

Selecting an Appropriate Project for Health Impact Assessment

National HIA Meeting

April 3-4, 2010

Washington D.C.

Decision outcomes would be different if health was considered up-front as a priority

Externalities

Disparities

Promote Design That Benefits Health



Farm Policy

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



Development

How can we ensure the project improves health?

- Consider health in the planning process

Health Impact Assessment is:

- A set of research methods and tools used to judge the potential effects of a policy, plan, or project on health.
- HIA makes recommendations to address any negative effects.

Adapted from International Association for Impact Assessment, 2006

HIA Purpose

- Judge health effects of proposed project or policy
- Highlight health disparities
- Provide recommendations
- Shape public decisions & discourse
- Engage & empower community
- Build relationships & collaborations



HIA Collaboration

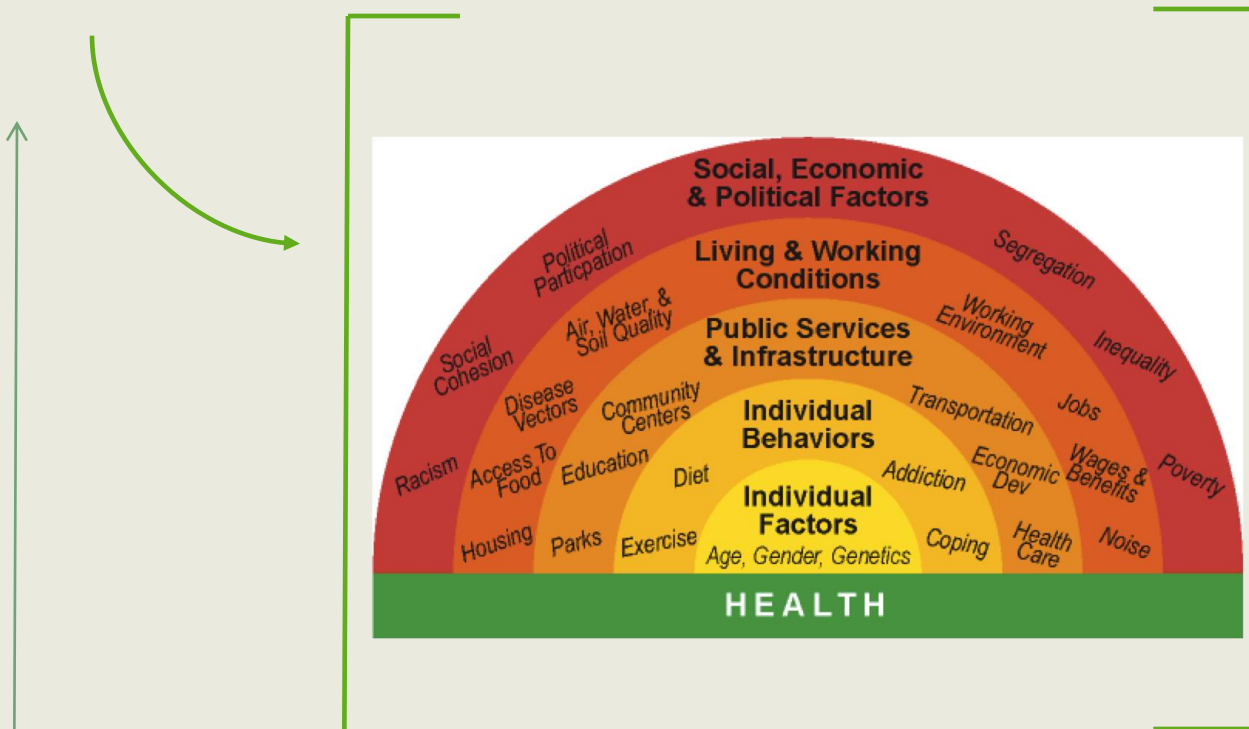
- Broad range of people affected
- Data, information, resources
- Relationship building
- Capacity for advocacy
- Empowerment of groups involved



HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy

affect



lead to health outcomes

recommendations

HIA can evaluate many types of projects, plans, policies

Local, state, or national policies	Labor, education, incarceration, immigration
Development projects	Housing developments, mixed-use retail
Transportation plans	New transit stations, roadway expansions, new rail lines
Comprehensive or specific area plans	Guides for future development

Screening	Determines the need and value of a HIA
Scoping	Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a workplan
Assessment	Provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) a profile of existing health conditions2) evaluation of potential health impacts
Recommendations	Provide strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts and maximize benefits to health
Reporting	Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) development of the HIA report2) communication of findings & recommendations
Monitoring	Tracks: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) impacts on decision-making processes and the decision2) impacts of the decision on health determinants

Objective

To decide whether a HIA is feasible, timely, and would add value to the decision-making process

Essential Tasks

Define the decision and its alternatives

Decide who will be involved

Determine if potential partners are ready to work on a HIA

Evaluate the project based on screening criteria

Make a decision about whether to conduct a HIA

Notify stakeholders of your decision

Document the outcomes of your Screening process

HIA used to assess a defined project, plan or policy

HIA is most often carried out prospectively - purpose is to inform decision-makers before a decision is made



Establish the value of HIA

Assess feasibility

Understand timing

Evaluate decision openness

Be inclusive

Avoid redundancy

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

Poorly selected proposals may result in HIAs that add little new information, and consume considerable time and resources

There are many possibilities!

Education

Transportation planning and projects

Natural resource extraction and energy production

Environmental engineering, ecosystem services and water-resources management decisions

Energy policies

Climate change

Food and agricultural

Housing

Social, economic and labor

Incarceration



Human Impact Partners. 2009. Considerations for the Selection of Appropriate Policies, Plans, or Projects for Analysis using Health Impact Assessment.

www.humanimpact.org/HIA_Screening_WhitePaper.pdf

Human Impact Partners. HIA Readiness Questions.

www.humanimpact.org/HIA_ReadinessQuestions_1109.doc

Taylor L, Gowman N, Quigley R. Deciding if a Health Impact Assessment Is Required (Screening for HIA). NHS Health Development Agency, 2003.

Health Impact Assessment: A Screening Tool for the Greater London Authority. www.londonhealth.gov.uk

Merseyside Guidelines for Health Impact Assessment.

www.ihia.org.uk