposed to build this power plant in one of three Virginia counties.

The HIA will inform two stages of the decision-making process: local zoning decisions required to allow a facility to be built at one of the proposed sites, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) decision on whether to issue an air permit for the facility. The proposed facility poses potential health risks through increasing harmful air emissions, truck traffic, and odor and noise in nearby communities. Economic impacts, however, may benefit health by increasing employment opportunities, access to health insurance, and generating revenues that support local services important to health. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with the DEQ, local counties, and community-based organizations to ensure a balanced assessment that provides useful information for the public and decision makers.

MORE INFORMATION

Organization Web Site: <http://www.humanneeds.vcu.edu>

Contact Email: bfevans@vcu.edu

HIA IN THE UNITED STATES

AT A GLANCE

Status	In Progress
Completion Date	Expected January 2013
Decision-Level	Local
Sector	Natural Resources and Energy
Organization type	Educational Institution
Funding Source	Health Impact Project

RELATED MATERIALS

- Strategic Health Impact Assessment of Wind Energy in Oregon
- Case Study: Oil Development of Alaska's North Slope
- Good Practice Guide on Noise

Collaboratives/ Listservs

San Francisco Bay Area HIA Collaborative

University of California (UC), Berkeley, Health Impact Group

Health Impact Assessment – International HIANET@JISCMail.AC.UK

Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA)

Sector Specific Tools and Online Courses

[Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments](#)

Developed by the American Planning Association and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Built Environment + Public Health : Course Curriculum](#)

This CDC-funded Web site an interdisciplinary undergraduate, graduate, or continuing education curriculum in public health and built environment.

[Transportation Health Impact Assessment Toolkit](#)

The Transportation HIA Toolkit provides a framework for public health departments, city planners, project managers, and other stakeholders to conduct HIAs on proposed transportation projects, plans, and policies.

[Healthy Development Measurement Tool](#)

Created by San Francisco Department of Public Health, Program on Health, Equity and Sustainability, is a comprehensive evaluation metric to consider health needs in urban development plans and projects.

Resources by Step in HIA Process: Screening

Screening Tools

Checklists

- New South Wales HIA Guide
- HIP, HIA CLIC

Worksheets

- HIP, NNPHI

Matrices

Appendix 1 continued: Screening Tool for Health Impact Assessment

10. Checklist

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 sue effects are maximised?	Yes
No	Are the potential health impacts well known and is it straightforward to sue effects are maximised?	Yes
COMMUNITY		
Yes / not sure	Is the population affected?	

HIA Screening Worksheet

Screening Questions	Response and Supporting Facts
Project and Timing <i>Has a project, plan or policy been proposed?</i> <i>Is there sufficient time to conduct an analysis before the final decision is made?</i>	
Health Impacts <i>Does the decision have the potential to affect environmental or social determinants that impact health outcomes? If so, which determinants and which health outcomes?</i> <i>Would health inequities be impacted? In what ways?</i>	

HIA Screening/Scoping Checklist (UCLA)

HIA Screening Checklist of Health Determinants (UCLA Health Impact Assessment Project, April 2002)	impact?	of impact?
	(1) no/unlikely	(1) low
	(2) possible	(2) medium
	(3) likely	(3) high
Biophysical environment		
Housing conditions		
Fire, building safety	1 2 3	1 2 3
Security		
Sanitation		
Indoor air quality (including radon)		
Asbestos		
Lead		
Crowding		
Affordability and access		
Working conditions (includes psychosocial factors)		
Structural safety (including fire, earthquake, etc)		
Air quality		
Toxins, biohazards		
Work task safety		

	CRITERIA								
	Timeliness	Policy Impact	Sustainable	Diversity	Technical Capacity Building	Replicability	Alignment/Innovation	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Support
TOD project									
Milwaukee light rail									
Neighborhood planning (SE 122nd?)									
Road infrastructure									
VMT Policies									
Parking fees									
Transportation funding									

Resources by Step in HIA Process: Scoping

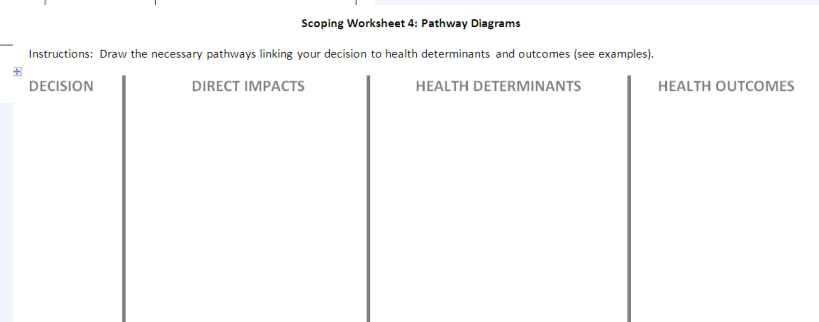
Scoping Tools

Scoping Worksheet 2: Identifying stakeholders who will be involved in the HIA (staff, committee members, resource providers, others).

Stakeholder group key contact	Why are they interested in the HIA or related decision?	Power to influence the decision (high, medium, low)	How and when (what stage) to engage?	Potential role in contribution to HIA (Advisory Committee member, team member, audience, information resource, etc)

Worksheets

- Stakeholder Analysis
- Pathway Diagrams- HIP, HIA CLIC



Matrices

- Stakeholder Analysis

Examples

UCLA Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center

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Pathways

These pathway pages summarize research on common pathways through which policies and projects may affect human health, such as air pollution, education, nutrition and physical activity. HIAs need to consider two sets of linkages for each relevant pathway: first, how the proposed policy or project affects these determinants of health and secondly, how changes in these determinants affect health outcomes.

[Air Pollution](#)

[Community Economics](#)

[Health Care Access / Health Insurance](#)

[Household Economics](#)

Resources by Step in HIA Process: Assessment

Assessment Tools

Tools- SFDOPH
 Evidence for Literature Review
 and Data Sources- HIP
 Characterizing Effects-
 Habitat on NNPHI

Habitat

HEALTH IMPACT CONSULTING

DEFINITIONS USED FOR EFFECT CHARACTERIZATION

Note: the following definitions represent a sample taken from different HIAs and are not comprehensive or even necessarily representative of the organizations that used these versions.

LIKELIHOOD	Health Impact Assessment- A Guide for Practice	International Health Impact Consortium	Habitat Health Impact Consulting	From Human Impact Partners Report	Alaska HIA Toolkit
	Unlikely/Implausible: Logically implausible effects; substantial evidence against mechanism of effect.	Speculative: May or may not happen. No direct epidemiological evidence to support.	Unlikely: There is little evidence that effects will occur as a result of this project.	Likely: It is likely that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal.	extremely unlikely (< 1%), very unlikely (1-10%).
	Possible: Logically plausible effect with limited or uncertain supporting evidence.	Possible: More likely to happen than not. Direct evidence but from limited sources.	Possible: Evidence suggests that effects may occur, but are not common in similar situations.	Possible: It is possible that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal.	unlikely (10-33%).
	Likely: Logically plausible effect with substantial and consistent supporting evidence and substantial uncertainties.	Probable: Very likely to happen. Direct strong evidence from a range of data sources collected using different methods.	Likely: Evidence suggests that effects commonly occur in projects of this type.	Likely: It is unlikely that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal.	about as likely as not (33-66%).
	Very Likely/Certain: Adequate evidence for a causal and generalizable effect.	Definite: Will happen. Overwhelming strong evidence from a range of data sources collected using different methods.	Unlikely: Evidence suggests that effects commonly occur in projects of this type.	Unlikely: It is unclear if impacts will occur as a result of the proposal.	likely (66-90%), very likely (90-99%).
	Insufficient Evidence/Not Evaluated: -				virtually certain (99%) (IPCC 2007)

HIA Data Sources and Related Resources

The table below provides a broad array of data sources and resources for obtaining or conducting an HIA. Most of the sources are U.S. specific and some are specific to California. The 10 input areas include demographics, GIS resources, health statistics, indicators, checklists, health inequalities, public health, planning, and built environment. CA General Planning, General HIA, and non-CA resources. (Updated March 2015).

Type	Area	Resource Provided	Description	Website
Demographics	1. U.S. Census Bureau	American Fact Finder	Population data on demographics, social, and economic characteristics at state, county, city, zip code, census tract, block group, and block level.	http://factfinder.census.gov/
	2. U.S. Census Bureau	Economic Census	Provides data on industries, firms, employees at various geographic levels.	http://www.census.gov/econ/
	3. U.S. Census Bureau	American Community Survey	The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a look back at how they are changing. It is a critical element of the Census Bureau's reorganized decennial census program. The ACS collects and publishes population and housing information every year instead of every ten years. Currently ACS data are available for the nation, states, and geographic areas with 20,000 or more population. In 2010, data are available to be released by geographic area down to census tracts and block groups.	http://www.census.gov/acs/
GIS Resources	4. U.S. Census Bureau	American Housing Survey	The American Housing Survey (AHS) collects data on the Nation's housing. National data are collected in odd numbered years, and data for each of 47 selected Metropolitan Areas are collected annually about every six years. The national sample covers an average 50,000 housing units. Each metropolitan area sample covers 4,000 or more housing units.	http://www.census.gov/hhes/
	5. U.S. Census Bureau & ESRI	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system (TIGER-Line)	Downloadable shapefiles to use in GIS analysis. It includes: census tracts, block groups, census, state, metropolitan areas, counties, tracts, congressional districts, etc.	http://www.census.gov/data/geo/tiger.html

Human Impact Partners - 304 12th Street, Suite 38 Oakland, CA 94607 - 510.452.9442 - www.humanimpact.org



Resources by Step in HIA Process: Recommendations and Reporting

Recommendation Tools

Worksheets and PowerPoint presentation
- NNPHI

Reporting Tools

Report Guide- HIP

Examples- multiple sites

Increasing National Capacity for Health Impact Assessments:
Utilizing the Nation's Public Health Institutes

HIA Training Worksheet: Recommendations

The purpose of this worksheet is to help you consider possible recommendations for your HIA project. The three questions are based on three common types of recommendations found in many HIAs.

Instructions: Answer the questions below and discuss with your group.

1. **Mitigation.** List 1-3 negative impacts that you think could potentially result from the decision. For each impact, develop a recommendation for mitigating the impact. Try to make the action as specific and actionable as possible. What needs to be done, and who needs to do it?

Possible negative impacts	Recommendations for mitigating impacts
<i>Example: Streetcar construction will produce increased concentrations of air pollutants during the construction phase.</i>	<i>Contracting agency should require contractors to use only tier 3 and tier 4 equipment.</i> <i>Contracting agency should prevent contractors from locating construction staging areas within 1/4 mile of sensitive land uses.</i>

HIA Report Guide December 2010

The following information is meant to provide a basic structure for your HIA report including the types of information that, at a minimum, should be included. Some notes about the document:

- While the structure can be revised to match your HIA's needs, the content included below should be discussed in one way or another.
- Please also refer to your HIA training materials and the HIA Practice Standards (<http://www.humanimpact.org/doc-lib/finish/11/9>) for other types of information you may want to discuss in the report. While the Practice Standards are meant to guide the HIA process, they may also provide additional categories of information to include in the report itself.
- Consider how you frame and communicate your findings and consult with the Health Impact Project and their communications consultant, Burness Communications, as needed.
- HIAs can range in length; the page numbers listed below are suggested and assume that a full HIA process (rather than a rapid HIA process) has been conducted.
- For examples of HIAs that mostly conform to this structure, see:
 - A Health Impact Assessment of the California Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces Act of 2008 – report: <http://www.humanimpact.org/component/downloads/finish/5/72> and summary: <http://www.humanimpact.org/component/downloads/finish/5/74>
 - Child Health Impact Assessment of the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program:

Resources by Step in HIA Process: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring/Evaluation Tools

Guidance- NRC Report

Worksheets- NNPHI

Monitoring Plan- HIP

Worksheet: Identify process evaluation indicators and data sources

Evaluation question	Indicators	Data collection methods	Who is responsible
<i>Example:</i> Did HIA stakeholder involvement impact planning documents related to the policy?	Your edits and suggestions included in revised planning documents	Document review	Steve
<i>Example:</i> Was the process useful to decision makers?	Decision-maker feedback; decision maker public comments		

Sample Monitoring Plan Elements

Monitoring Plan Elements	Responsible Party	Indicator Examples
Background State the plan, project or policy evaluated by the HIA		A County Comprehensive/General Plan Update: Safe and Sustainable Transportation Element Transportation indicators analyzed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) • Commute time • Trips made by public transit • Proportion of households within ¼-mile of bus • Proportion of income spent on transportation • Ratio of bike lanes and miles / pedestrian facilities to roads • Proportion of commute and school trips made by walking/biking • Pedestrian and bicycle injuries

HIA Evaluation – Sample Questions

Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was involved in screening the HIA and why? Were there others who should have been involved and why? • What were the reasons that the steering committee ultimately decided to conduct the HIA? • Were there arguments against conducting the HIA? What were some of the reasons why it may not have been beneficial to conduct a HIA?
Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was involved in scoping? Were there others who would have been helpful to participate in scoping? Why? • Was the completed HIA consistent with the scoping plan? • What methods were used to identify and prioritize health issues during scoping? Were reasons for inclusion/exclusion documented? • Which health issues did the HIA address, which were left out, and how were those decisions made?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the HIA make judgments about positive and negative health effects of the project, plan, or policy? • Did the HIA assess long-term effects or disproportionate harms or benefits to vulnerable populations? • Was evidence used in the HIA supported by findings in the literature?

Questions?

Saqi Maleque Cho
Senior Associate, Health Impact Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Tel. 202-540-6442

smalequecho@pewtrusts.org

