A five years literature review on HIA subject, methods and quantification

1 Introduction

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been claimed as pluralistic type of assessment due its large spectrum of subject coverage and as lacking of regulamentation in several countries (Cornburn and Bhatia, 2007; Mindell et al., 2008).

2 What is this research about?

This research investigates HIA academic publications from 2008 to 2012.

3 Why it was carried out?

Few countries have mandatory HIA implementation, and there was observed need for health aspects embedding in policies, plans and programs. Even when not mandatory HIA is the case, other forms of impact assessment lack consistence because health cannot be ignored in the whole environmental context. HIA research is presenting a blossoming in academic world, with fast advances in the last years, mainly in theoretic aspects.

4 What are the core research questions?

- Q1 - What is the main subject proposed for the selected studies?
- Q2 - What are the methods adopted by their authors?
- Q3 - Is there any measuring performed in these studies?

5 What was the adopted methodology?

Bibliographic research
Sources: Scopus/Science Direct
Key expression “Health Impact Assessment”
Mode: “title” in advanced search mode

6 Results - general

78 academic studies found in 5 years

6 Results – Main subject – Q1
There were found 20 articles straightly related to HIA: 2008 = 3; 2009 = 1; 2010 = 1; 2011 = 6.

6 Results – Methods adopted – Q2
A wide range of methods and tools was employed: direct measuring of variables, documentation analysis, and framework development, each one in 8 cases along the five years considered. Framework development was mostly employed since 2010 studies, as well as mixed methods which include concepts mapping, brainstorming, focus groups, interviews, checklists and participatory tools. It is noticeable that some studies published in 2008 and 2009 have not explicit methodological approach - they rely mainly on description of local situations of health assessment.

6 Results – Use of measuring – Q3
Quantification is a critical subject in HIA studies. There were found 39 studies presenting some type of quantification, but it is not always explicit whether quantifications rely on the main subject of research or are simple replication of previous studies. Indicators of health exposure and socio-demographic statistical are still widely employed, but they are giving space for transport/mobility, and behavior/mental indicators of health.
From 2008 to 2010, HIA studies present a balance in terms of quantification and not quantification procedures. From 2011 on qualitative, heavily descriptive and theoretical research became more employed. 15 of 19 selected articles published in 2011 were qualitative. In 2012 quantitative studies predominated (17 of 28), however critical appraisal of HIA, under descriptive studies, keep blooming. It is likely due persistent attempts to find a more consolidated set of theoretical ground for HIA field.

7 Final remarks

- HIA has been deployed in several subfields of assessment
- HIA studies present a wide range of methods – framework development can be highlighted.
- Quantification is still a critical issue.
- Critical studies have arisen mainly since 2011.

8 Summary of references – years/authors
2007 - Cornburn and Bhatia
2008 - Beaglehole et al., Backman et al., Dannenberg et al., Kruk and Fredman, Mindell et al., Siddle and Purnoy, St. Louis and Hess, Teng et al.
2009 - Backgauge et al., Harris et al. (a), Harris et al. (b), Hilatson et al., King et al., Korov, Metcalf and Higgins, Porta et al., Ritha, Sciez and et al., Van den Veel et al.
2010 - Chikwa, Draper and Ritha, Fischer et al., Forsyth et al., Frazzoli et al., Füssell, Kelaher et al. (a), Kelaher et al. (b), Suh et al., Wagenmakers et al., Walker, Weid and Scott-Samuel.
2011 - Bhatia, Bhatia and Sato, Cameron et al., Harris and Spickett, Harris-Ross and Harris, Immung et al., Jabbar and Abelson, Kang et al., Kearns and Purush, Kipper et al., Kostelakovici, 2011, Morgan, Perncon and Ura, Rossa, Shandro et al., Spickell et al., Weden et al., Winkler et al., Yia et al.
2012 - Alfarso et al., Breithaupt et al., Brenner et al., Brondy et al., Cornbly et al., Dorsch et al., Fanik et al., Hagh et al., Haberi et al., Hoekner et al., Hoshiko et al., Huang et al., Icitar et al., Moiner et al., Morgan, Neger et al., O’Maline and Quinktelden, Ono et al., Pagnonetti and Taboli, Perry et al., Pena-Molina et al., Rango et al., Richardson et al., Ripe-Sousa et al., Rossa et al., Small et al., Snyder et al.