Health Impact Assessment
Quick Start Resource

This resource is intended to provide key references and information for planning and implementing Health Impact Assessments. Nonfederal Web site addresses are provided for informational purposes only, and this listing is not exhaustive nor does it imply CDC endorsement of these programs.

What is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

- Defined as “a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged in terms of its potential effects on the population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.”
  This consensus paper clarifies key HIA concepts.
- Used to objectively evaluate a project, program, or policy before it is implemented so that evidence-based findings and recommendations can influence decision-making
- Encompasses a variety of methods (e.g., quantitative and qualitative) and sources of information (e.g., community input, data collection, or expert opinion)

What are the benefits of conducting an HIA?

- Brings health impacts of a project, program, or policy to the attention of decision makers
- Informs policy decisions based on a valid assessment of potential health impacts
- Helps identify potential changes to a proposed policy or program in order to minimize negative and maximize positive health impacts
- Encourages intersectoral collaboration and community participation in policy- and decision-making processes
- Can highlight differential effects on population subgroups, such as children, the elderly, and ethnic minorities

What are the major steps in conducting an HIA?

- **Screening** (identify project or policies for which an HIA would be useful)
- **Scoping** (identify which health effects to consider)
- **Assessing** (identify which people may be affected and how they may be affected)
- **Reporting** (provide results to decision makers and other stakeholders)
- **Evaluating** (determine the effect of the HIA on the decision-making process)

What HIAs have been conducted in the United States?

- **University of California, Los Angeles:**
  http://www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/health-impact/
  This comprehensive site includes an overview of HIA, policy reports, and information on HIA training.
- **San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH):**
  http://www.sfdph.org/phes/publications/PHES_publications.htm
  This site provides HIA publications on SFDPH projects and links to other HIA resources.
- **The Medical Legal Partnership for Children:**
  http://www.mlpforchildren.org/chia.aspx
  This site provides examples of HIAs focusing on the relationship between public policy and child health.
How is the HIA approach evaluated?

- Evaluating Health Impact Assessment
  
  http://www.iaia.org/Non_Members/Pubs_Ref_Material/Evaluating%20HIA%20pdf.pdf
  
  This article discusses both process and impact evaluation of HIAs and provides overall evaluation guidelines and citations for general texts on evaluation.

- Evaluation as a key part of health impact assessment: the English experience
  
  http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/81/6/quigley.pdf
  
  This article provides examples of HIA evaluation in England.

- Other publications:
  

Where can I go for information about HIA?

- World Health Organization:
  
  http://www.who.int/hia/en
  
  This site provides general information on HIA, tools and methods to do HIA, links to other resources, and examples of completed HIAs.

- HIA Gateway:
  
  http://www.hiagateway.org.uk
  
  This site provides general information on HIA, resources to complete HIAs, networking opportunities, completed HIAs, and information on HIA training.

- International Health Impact Assessment Consortium:
  
  http://www.ihia.org.uk
  
  This site provides general information on HIA, various publications and reports related to HIA, and information on HIA training.

- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO):
  
  http://www.naccho.org/topics/hpdp/land_use_planning/LUP_HealthImpactAssessment.cfm
  
  This site contains links to several resources, HIA examples, and information on HIA training.

Other Related Publications


