Webinar:
Health Impact Assessment – Health Equity
April 23, 2010
12:00PM to 1:00PM EST

Webinar Faculty

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Objectives

Introduce you to Health Impact Assessment
Review steps in HIA process
Describe an HIA Case Study (emphasis on health equity)
HIA Definition

Health Impact Assessment
A combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.

International Association for Impact Assessment, 2006

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

Addresses Determinants of Social Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy affect
Democratic process
Housing
Air quality
Noise
Safety
Social networks
Nutrition
Parks and natural space
Private goods and services
Public services
Transportation
Social equity
Livelihood
Water quality
Education

and lead to health outcomes
HIA Purpose

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

Secondary
Engage & empower community
Emphasize everyday experience
Build consensus
Build relationships & collaborations

Benefits to Planning and Health Equity

Provides a comprehensive lens on issues and trade-offs in public decision-making
Supports community engagement and legitimizes "unheard" voices
Helps to gain input up front in planning, and build support for outcome
Considers historical, cumulative and disparate impacts (e.g., race/ethnicity, income, geography)
Targeted to communities experiencing the most significant policy externalities

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
3) 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
HIA Topics

HIA can evaluate many types of projects, plans, policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIA Topics</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land use plans</td>
<td>Housing developments, revitalization plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation plans</td>
<td>New transit stations, roadway expansions, new rail lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health planning</td>
<td>Menu labeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive or specific area plans</td>
<td>Guides for future development</td>
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<tr>
<td>City, state, or national policies</td>
<td>Labor, education, incarceration, immigration</td>
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The HIA Process

Screening → Scoping → Assessment → Reporting → Monitoring

Step 1: Screening

Objective
To decide whether a HIA is feasible, timely, and would add value to the decision-making process

Essential Tasks
Define the decision and its alternatives
Decide who will be involved
Determine if potential partners are ready to work on a HIA
Evaluate the project based on screening criteria
Make a decision about whether to conduct a HIA
Notify stakeholders of your decision
Key Points
- HIA is used to assess a defined project, plan or policy
- Purpose is to inform decision-makers before they make a decision - as such, HIA is most often carried out prospectively
- Establish the value of HIA
- Assess feasibility
- Understand timing
- Evaluate decision openness
- Be inclusive
- Avoid redundancy

The HIA Process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Monitoring

Step 2: Scoping

Objective
- To create a plan and timeline for conducting a HIA that defines priority issues, research questions and methods, and participant roles.

Essential Tasks
- Determine who will oversee the HIA process
- Set ground rules for working together, including participant roles
- Establish objectives for the HIA
- Develop research questions, workplan, and timeline
- Determine the format for the final HIA, including how findings will be communicated
HIAs can vary greatly in scope. How will available resources impact the scope?

**Least Resources**
- Review of available reports
- Literature review
- Analysis and mapping of existing data from the census, public agencies, etc.
- Expert opinion
- Application of quantitative forecasting methods using existing studies
- Interviews or focus groups
- New quantitative data collection and analysis

**Most Resources**

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A Pathway Diagram demonstrates the links between health determinants and outcomes.

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For each health issue of concern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Conditions</th>
<th>What do we know about existing conditions, potential health impacts, and vulnerable populations?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Populations</td>
<td>What are specific populations (age, gender, race, income, place) that will be impacted by this project/policy proposal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Questions</td>
<td>What research questions do we want to answer?</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Step 3: Assessment

Objective
To provide a profile of existing conditions data, an evaluation of potential health impacts, and evidence-based recommendations to mitigate negative and maximize positive health impacts.

Essential Tasks
Profile existing conditions using existing and new data
Judge the impacts of the decision on selected indicators
Use results to develop recommendations and mitigations to address negative health impacts

HIA Assessment Methods

Conduct an empirical literature review
Gather existing data or conduct new analysis on health, environmental and social indicators
Compare data to existing regulatory criteria, standards, & benchmarks
Utilize community expertise - e.g., focus groups, surveys
Apply specialized data collection tools for observational data, forecasting, and modeling
Empirical Literature Review

- Peer-reviewed research
  - PubMed
- Systematic reviews
  - Campbell Collection
- Grey literature
  - Non-peer reviewed reports

- Children living within 500 ft of a freeway have reduced lung capacity.
- Noise above 60dB increases the risk of heart attack.
- Those earning $15,000 annually are 3x more likely to die prematurely than those earning $70,000.

Indicator Data Sources

- United States Census Bureau, American Fact Finder
  - Population data on demographics, social and economic characteristics, at state, county, city, zip code, census tract, block group, and block level.
- Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
  - The world's largest, on-going telephone health survey system, tracking health conditions and risk behaviors in the U.S.; data are collected monthly.

Public Agencies

- Health, transportation, environment, planning.

Overcrowding and Supermarket Access

- Proportion of households living in overcrowded conditions.
- Proportion of the population within 1/2 mile of a supermarket.
Community Expertise

Residents
Neighborhood organizations
Medical practitioners
Public officials
Health agencies

“It affects my community, making residents sick. We need to stop the diesel trucks from passing through residential areas, also diesel buses, and if possible make it the law or policy.”

Focus groups
Surveys
Interviews

Specialized Assessment Tools

San Francisco Department of Public Health - www.sfphes.org
Pedestrian Environmental Quality Index
Air Quality Modeling
Noise Modeling
Pedestrian Injury Collision Modeling
Healthy Development Measurement Tool

County Healthy Rankings - www.countyhealthrankings.org
WalkScore - www.WalkScore.com

Recommendations & Mitigations

A key function of HIA is to identify opportunities for public decisions to promote health

Based on Assessment, HIA may suggest recommendations: alternative ways to design a project, plan, or policy its location, or timing to benefit health

Mitigations: strategies to lessen anticipated adverse health effects of a decision
The HIA Process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Monitoring

Step 4: Reporting

Objective
To develop the HIA report and communicate findings and recommendations

Essential Tasks
- Develop a consensus among stakeholders re: key findings and recommendations
- Determine the format and structure of the report
- Write the report
- Develop a communication plan
- Prepare communication materials to suit the needs of all stakeholders

HIA Reporting Formats

- Letters to proponents & decision-makers
- Comment letters on draft EIAs
- Formal report
- Presentations
- Peer-reviewed publications
Communicating Findings

Frames help people make sense of what they hear and see by triggering concepts that already exist in their minds.

Developing a message frame:
What’s wrong?
Why does it matter?
What should be done?

Start with shared values:
What are the core values behind the change that you want to see?
How do these values help you define the problem?
Why would these values lead people to support your solution?

The HIA Process

Screening
Scoping
Assessment
Reporting
Monitoring

Step 5: Monitoring

Objective
To track the impacts of the HIA on the decision-making process and the decision, the implementation of the decision, and the impacts of the decision on health determinants

Essential Tasks
Track recommendation adoption, discussion of findings, decision-making climate for health, & HIA institutionalization
Monitor decision implementation to track whether policy was carried out in accordance with recommendations
Monitor health determinants and outcomes to evaluate HIA predictions
Examples of HIA Monitoring Questions

- Did the HIA lead to changes in the design of the proposed project, plan, or policy?
- Did the project, plan, or policy change in a way that was consistent with recommendations?
- Did the HIA help to build consensus?
- Did the HIA aid in securing funds for project mitigations?
- Did the HIA lead to other policy changes?

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

Roles for Partners in HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>Identify health issues to be studied</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prioritize research questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Research existing conditions data</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conduct surveys, interviews, focus groups,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interpret and ground truth data</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conduct data analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Write, review and edit final report</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Develop a communication, media and advocacy plan to report findings to decision-makers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Continue to hold decision-makers accountable for</td>
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<td>decision agreements and mitigations</td>
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HIA Collaboration: Challenges

Developing and maintaining relationships
Establishing common goals, expectations, ground rules
Ensuring partner involvement

Start-up is important!

Project Example

A Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the
Jack London Gateway Development

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
Residents interested in using the project as a case study for understanding HIA

Community health-related concerns included:
- Air quality - respiratory disease
- Noise - sleep disturbance, social cohesion
- Retail - fresh produce, pharmacy
- Safety - pedestrian, crime

In 4 meetings over 3 months, the community selected the project and engaged EBALDC in discussions. They scoped and prioritized concerns about the project, found supporting evidence for concerns, developed suggested mitigations, and wrote a letter to EBALDC and the Planning Commission.

Oakland Planning Commission asked EBALDC to work with the community and implement mitigations. EBALDC made many concessions, including:
- Installing filtered air systems in common space and residential units
- Placing bay windows instead of balconies on the freeway side of the building
- Changing the main entrance from the highway side to the neighborhood side

Building opened on September 2nd!
### Barriers and Solutions for HIA Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Example solution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No funding for HIA</td>
<td>Use funding sources creatively (e.g., SFDPH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Need a champion decision-maker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need examples from other places</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need successful case study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Supervisors will be upset by Public Health</td>
<td>Role of public health agency is to protect the public health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department’s HIA work</td>
<td>Staff do not have to take an advocacy position, but can weigh in with evidence and data</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certain issues are not thought of as “advocacy” (e.g., tobacco and breastfeeding)</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is not enough evidence to demonstrate health impacts</td>
<td>Disparate, single-issue focused evidence exists in public health literature, especially built environment-related</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Role of HIA is to pull together to make a broad and definitive statement about impacts</td>
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### HIA Resources

- Human Impact Partners - [www.humanimpact.org](http://www.humanimpact.org)
- San Francisco Department of Public Health - [www.sfphes.org](http://www.sfphes.org)
- UCLA HIA Clearinghouse - [www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/hiaclic](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/hiaclic)
- Health Impact Project - [www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org)
- Design for Health - [www.designforhealth.net](http://www.designforhealth.net)
- Let’s Move Initiative - [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control - [www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/)

### Office of Minority Health & Public Health Policy

- **Vision:** Advancing health equity for all Virginians
- **Mission:** To identify health inequities, assess their root causes, and address them by promoting social justice, influencing policy, establishing partnerships, providing resources, and educating the public
VDH and Health Impact Assessment

- VDH pilot project with General Assembly
  - 2009 pilot
  - 2010 pilot
    - Joint Subcommittee Studying Development and Land Use Tools in Virginia’s Localities
- Collaboration with UVA to build local capacity for HIA
  - Steering Committee with Deputy Commissioner, Districts Directors
  - Needs assessment and technical assistance

VDH and Healthy Public Policy

- Healthy People 2020 Evaluation Grant from US ODPHP
- Educational presentations and discussions led by Health Commissioner with Governor’s Cabinet, key executive branch agency leadership, leaders within the General Assembly; web-based training and resources; ongoing technical assistance from VDH
- Goals
  - Raise awareness among state government leaders
  - Facilitate incorporation of HP2020 objectives into state agency strategic plans

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The University of Virginia Department of Urban and Environmental Planning is an approved provider of AICP Certificate Maintenance (CM) credits. AICP members can earn 1 CM credit for this activity.

http://www.planning.org/cm/log/selfreport.htm