

Welcome participants to a two-day HIA training.

Introduce yourself.

Describe your role as the facilitator of the training.

Note that there will be faculty presenting material and answering questions.

Introduce each faculty member.

Describe how area faculty are involved with HIAs.

Housekeeping

Review the layout of the training area, pointing out restrooms, water fountains, and phone availability.

Remind participants of any requests regarding cell phones.

Review lunch plans as appropriate.

Ask if there are questions.

Getting To Know You and Your Project

1. Each team will stand up and tell us your **names** and **where you're from**.
2. Each team member will tell us one zany **fact about the community of your project**.



Facilitator:

Introduce the first activity:

Let's begin with an activity that provides a chance for you to get to know each other.

Describe the activity:

This activity will take place at your table.

Tell the people at your table your **name** and **where you are from**.

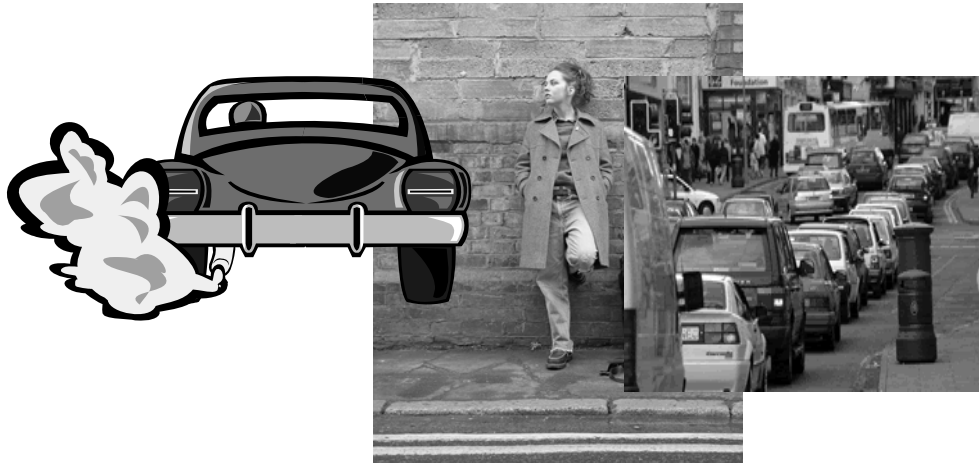
Each member of your team will stand up and tell us a zany fact about the community of your project.

Ask: Do you have any questions?

State: Begin the activity.

Introduce the presenter of the first module.

Module 1: HIA — What and Why?



Welcome to Health Impact Assessment for Healthy Places: A Guide for Planning and Public Health.

The first module is an introduction to HIA.

The goal of this module is to understand what an HIA is and the benefits and value of conducting an HIA when making decisions about policy and projects.

In Module 1 we will address the following objectives:

- Determine when and why an HIA should be used
- Identify the values that underpin an HIA
- Describe the impact of an HIA on the decision making process
- Define the role of the community
- Determine when to use or not use an HIA
- Identify the HIA steps
- Describe the relationship of an HIA to an EIA

HIA in the USA

- There was a realization that some of our health problems are the result of our built environment
- The British have a longer history of conducting HIAs and have taught us much about the process
- The world of planning and public health have much to learn from each other
- HIA is a new and emerging science in the US. YOU are helping design this field

Give a brief history of how HIA has developed in the US.

- *There was a realization that some of our health problems are the result of our built environment.*
- *The British have a longer history of conducting HIAs and have taught us much about the process.*
- *The world of planning and public health have much to learn from each other.*
- *HIA is a new and emerging science in the US. YOU are helping design this field.*

Public Health and Planning

Movements that encourage incorporating health concerns into planning

- New urbanism
- Smart growth



Some of the movements encouraging greater partnership between planning and public health.

New urbanism... smart growth.. Words that we read in the papers, hear on the news, and from the mouths of politicians. It's happening across the country and in our neighborhoods.

Public Health and Planning

Some of the elements of development linking planning and public health

- Sprawl
- Land use
- Density
- Connectivity
- Economic activity



Continue with a description of the health concerns as they relate to planning.

Elements of development that encourage incorporating health concerns into planning include:

- Sprawl*
- Land use*
- Density*
- Connectivity*
- Economic Development*

We're sitting here in this room today to be sure that as we plan our neighborhoods we take the public's health into account.

Questions we have to ask...

- What is the effect of sprawl on the physical fitness of the residents?
- What happens when you tear down low income housing for high density, high cost buildings?
- Is the health of the population affected if we connect our neighborhoods with workplaces and shopping areas?

Review the questions that we ask as we look at relationship between the built environment and health.

- *What is the effect of sprawl on the physical fitness of the residents?*
- *What happens when you tear down low income housing for high density, high cost buildings?*
- *Is the health of the population affected if we connect our neighborhoods with workplaces and shopping areas?*

Questions we have to ask...

- What are the effects on our health when we include green spaces in our neighborhoods?
- What is the effect to the health of our community if more lanes are added to a highway?



Continuation of questions from previous screen.

- *What are the effects on our health when we include green spaces in our neighborhoods?*
- *What is the effect to the health of our community if more lanes are added to a highway?*

What does this mean for us, today, and in this room?



Describe the role of the HIA.

As we work through the program during the next two days we'll determine how to assess the impact of how we plan our neighborhoods on the health of people in that community. As a tool a Health Impact Assessment or HIA can guide decisions made by planners, politicians, community leaders, and developers.

Hopefully the result will be a healthier environment for all of us.

What is a 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



Introduce HIAs.

Let's review what we mean by an HIA. Here we have a textbook definition.

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.

HIAs are increasingly popular as communities, builders, and politicians weigh the health implications of policies and projects. Whether the policy is to require mandatory physical education classes in a middle school or a project to revitalize a shopping center, there are health implications that are often ignored.

An HIA is a tool to evaluate objectively a project or policy before it is implemented so that evidence-based findings and recommendations can influence decision-making. HIAs:

- Encompass a variety of methods and tools.
- Have been performed extensively in Europe, Canada and other countries.
- Bring potential health impacts to the attention of policy-makers, particularly when they are not already recognized or are otherwise unexpected.

Possible questions to involve audience:

How many of you have participated in a HIA?

How many of you have seen the results of an HIA?

What is a HIA?

- HIA is a process
- HIA products used to summarize and communicate the results of the analysis may include:
 - Policy briefs
 - Visual presentations (slides, videos, posters, etc.)
 - Expert testimony
 - Reports (of varying length and complexity)
 - Spreadsheets and other interactive tools that decision-makers and stakeholders understand potential impacts

All supported by sound, balanced assessment of the best available evidence

Continue to explain what is meant by HIA. Emphasize that HIA is a process, not a product.

The results of this process can be summarized and communicated with various products including:

- *Policy briefs*
- *Visual presentations (slides, videos, posters, etc.)*
- *Expert testimony*
- *Reports (of varying length and complexity)*
- *Spreadsheets and other interactive tools that decision-makers and stakeholders understand potential impacts*

Different products will be appropriate to different situations, depending on the time and resources available, technical feasibility, the information needs of decision-makers and stakeholders, and the politics surrounding the decision. Regardless of the approach or the end product, it is essential that the analysis is supported by sound, balanced assessment of the best available evidence.

How Can You Use an HIA?

You can use an 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.



Describe the purpose of an HIA.

You can use an 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.

It also means that the people performing the HIA need to be aware of the politics that decision-makers have to contend with.

When is it appropriate to conduct an HIA?

- As early as practical in decision making process
- Ideally when decision makers ask for an HIA
- After sufficient details about the project or policy are defined
- When conducting ongoing work with decision makers and planners
- When new or unfamiliar information provided by an HIA has the potential to affect decisions
- When an HIA is required

Review the bullet points.

The best timing for an HIA is

- *As early as practical in decision making process*
- *Ideally when decision makers ask for an HIA*
- *After sufficient details about the project or policy are defined*
- *When conducting ongoing work with decision makers and planners*
- *When new or unfamiliar information provided by an HIA has the potential to affect decisions.*

When is an HIA is required?

HIA is of little value when everyone is already familiar with the information provided by the HIA and when decision-makers and stakeholders are not open to reconsidering plans.

Ask: Think of a project or policy that you believe would have been better executed if there had been an HIA. When should an HIA have been initiated and who should have initiated the process?

Allow time for response and conversation.

An HIA in Practice

Let's look at an example to see how an HIA works in the real world.



Introduce examples.

As we proceed through this module, keep this example in mind. These are examples and are not the only ways to do an HIA, but HIAs do have some common trends that we'll explore.



What Happened in One Neighborhood...



A city plans to develop a run-down neighborhood. It will involve demolishing 3 blocks of dilapidated retail shops, an aging supermarket, and 200 low income housing units.



HIA Findings

- Many low income people would be displaced.

Impact the HIA had on development

- Development plans were formulated to include low income housing.

Review the example on the slide.

Ask:

Who are the stakeholders for this HIA?

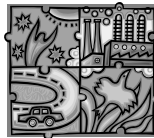
What type of HIA do you think was done?

- rapid versus comprehensive
- qualitative, quantitative or both

What problems do you think they encountered in conducting the HIA?

Let's explore HIAs in more detail...

- What are the underlying values of an HIA?
- What impact do HIAs have?
- What is the role of the community in the process?
- How does an HIA compare to an EIA?



Explore HIAs in a more detail.

- *What are the underlying values of an HIA?*
- *What impact do HIAs have?*
- *What is the role of the community in the process?*
- *How does an HIA compare to an EIA?*

What Values Underpin an HIA?

- Democracy
- Equity
- Sustainable development
- Scientific and robust practice
- Holistic approach to health

Source: National Institutes for Health and Clinical Excellence



Describe the values that underpin an HIA.

As you begin to learn more about an HIA, remember that there are core values at the heart of each HIA.

Democracy - the right of people to participate in the formulation of policies that affect their life, both directly and through elected decision-makers. This means that the community plays a major role in HIA process.

Equity - the reduction of inequity that results from avoidable and unjust differences in health status between different people. An HIA assesses the distribution of impacts from a proposed policy or project with a particular reference to how the proposed policy or project will affect vulnerable people (in terms of age, gender, ethnic background, and socio-economic status).

Sustainable development - emphasizing that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Scientific and robust practice - emphasizing that transparent, systematic and impartial processes are used, which utilize the best available evidence from different scientific disciplines and methodologies.

Holistic approach to health - health is determined by a broad range of factors from all sectors of society.

Source: National Institutes for Health and Clinical Excellence

What are the benefits of including the community in an HIA?

- Increases buy-in
- Helps identify social issues as well as health issues
- Address community concerns
- Builds community capacity



Review the benefits of an HIA.

Increases buy-in

Helps identify social issues as well as health issues

Address community concerns

Builds community capacity

As we saw in the previous slide, democracy, and therefore community plays a major role in a successful HIA. Much of the work of an HIA is grounded in community organizing. Because the community should be part of the oversight of the HIA process, it is critical to have representatives of the community involved throughout the process.

Example: For instance the owner of a deteriorating strip mall wants to revitalize the area by building a four story building with shops on the street level and offices and apartments above. When the plans were presented to the city council for approval, the community was there, in force, protesting the design of the project. They saw high rises and density coming to their neighborhood and they were not happy.

By including the community at the beginning of the HIA the project plan could have addressed some of the community concerns and help avoid problems.

In this scenario, the HIA is used by local public health agencies to advance land use planning with a close partnership with community organizations.

The primary goal of such partnerships are building community capacity and increasing efficacy.

What are the challenges of including the community in an HIA?

- Including community may substantially add to time and resources needed to conduct an HIA
- At times, lay and expert knowledge may come into conflict
- It may be difficult to identify and engage all stakeholders in a timely manner



Review the challenges of conducting an HIA.

- *Including community may substantially add to time and resources needed to conduct an HIA*
- *At times, lay and expert knowledge may come into conflict*
- *It may be difficult to identify and engage all stakeholders in a timely manner*

It's always a good idea to include community, but it is not without headaches. There's nothing like a land use issue to bring a community to its feet.

Involving the community requires more time and resources. It also invites conflict as lay and expert knowledge come into conflict.

Ask:

What are some ways to approach the community and request involvement?

What successes or challenges have you had while working with the community?

How have you organized a community effort? What made your effort a success or a challenge?

1969 National Environmental Policy Act Requires An EIA

- The purpose of NEPA is to protect the “human environment” and “stimulate the health and welfare of man” (NEPA, 1979, sec. 2)



1969 National Environmental Policy Act Requires An EIA

Under NEPA, A federal Agency must:

- Evaluate the potential environmental consequences of their proposals
- Consider alternatives to their proposed action
- Document their analysis
- Make their analysis available to the public for comment prior to implementation

State-level Versions of NEPA Like CEQA in California Require EIA as Well

In California, a public agency must:

- Analyze all potential adverse environmental consequences of discretionary decisions including cumulative and indirect effects
- Consider alternatives and mitigations
- Support analysis with evidence
- Respond to public comment prior to implementation
- Document findings



“Environmental Effects” under NEPA includes Health and Health Relevant Effects

- Effects are Ecological, Aesthetic, Historical, Cultural, Economic, Social, or effects on Health
- Effects include the relationship of people with the environment, including environmental justice issues
- Effects are direct and indirect
- Effects can be cumulative resulting “... from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.”

Health Effects Analysis is also required under CEQA

- (a) A lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment and thereby require an EIR to be prepared for the project where there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record, that any of the following conditions may occur:
- (4) The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15065



EIA understands the need to consider Indirect and Complex Causal Pathways

- Where a physical change is caused by economic or social effects of a project, the physical change may be regarded as a significant effect in the same manner as any other physical change resulting from the project.
- If the physical change causes adverse economic or social effects on people, those adverse effects may be used as a factor in determining whether the physical change is significant.



CEQA Guidelines section 15064

Social Impact Assessment Practice Exists Under NEPA

- NEPA recognizes of inter-dependence of social and physical effects
- Some federal agencies have promoted integrated analysis
- Federal Guidance exists for Social Impact Assessment under NEPA
- FHWA has guidance for Community Impact Assessment under NEPA

Many reasons explain the absence of Health Analysis in EIA

- Environmentalist Roots
- EIA focus on the physical environment
- Public Health focus on individuals
- No Mandates, standards, or guidance (in contrast to effects on air quality, endangered species, vehicle traffic flow, etc.)
- No development of analytic tools



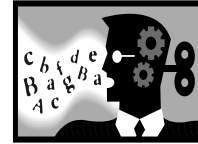
Bringing Health to EIA: Opportunities for involvement

- Assisting in the development of health-related sections of an EIA as a “Cooperating Agency”
- Participating in public review of an EIA during scoping and review of draft EIAs
- Providing technical support to other agencies and stakeholder groups involved in the preparation and review of an EIA



Historical Problems with EIA

- “Boilerplate” analysis
- Not context specific
- Mirrors established regulations
- Focus on adverse effects
- No assessment of trade-offs
- Happens too late to affect design
- Funded by decision proponent
- “Reactive” public involvement



Putting Health in EIA: Some Next Steps

- Identify key pathways between environmental effects and health effects relevant for EIA
- Develop and apply new methods for exposure analysis and health effects forecasting using inter-disciplinary methods
- Develop qualitative research methods
- Identify routine data sources
- Engage the “community” in research
- Work towards better guidance and standards

Yes...HIAs have an impact

- Influence decision-makers
- Highlight potential health impacts
- Assess how proposals will affect community members and specified at risk subpopulations
- Facilitate collaboration and public participation in decision-making
- Promote sustainable development
- Encourage appreciation of public health in the decision making process.
- Raise awareness of how the built environment affects health.



Transition from the previous discussion:

As you can see by this conversation, HIAs can have an impact. The impact can take different forms:

- *Influence decision-makers* by bringing a broad understanding of health and a wide range of evidence to the table
- *Highlight potentially significant health impacts* that are unknown, unrecognized, or unexpected
- *Assess how proposals will affect community members and specified at risk subpopulations.*
- *Facilitate collaboration and public participation in decision-making*
- *Promote sustainable development*, considering short and long-term impacts
- *Encourage a greater appreciation of public health in the decision making process*
- *Raise awareness of health issues with regard to the built environment.*

However, there are times HIAs do not have an influence on the decisions that are made. Health is often put on the back burner for reasons such as money, time and political will.

Steps in Completing an HIA include:

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

Transition:

We're at the end of the presentation portion of this module. We're going to go into detail with each of the steps in completing an HIA.

The five steps of the HIA process include:

- *Screening* - identify a project or policy for which an HIA would be useful
- *Scoping* - identify which health impact(s) should be included
- *Assessment* – identify which people may be affected and assess how their health may be affected
- *Reporting* - create reports suitable in length and depth for the various target audiences
- *Evaluation* - document the process of the HIA, the impact the HIA had on the decisions that were made on the project/ policy and how the policy or program impacted the health of the community

TABLE ACTIVITY: What Do You Expect from this HIA training?



Introduce activity

Materials: Flip chart and markers for each table.

State the purpose:

We've reviewed some of the key points about an HIA. Now we'd like to hear from you. Why did you come to this training? What are your expectations of the HIA training?

You have seven minutes to create your list at your table.

Ask each table:

Select a scribe to note comments on the flip chart.

Direct participants:

Go around the table and have each person answer the question:

What do you expect from the HIA training?

Summarize responses by table to the large group.

Ask participants to direct questions to the area facilitators in the room.