What is an HIA?

An HIA is a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

-WHO Gothenberg consensus paper 1999
Goal of HIA

To focus the attention of decision-makers on the health consequences of the projects and policies they are considering. An HIA should lead to a better informed decision with respect to health.
Why Conduct a HIA?

- Promotes healthy development
- Improves economic viability
- Increase sustainability and livability
- Engages and educates the community
- Gathers data on the existing conditions and predict future needs
National Trends in HIA

- The field of HIA is growing exponentially
  - In 2008 there were 27 completed HIAs
  - In 2016 there are 388 completed or in-progress
When is an HIA appropriate?

- Outside the health sector
- Significant health impacts that are not already being considered
- The HIA can be completed before key decisions are made
- Stakeholders will use information
- Sufficient data & resources are available
Key Points About HIA

1. HIA helps forge effective collaborations

2. HIA works in the setting of real time planning and decision-making.
   - Flexible, solutions-oriented and realistic
   - Can actually speed approval of a project/decision or assist with securing funding
Key Points About HIA

3. Requires a full consideration of health outcomes/benefits/trade-offs

4. Most HIS aren’t that expensive – primarily staff time
Types of HIAs

Rapid

Intermediate

Comprehensive
Types of HIAs

• Rapid HIAs
  – Limited time/resources are available
  – Days to weeks to complete

• Intermediate HIAs
  – Most frequent HIA approach
  – Allows more thorough investigation of health impacts and community involvement
  – Usually takes a few months to complete
Types of HIAs

- **Comprehensive HIAs**
  - Thorough assessment of potential health impacts
  - Least frequently used
  - Most useful with large or controversial projects
  - In depth public engagement and participation
  - Can take a year or more to complete
Steps in Completing an HIA

1. Screening
2. Scoping
3. Assessment
4. Recommendations
5. Reporting
6. Evaluation
Screening

- Define the policy, program, plan, or project
- Choose what type of HIA to complete
- Identify the potential health impacts
- Review screening decision with stakeholders
Scoping

- Establish boundaries for the HIA:
  - Geographical
  - Temporal
  - Population
- Identify needed resources
- Identify partners
- Describe the expected health impacts
- Gather baseline data
Assessment

1. Finalize baseline data collection of the affected populations.

2. Characterization of the anticipated health effects.

3. An evaluation of the level of confidence or certainty in the affected prediction.

Source: Health Impact Assessment: A Guide for Practice
Assessment

1. Direction
2. Magnitude
3. Impact / Severity
4. Distribution
Good Recommendations Are...

1. Responsive to predicted impacts
2. Specific and actionable
3. Experience-based and effective
4. Enforceable
5. Able to be monitored
6. Technically feasible
7. Cost-effective
8. Implementable within local laws and regulations
What Makes a Good Report?

• Provides succinct summary
• Documents the process for each step
• Discusses evidence, data sources and methods
• Provides specific recommendations
• Includes input from stakeholders
• Is accessible to multiple audiences
Types of Evaluation

1. Process evaluation
2. Impact evaluation
3. Outcome evaluation
Case Study: Buford Highway HIA

Recommendations:

- Reduce the number of lanes from 7 to 4
- Build sidewalks and add crosswalks
- Add bike lanes
- Add center median
- Change local parking requirements to allow shared parking and on-street parking
Case Study: Buford Highway HIA

We examined the following health outcomes

– Traffic
– Pollution
– Social capital
– Crime and safety
– Economic development
– Gentrification
– Injury
– Physical Activity
Case Study: Buford Highway HIA

What happened:

- They did install sidewalks, HAWK signals, and medians which took a lot of time since they had to buy the right of way from property owners.
- They installed pedestrian scale lighting, street scaping and benches.
Folsom Boulevard HIA

• WALKSacramento just recently completed an HIA on Folsom Boulevard to examine the health impacts of changing the roadway into a complete street

• The results of the analysis was incorporated into the master plan

• Sacramento County is currently looking for funding to implement the plan
Thank You

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