
Rapid Health Impact Assessment: Weatherization Plus Health in Connecticut

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Why use an HIA for Connecticut's Energy Efficiency Programs

1. **New Political Reality –**

- ❖ **New energy conscious Governor elected**
- ❖ **Passage of Public Act 11-80, “An Act Concerning the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut’s Energy Future”**
- ❖ **New CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)**
- ❖ **Restructuring of the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) and the Public Utility Rate Authority (PURA)**
- ❖ **Transfer of the USDOE/WAP from DSS to DEEP (4/1/2012)**

2. **New Standards and Appreciation of Health & Safety –**

- ❖ **Building Performance Institute certification requirements – emphasizes Health & Safety.**
- ❖ **United Illuminating (UI)/CT Efficient and Healthy Homes Initiative (CTEHHI) 3 yr Pilot funded by DOE**
- ❖ **Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention (LAMPP) funding**
- ❖ **The CT Dept of Public Health launches Statewide Healthy Homes Task Force**



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3. Reality of Implementation In the Field –

❖ **CT's older housing stock creates deferrals due to health and safety measures**

- ❖ **Knob n Tub Wiring**
- ❖ **Asbestos and ACM's**
- ❖ **Lead**
- ❖ **Mold/Moisture**
- ❖ **Gas leaks**
- ❖ **CO**
- ❖ **Pest**



❖ **Utility funded programs requiring pursuit of “Deeper Measures”**



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Policy/Funding Decisions

- **DOE WAP Health & Safety, State Plan**
- **PURA Oversight of HES, HES-IE:**
 - **What health & safety measures to include?**
 - **Who should pay?**
 - **How to incorporate health and safety to maximize positive and minimize negative health outcomes?**



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Health Impact Assessment Stakeholders

New Opportunities, Inc.

Children's Hospital/Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection/DOE WAP Program

United Illuminating/CT Efficient and Healthy Homes Initiative

Department of Social Services

Environment Northeast/Energy Efficiency Board

Connecticut Association for Community Action

Department of Public Health/Healthy Homes Initiative

Energy Futures Group/Energy Efficiency Board

Connecticut Light and Power Company



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Health Impact Assessment Technical Advisors

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Funding:

- DOE's Weatherization Plus Health initiative, implemented by NASCSP (www.wxplushealth.org),
- NCHH's Small Grant Program, supported by CDC and the American Public Health Association



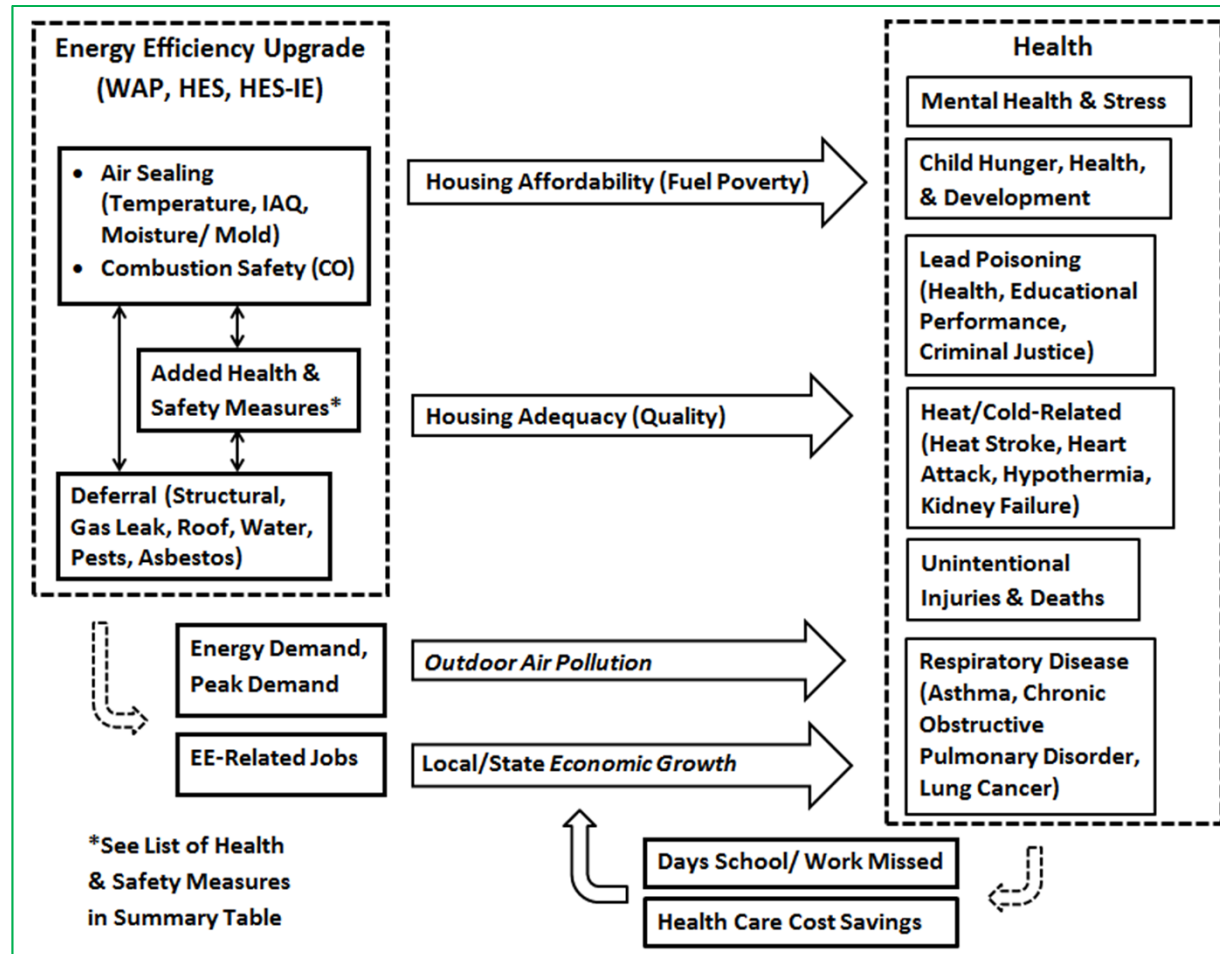
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Rapid Health Impact Assessment Screening Criteria

- Convened Stakeholders Meetings to set the approach: Screening, Scoping, Assessment, Recommendations, Reporting and Monitoring.
- Profile existing conditions
 - Health, health disparities/inequities
 - Current health and safety measures in CT Weatherization Assistance Program (**WAP**), Home Energy Solutions/Income-Eligible (**HES & HES-IE**)
- Literature reviews
- Ranking evidence to create priority list of health and safety measures
 - Major causes of deferrals?
 - Readily integrated with weatherization?
 - Addresses health inequities?
- Estimate costs and benefits (ROI) for selected health and safety measures
- Set of findings → Recommendations

Scope: Impacts of Decisions About Weatherization on Health



Energy Upgrades Create Health Benefits: “Heat or Eat”



Young Children Receiving LIHEAP Vs. Other Low Income Children Are:

20% less likely to be underweight

30% less likely to require admission after hospital emergency room visit

25% of LIHEAP households report going without food for 1 day due to high energy bills

+ Repairs will reduce health inequalities	Reduce Deferrals	Enhance Energy Savings	Significant Health Benefit	Health Benefits/Cost
Repairs Reduce Deferrals, Save Energy & Improve Health				
Minor Moisture Repairs +	✓	✓	✓	X \$1.14/1
Asbestos Abatement	✓		✓	data not available
Gas Leak Detection and Repair	✓			X likely >\$1/1
Knob & Tube Wiring Repair	✓			data not available
Air Sealing with Pest Exclusion +		✓	✓	X likely >\$1/1
Window Replacement of Leaded Single Pane +		✓	✓	X \$1.79/1 (includes energy benefits)

Repairs Create Significant Health Savings				
Injury Prevention Minor Repairs +			✓	data not available
Radon Testing +			✓	X \$51/1
Radon Mitigation (if work increases radon > EPA threshold) +			✓	X \$47/1
Remove Unvented Gas Appliances			✓	X likely >\$1/1
Smoke Alarms +			✓	X \$33/1
Smoking Education and Referral +			✓	X likely >\$1/1

Repairs Recommended by EPA Protocols				
Carbon Monoxide Detectors +				X \$1.25/1
Ventilation Upgrades				data not available



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Recommendations & Results

Recommendation	Result
DOE WAP enhanced health and safety plan	Submitted
Fund energy programs to achieve health and safety & reduce deferrals	Radon pilot, DSS pilot on Elderly injury prevention, partners receive funding (LAMPP), utilities considering bundling to reduce deferrals, CT Rapid HIA & Healthy/ Safety funding requests made at Public Hearings for 3 Yr. CL&M Plan
Refer clients receiving DSS assistance to energy conservation programs	In planning stages
Establish Task Force to identify funding sources and improve coordination	In process, legislative meetings scheduled for September/October 2013
Conduct evaluation to track added health and safety benefits to reduce health inequities	DSS pilot on elderly injury prevention in process with program start date of October 1, 2013



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CT HIA Outcomes

What Happened for NOI

Weatherization Plus Health New Partnerships

Waterbury Health Department
Waterbury Healthy Homes Program
UI/CT Efficient Healthy Homes Initiative
UI/CL&P HES-IE
Naugatuck Valley Health Department
CT Department of Public Health
CT Department of Social Services
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
St. Mary's Hospital
Waterbury Hospital
CT LAMPP – Green Healthy Homes Project
CHIF – CT Housing Investment Fund
CAFCA – CT Assoc. for Community Action
NASCSP – National Assoc. for State Community Services Programs
NCHH – National Center for Healthy Housing
Tohn Environmental Strategies LLC
HUD – Housing and Urban Development

The State of Housing in Connecticut

A Healthy Homes Initiative

Connecticut Department of Public Health

The State of Housing In Connecticut



A Healthy Homes Initiative
Data Book



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for link to CT Rapid HIA

