Learning objective

To provide an overview of health impact assessment (HIA), including the key steps and examples of implementation
Outline

• What is Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?
• HIA core principles and values
• Purpose
• Steps of HIA
• Example
• Additional resources
Health determinants

Image from Human Impact Partners
How HIA addresses determinants of health

Image from Human Impact Partners
The Problem

Health

Policy

- Economic Stability
- Education
- Social Context
- Built Environment

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials
What is HIA?

HIA is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on the monitoring and managing of those effects.

- Committee on HIA, National Research Council
What is HIA?

A structured, but flexible, process that:

• Predicts anticipated health outcomes of a proposed decision/project
• Translate that information into recommendations for balance, well-informed policies
• Helps you weigh trade-offs and understand the direct and indirect health impacts of your work
• HIA’s purpose is to improve health, track unintended consequence, and mitigate risk

From Health Impact Project
What HIA is not…

- It’s not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project should be proposed
- It’s not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented
- It is not a community assessment tool, but those are used during assessment stage of HIA

HIA is a framework that translates data into well-informed policies
HIAs by Sector

- Cross-sectional analysis of 92 HIAs
- Most were related to built environment, transportation, or housing topics
- More recent HIAs are beginning to address other topics.

Data from Health Impact Project 2013
HIA core principles and values

- Democracy
- Equity
- Sustainable development
- Ethical use of evidence
- Comprehensive approach to health

HIA purpose

Primary purposes:

• Uncover and evaluate health effects of a public decision
• Shape public decisions and discourse around those decisions to be more inclusive of health and equity
• Focus on problems that need identifying
• Identify possible recommendations that support health benefits or reduce harm
• Shape how plans, programs, projects, or policy is implemented
HIA purpose

Secondary purposes:

• Better engage stakeholders
• Empower communities
• Expand public participation in policy and planning decisions
• Foster relationships and collaborations
Defining Success in HIA

**Process**
- Did the HIA meet minimum standards?
- Were community concerns considered?
- Were stakeholders engaged?

**Impact**
- Did HIA inform the decision?
- Did it raise awareness?
- Did it bring about culture change/shift?
- Did it result in new partnerships and collaborations

**Outcomes**
- Did HIA contribute to or lead to improvements in health outcomes or determinants?
- Did it improve health equity?
Steps of HIA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Recommendations
- Reporting
- Monitoring/ Evaluation
Screening

- Establishes need for and value of an HIA
- Screening tools and guidance documents are available to help with this step.
Scoping

- The scoping phase maps out the project
- Identifies:
  - Population of interest
  - Health effects or determinants of interest
  - Research questions, methods, data sources
  - Involvement of stakeholders
  - Project timeline
- Outputs: project plan and scoping diagram or causal model
Scoping: Spectrum of HIA practice

| Comprehensiveness |  
|-------------------|---|
| Focused on one health determinant or health outcome (e.g., air quality / asthma) | Considers all potential positive and negative effects on health determinants and outcomes |

| Formal Procedures |  
|-------------------|---|
| Public health official responds to public or decision maker requesting analysis on specific impacts | Structured and transparent process for screening, scoping, assessment, and reporting integrated into regulatory procedures for environmental assessment or policy analysis |

| Participation |  
|-------------------|---|
| Analysis initiated, scoped, and conducted by public health experts | Process includes involvement of community stakeholders |

| Timing |  
|-------------------|---|
| Used at early policy development stage; carried out quickly with minimal resources | Occurs after policy options are well developed but before decision-making |

| Methods |  
|-------------------|---|
| Use of existing data and public research | Collection and analysis of new data using quantitative and qualitative methods and expert and lay sources |

- Scope and scale of HIA can vary
- Scoping will help to determine the depth and breadth of the project

From Human Impact Partners
Causal model

From Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services’ HIA on Assessing the Impact of a Transportation Utility Fee in Columbia, MO
Assessment phase evaluates the health outcomes of a decision. It starts from baseline and determines how the decision will change baseline conditions to impact health and distribution of health impacts or determinants. It attempts to predict health impacts where feasible.
Assessment

- Often HIA employs mixed-methods approaches
- Typical data sources:
  - Empirical literature
  - Community experience
  - Health measures
  - Surveillance data
  - Environmental monitoring data
  - Surveys, indicators, checklists
  - Focus groups and interviews
  - Neighborhood assessment tools
Potential data sources of health impacts or environmental determinants

Health data:
- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
- Common Commons: http://www.communitycommons.org/
- National Center for Health Statistics: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/

Environmental health data:
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Toxics Release Inventory Program: http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program
- Environmental Public Health Tracking: http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showHome.action
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s MyEnvironment: http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/

Other data sources and assessment tools
- Health assessment tools: http://www.sfphes.org/resources/hia-tools
- Other data sources and related resources: http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/14/40
Recommendations

- Strategies to boost identified benefits and mitigate negative impacts
- Recommendations should be feasible and actionable
- Recommendations can be devised to:
  - Inform outcome of a decision and/or
  - Propose adoption of strategies to
    - Maximize benefits,
    - Prevent negative impacts, or
    - Improve its feasibility and compliance.
Reporting provides clear documentation of the HIA project.

Reporting should characterize, where possible, the health effects of the decision (i.e. direction, magnitude, severity, likelihood, distribution, quality of evidence).

Various forms: executive summary, full technical report, newsletter, comment letter, websites, blog posts, public testimony, etc.

Need to keep in mind the audience.
### Research Question: How will a monthly transportation utility fee affect low- and fixed-income households? Health determinant: Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Factor or Outcome</th>
<th>Expected Change Based on Literature</th>
<th>Stakeholder Projections</th>
<th>Expected Health Impact</th>
<th>Magnitude of Impact</th>
<th>Likelihood of Impact</th>
<th>Distribution within the Population</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stress</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Utilization</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Likely</td>
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<td>****</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overcrowding</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stability</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Alternative Heating and Cooling Sources</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Low to Medium</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Low-income Fixed income</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring and evaluation

The purposes of the monitoring and evaluating HIAs are to do the following:

• Ensure the project, plan, program, or policy is implemented as designed;
• Establish accountability;
• Track and support compliance;
• Build a better understanding of the value of HIA;
• Provide early warning of unexpected consequences and create a structure for addressing them; and
• Test the validity and precision of health impact predictions

From Human Impact Partners
Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation tracks:
  - Process: decision-making process
  - Impact: decision outcome
  - Outcome: impacts of the decision on health determinants or outcomes

- Need to consider:
  - Short-term vs. long-term outcomes
  - Indicators or measurements
  - Enforcement and accountability mechanisms
  - Ability to describe how the HIA helped
Fitchburg Nine Springs HIA (Wisconsin)

- HIA of Fitchburg Park Dept’s Nine Springs Master Park Plan
- Health issues: childhood obesity, access to park space, health equity, impacts on watershed and environmental pollutants
- Community-driven process focused on health equity
- Assessment: mostly qualitative methods

Outcomes:
- Fitchburg Common Council voted in May to maintain it as a golf course
- Council members acknowledge that green space is lacking in the area and express commitments to making improvements
- Mayor stated that HIA provided a roadmap for the city and urged Parks Dept to implement many of HIA’s recommendations
Additional HIA resources

- Health Impact Project: http://www.healthimpactproject.org
- Description of the HIA Process and Steps: http://www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/process
- HIA Map: Examples of HIAs on a Wide-Range of Topics: http://www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us
- APA Planning and Community Health Research Center: http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/index.htm
- CDC Resources on Health Impact Assessment: http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm
- Health Impact Assessment Blog: http://healthimpactassessment.blogspot.com
- Human Impact Partners: Tools and Resources: http://www.humanimpact.org/hia
- NACCHO Resources on Land Use Planning: http://www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/landuseplanning/index.cfm
- Smart Growth and Health: http://www.smartgrowth.org/library/byissue.asp?iss=5
- UCLA Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse: http://www.hiaguide.org
Additional HIA/ Healthy Community Design resources

• NACCHO’s HIA webpage:
  http://www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/health-impact-assessment/index.cfm

• Planning for Healthy Places with HIA:
  http://advance.captus.com/planning/hia2/home.aspx
Questions?

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