HIA 101

A QUICK GUIDE TO EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.

What is HIA?
HIA IS

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”

(GOTHENBURG CONSENSUS PAPER, 1999)

HIA in a nutshell

• LOOKS AT UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS
• PURPOSE IS TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING
• 5 STEPS
• SYSTEMATIC BUT FLEXIBLE
WHY
is HIA done?

The Problem

Policy

- Economic Stability
- Education
- Social Context
- Built Environment

→ Health
To identify harms & benefits before decisions are made.
To inform discussions of the trade-offs of a policy/plan/project/program.
To identify evidence-based strategies to promote health & prevent disease.
To increase transparency, support inclusiveness, democracy, and community engagement in the policy decision-making process.
To help shift decision making from an economic to quality of life framework.
To meet regulatory requirements.

Source: Human Impact Partners, HIA Toolkit, 3rd Edition and other sources

Why would Governments and Business care?

To meet demands of regulators.
To address public concerns.
Minimize unnecessary risks.
Avoid costly mistakes.
Make health a part of everyday business.
AN EXAMPLE

Health Impact Assessment: Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site

WILLIAM DANIELL, LINN GOULD, BJ CUMMINGS, JONATHAN CHILDERS, AMBER LENHART
HIA EXAMPLE: BACKGROUND

Opportunity to expand the conversation
+ Public comment period
+ Health Impact Project funding
= Health Impact Assessment

HIA EXAMPLE: SCREENING
HIA EXAMPLE: SCOPING

Figure 3: Potential health impacts of the proposed cleanup plan *

Legend:
- Environmental and expected effects
- Construction activities
- Toxic and chronic health effects
- Land use and land use changes
- Social and cultural effects
- Health and economic impacts
- Toxicological consequences of plastics

* This diagram should be interpreted as the number of possible and expected impacts on health and behavior in the expected cleanup plan. Health impacts associated with the proposed cleanup being a major concern to the stakeholders in terms of the potential adverse health outcomes. ** This model represents a tool for future HIA planning.
HIA EXAMPLE: SCOPING

Local Residents
- Shoreline Restoration
- Revitalization/Gentrification
- Stress and Mental Health

Tribal Communities
- River Habitat Renewal
- Ceremonial Activities
- Pride and Empowerment

Subsistence Fishers
- Fishing Advisories
- Reduced Fish Consumption
- Nutritional Detriments

HIA EXAMPLE: ASSESSMENT
**HIA EXAMPLE: RECOMMENDATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Residents</th>
<th>Revitalization/Gentrification</th>
<th>Fund local grass roots initiatives that build social cohesion.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Communities</td>
<td>Ceremonial Activities</td>
<td>Restore traditional resource use in accordance with Treaty Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsistence Fishers</td>
<td>Reduced Fish Consumption</td>
<td>Encourage and provide options for healthful fish consumption.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**HIA EXAMPLE: OUTCOMES**

**DUWAMISH RIVER OPPORTUNITY FUND**

UPDATE: The City of Seattle has allocated $1.2 million from the Duwamish Opportunity Fund to implement recommendations identified from our original HIA report.

City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

DUWAMISH RIVER OPPORTUNITY FUND (DROP)
Contact: Richard Coolin, 206.684.5780 or rcoolin@seattle.gov

The City of Seattle is working to make the Duwamish River a green corridor and urban reclamation project. The project seeks to improve the overall health of the ecosystem and provide public recreation opportunities. The City has engaged community partners, government agencies, and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan for the river's restoration.
HIA EXAMPLE: OUTCOMES

HOW is HIA done?
THE PROCESS

SCREENING

SCOPING

ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

EVALUATION & MONITORING

SCREENING

• To determine if HIA is required or useful

• Saves time, money and resources

• Not always done in practice
**SCREENING CRITERIA**

- Influence decision making
- Resources
- Health outcomes
- Differential impacts
- Additional value

**SCOPING**

- Develop a plan for the HIA approach
- Identify the health areas that will be examined
ASSESSMENT

• To identify and characterize the potential effects (both positive and negative) that are likely to be associated with the project.

STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT

1. Community profile
2. Gather evidence
3. Characterize impacts
4. Valuation of health impacts
RECOMMENDATIONS

• To develop strategies to enhance health benefits and mitigate harms

EVALUATION & MONITORING

• To measure the effectiveness of the HIA and its recommendations, and to track health changes over time
### Types / Levels of HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rapid</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Comprehensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>- Very quick (2 days to 6 weeks)</td>
<td>- 4 weeks to several months</td>
<td>- Several months to several years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>- Low resources</td>
<td>- Moderate resources</td>
<td>- High resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement</td>
<td>- No stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>- Some stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>- Significant stakeholder involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>- No new data gathering</td>
<td>- Some new data collected, often relies on existing data banks.</td>
<td>- Usually involves collecting primary data.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Types / Levels of HIA

- **Standalone HIA**

- **Integrated assessment (IA) / Environmental, social & health impact assessment (ESHIA)**
How does HIA operationalize health?

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

WHO Constitution, 1948
OPERATIONALIZING HEALTH IN HIA

HEALTH OUTCOMES
• Mortality
• Disease rates or numbers
• Injury rates or numbers
• Mental wellbeing

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
• Education
• Housing
• Environmental quality
• Income and income equality
• Personal behaviours (e.g. smoking)

CONSEQUENCES OF HEALTH CHANGES
• Quality of life
• Health service utilization
• Use of medication

HEALTH EFFECTS:
BOTH POSITIVE
AND NEGATIVE
COMMUNITY HEALTH BENEFITS:
A FEW EXAMPLES

Current
STATE OF PRACTICE
STATE OF PRACTICE

• 15+ years nationally & internationally

• Standards and best practices

• Several relevant professional associations: SOPHIA, IAIA

• Still working out the bugs and improving methods, evidence base

APPLICATION OF HIA

• Types of decision making
  o **Policy Decisions** (bills by state legislature, city council decision, local school board on district-wide policy)
  o **Policy Implementation** (weigh various implementation options for a policy once it is passed)
  o **Project Specific** (siting, permitting, construction, design)
  o **Comprehensive Plans** (neighborhood plan, regional growth plans, master planning documents)
THE LEVEL OF DECISION MAKING

HIAs are used to inform decisions at what levels?

- Local
- County
- Regional
- State
- Federal
- Other, multiple or undetermined

COMPLETED HIAs 2007
(N = 27)
Maps created through a partnership between Health Impact Project and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Healthy Community Design Initiative.

Completed HIAs 2009 (N = 54)

Completed and In Progress HIAs
2014 (N = 334+)

Federal HIAs: 8
WHAT TOPICS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED?

- Built Environment: 34%
- Transportation: 21%
- Natural Resources & Energy: 14%
- Agriculture & Food: 9%
- Housing: 7%
- Education: 5%
- Labor & Employment: 4%
- Other: 6%

SOURCE: THE HEALTH IMPACT PROJECT

WHO DOES HIA?

- Educational institution
- Government agency
- Nonprofit Organization
- For profit/undetermined
what HIA IS NOT

• AN EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDY
• AN ADVOCACY PIECE
• A HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT
HIA IS ONE TOOL IN THE TOOLBOX
HIA in a nutshell

- LOOKS AT UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS
- PURPOSE IS TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING
- 5 STEPS
- SYSTEMATIC BUT FLEXIBLE

Questions?

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