HIA in the United States: State of practice, and future directions

Aaron Wernham, M.D., M.S.
Director | The Health Impact Project
p: 202.540.6346
e: awernham@pewtrusts.org
www.healthimpactproject.org

National HIA Meeting Plenary Session, Day 1
Completed HIAs 2007
(N = 27)
Completed HIAs 2009 (N = 54)

Health Impact Project Founded

States with HIAs:
- AK (3)
- CA (25)
- CO (2)
- FL (1)
- GA (4)
- HI (2)
- MD (1)
- MA (2)
- MI (1)
- MN (5)
- MT (1)
- NJ (1)
- OH (1)
- OR (2)
- PA (1)
- WA (4)
- WI (1)

Total HIAs: 54
Completed HIA and In Progress HIAs
2012 (N = 173)
Completed and In Progress HIAs
2013 (N = 241)

Federal HIAs: 5
Puerto Rico: 1
HIAs by Sector

- Housing: 9%
- Land Use: 37%
- Transportation: 20%
- Gambling: 1%
- Climate Change: 1%
- Natural Resources and Energy: 13%
- Economic Policy: 1%
- Physical Activity: 1%
- Labor and Employment: 5%
- Education: 5%

- Agriculture and Food: 7%
- Transportation: 20%
- Land Use: 37%
Is it making a difference?

Building healthier places

Mariposa development, Denver Housing Authority

Atlanta Plan 2040 HIA incorporating health in long-range, integrated transportation and land use planning.

(Tuesday, 11:45-12:45)
Is it making a difference?

Responding to policymakers’ data needs, pointing the way to more effective policies

Strengthening low-income housing inspections in Portland (Monday, 2:30-3:30 PM)

Contributing to legislation to improve school integration in Minnesota (Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 PM)
Is it making a difference?

*Responding to policymakers’ data needs, pointing the way to more effective policies*

**House Plan on Food Stamps Would Cut 5 Million From Program**

By RON NIXON  
Published: July 30, 2013

WASHINGTON — Nearly half a million people who receive food stamps but still do not get enough to eat would lose their eligibility for the program under proposed cuts that are expected to be taken up again by Congress. An additional 160,000 to 305,000 recipients who do get enough to eat would also lose their eligibility and the ability to adequately feed themselves.

In total, about 5.1 million people would be eliminated from the program, according to a new report.

**Related**

- [Millions in U.S. Subsidies Go to Dead Farmers (July 31, 2013)](http://example.com)

The Health Impact Project, a Washington research group, released a [study](http://example.com) on Tuesday about the impact of the proposed cuts to the food stamp program. The project is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and

**Health Impact Assessment**

*National Nutrition Standards for Snack and a la Carte Foods and Beverages Sold in Schools*

HIA on Food Stamps brought health and health-related costs to Congress’ debate, and informed USDA’s approach to SNAP data analysis (Wed, 11:15-12:15)

USDA Competitive Foods rulemaking: HIA answered key implementation question, cited heavily by FDA in the final rule (Wed, 11:15-12:15)
Is it making a difference?
Strengthening community role & consideration of equity

Equity in HIA
(Plenary Wed, 1:30-2:30)

Informing state legislation on incarceration alternatives
Is it making a difference?

Evaluating HIA practice

National research council (2011): evaluation is essential to advance HIAs, both to document their effectiveness, and to improve the quality and consistency of the practice.

The results are in!

This meeting presents the results of at least six different evaluations:

- Wed, Sept 25 Plenary, 9:45-10:45 AM: four separate national evaluations
- Tu, Sept 24 Poster Session: EPA’s extensive national review
Important Developments

- State and regional HIA multi-agency/multi-organization collaborations—OR, AZ, MI, CO, OH, CA, WI, others
- Policymakers, public agencies using HIAs more routinely
- Federal agencies using HIAs in many decisions: US Forest Service, BLM, Corps of Engineers, EPA, DOT, HUD
- Public health organizations developing leadership: NACCHO, NNPHI, ASTHO
- HIA as part of public health education
Challenges and Future Directions

- **Breadth and focus:** local, state, tribal, federal decisions; social, economic, environmental policies, plans, projects...

- **Making them more accessible:** how can we make HIAs easier and quicker for smaller organizations and agencies to undertake?

- **“HIA 2.0:”** adapting and streamlining HIAs to make the consideration of health easy to implement (and therefore more likely) in varied decision contexts.
Thank you!