



Addressing the Determinants of Health using Health Impact Assessment

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Health is a state of
complete physical, mental and social well-being
and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

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Who we are



HIP is transforming the policies and places people
need to live healthy lives.

We believe that health should be considered in all
decision making.

We raise awareness of and collaboratively use innovative
data, processes and tools that evaluate health impacts
and inequities.

Through training and mentorship we also build the
capacity of impacted communities and their advocates,
workers, public agencies, and elected officials to conduct
health-based analyses and use them to take action.

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Incorporating Health into Decision-Making



The world would look different



Development



Farm Policy



Incarceration

Immigration



Ports



Education



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Why Health?



Limitations to economics-based decision-making

Externalities

Disparities

Money is not the same as happiness



A health frame can be persuasive

People understand health personally

Health is an indicator of quality of life and well-being

Health is a shared value

People are morally outraged by health inequities

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HIA Definition



Health Impact Assessment

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. Health impact assessment provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

National Research Council, 2011.

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Factors Responsible for Population Health



Health status is determined by: genetics 20 – 30%; health care 10%; social, environmental conditions, and behavior 60 – 70%
Health Affairs, 2002

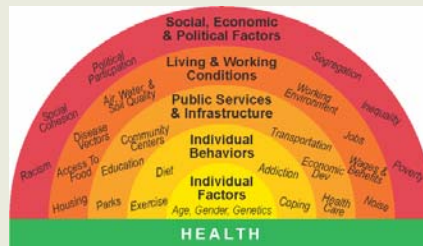
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HIA Addresses Determinants of Health



How does the proposed project, plan, policy

affect



and lead to health outcomes

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HIA Purposes



Through Analysis and Reporting:

- Judge health effects of a proposed project, policy or policy
- Provide recommendations
- Shape public decisions & discourse
- Analyze health disparities
- Make health impacts more explicit

Through the HIA Process:

- Build relationships & collaborations
- Build consensus
- Engage & empower community
- Recognize lived experience



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Steps of a HIA



Screening	Determines the need and value of a HIA
Scoping	Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a workplan
Assessment	Provides: 1) a profile of existing health conditions 2) evaluation of potential health impacts
Recommendations	Provide strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts
Reporting	Includes: 1) development of the HIA report 2) communication of findings & recommendations
Monitoring	Tracks: 1) impacts on decision-making processes and the decision 2) impacts of the decision on health determinants

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NEPA and Comprehensive Health Analysis



HIA is one approach to conducting a comprehensive health analysis under NEPA. Language in the following support inclusion of a comprehensive health analysis in EIA:

National Environmental Policy Act
Council on Environmental Quality regulations
Executive Orders 12898 and 13045
CEQ guidance on Executive Order 12898

A comprehensive analysis of health in EIA would include:

A systematic scoping of potentially significant direct, indirect and cumulative health impacts of the proposed action

Analysis of baseline health conditions and determinants of health

Analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative health impacts of the proposed action

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HIA as a Collaborative Process



Why engage others in the HIA process?

- Broad range of people affected
- Data, information, resources
- Relationship building
- Capacity for advocacy
- Empowerment

Who has engaged?

- Community organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Research groups
- Academics
- Public health agencies
- Planning, regulatory, and other agencies
- Elected officials
- Private industry and developers

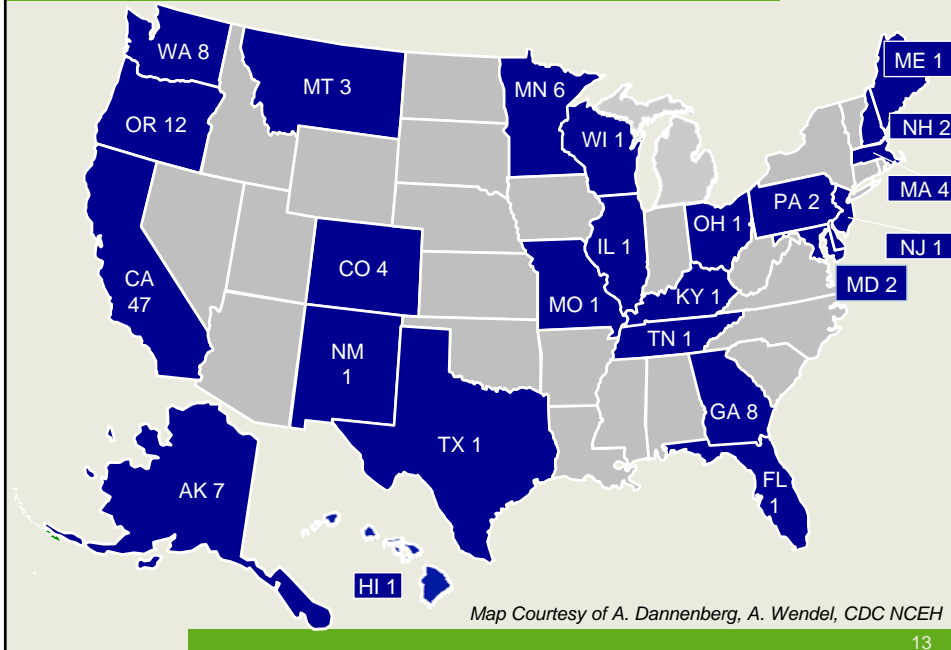


Roles in HIA



Screening	Identify and prioritize topics for HIAs
Scoping	Identify health issues to be studied Prioritize research questions
Assessment	Conduct literature reviews Research existing conditions data Conduct surveys, interviews, focus groups Conduct data analysis Interpret and ground truth data
Recommendations	Identify and prioritize recommendations
Reporting	Write, review and edit final report Develop a communication, media and advocacy plan to report findings to decision-makers
Monitoring	Collect data on impacts Hold decision-makers accountable for decision agreements and mitigations

119 HIAs Completed or In Progress



HIP HIA & TA Project Examples



HIAs

Built Environment
 Humboldt County General Plan
 Pittsburg Railroad Ave Specific Plan
 Jack London Gateway development
 South LA housing development
 Long Beach Downtown Plan
 I-710 Corridor Project

Federal / State / Local Policies
 Paid sick days legislation
 School discipline policies in CA
 Alternatives to Incarceration in WI

Training & Technical Assistance

Health Impact Project (RWJ/Pew)
 Cap & Trade – California
 State budget – New Hampshire
 County agricultural plan – Hawaii
 Smart metering – Illinois
 Coal gasification plant – Kentucky
 Farm-to-School – Oregon
 Light rail transit line – Minnesota

Place Matters Sites (Kellogg)
 School funding policy – Oakland
 Recycling facility permit – Albuquerque
 Gender pay equity legislation – Detroit

Project Example 1



A Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the Jack London Gateway Development

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JLG Project Description



Proposal

Build 55 units of low-income senior housing and retail near JLG shopping mall in West Oakland

Project sponsor

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), a non-profit developer

Project site

Borders Freeway 980, near Port of Oakland



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JLG Health Concerns



Members of West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative interested in using the project as a case study for HIA



Community health-related concerns included:

- Air quality - respiratory disease
- Noise - sleep disturbance, social cohesion
- Retail - fresh produce, pharmacy
- Safety - pedestrian, crime

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JLG HIA Process



In 4 meetings over 3 months, the community

- Selected the project (Screening)
- Engaged EBALDC in discussions
- Scoped and prioritized concerns about project (Scoping)
- Conducted research and found evidence supporting concerns (Assessment)
- Developed suggested mitigations
- Wrote letter to EBALDC and Planning Commission (Reporting)

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JLG Outcomes



Oakland Planning Commission asked EBALDC to work with community and implement mitigations

EBALDC made many concessions

Installing filtered air systems in common space and residential units

Placing bay windows instead of balconies on the freeway side of building

Changing main entrance from highway side to neighborhood side

Building opened on September 2, 2009

HIA Project Example 2



Los Angeles and Long Beach Maritime Ports
Health Impact Assessment
Draft Template Scope Proposal

For more details, see:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/PortsHIA/index.html>

<http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/8/106/0>



The Case for using HIA on Port Plans



The Ports are making efforts to reduce any negative impacts they are causing.

Despite this, health near ports is worse than elsewhere in LA and CA. Examples:

- Asthma
- Cardiovascular disease
- Depression
- Premature death

Ports would benefit from:

- Increased collaboration & consensus building (and decreased controversy & litigation)
- Community focus on health issues of greatest concern
- Opportunity to raise awareness about Port initiatives
- Collaborative mitigation development
- Well-defined methods to address EJ issues

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Goals for Creating this HIA Scope Template



Increase stakeholder understanding of HIA and what an HIA on a proposed port project/plan could cover

Advance discussions about conducting HIAs on port proposals

Create a template scope that could be narrowed/refined after a particular port proposal is selected

Generate ideas for how to move forward with starting an HIA (i.e., next steps)

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Overview of the Draft HIA Scope (1 of 5)



Overarching parameters

Decisions that could be assessed – proposed projects or master plans & alternatives, including no-build

Geographic boundaries – communities within predefined distance of port and of port-related activities that would be impacted by proposal

Temporal boundaries – current and future impacts over predefined time period

Sensitive uses – residential neighborhoods, low-income housing, senior centers/housing, schools/child care, parks

Population & community vulnerabilities – poverty, prevalence of chronic disease, English language proficiency, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, housing conditions, existing pollution exposure

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Overview of the Draft HIA Scope (2 of 5)



Topics covered

Air pollution

Noise pollution

Water pollution

Traffic & rail

Displacement

Economic effects

Neighborhood livability

Port revenue & funding

For each topic

Pathway diagram

Summary of evidence

Baseline conditions research questions

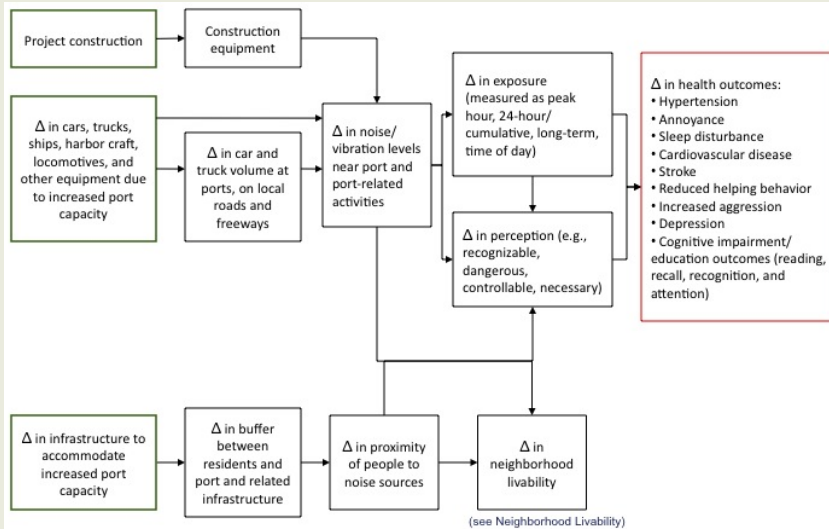
Impact research questions

Examples of potential mitigations

References

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Pathway diagram example - Noise



Summary of evidence – examples

In a meta-analysis of 43 studies of **noise exposure and heart disease**, road traffic noise was associated with higher risk for myocardial infarction and ischemic heart disease

There is a statistically significant relationship between **traffic volume and the number of vehicle-pedestrian collisions**

Unemployment is associated with premature mortality cardiovascular disease, hypertension, depression, and suicide

After adjusting for individual-level socioeconomic status, a review found that all but two of 25 reviewed studies reported a statistically significant association between at least one measure of **neighborhood socioeconomic context and health outcomes** including mortality, infant/child health, chronic diseases among adults, mental health, and health behaviors

Research questions – examples

Baseline: What is the current prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the impacted areas, compared to in the region and in the rest of the state?

Impact: How will projected changes in air quality impact prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the impacted areas and region?

Baseline: What is the prevalence of chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension) in the impacted areas and region?

Impact: How will projected changes in jobs and availability of goods and services impact chronic disease prevalence?

Baseline: What are the rates of physical activity (e.g. walking, biking, recreation) among populations in the impacted areas?

Impact: How will projected changes to neighborhood resources and the local economy impact rates of physical activity in the impacted areas?