

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.”
<http://www.euro.who.int/document/PAE/Gothenburgpaper.pdf> (1999)
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 affect 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.mlpcforchildren.org/chia.aspx>
This site provides examples of HIAs focusing on the relationship between public policy and child health.

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For more information, email: nccddnpapata@cdc.gov



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:**
 - Parry, J. M. and J. R. Kemm (2005). "Criteria for use in the evaluation of health impact assessments." *Public Health* **119**(12): 1122-9.
 - Quigley, R. J. and L. C. Taylor (2004). "Evaluating health impact assessment." *Public Health* **118**(8): 544-52.

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

- Scott-Samuel, A., M. Birley, K. Ardern. (2001). "The Merseyside Guidelines for Health Impact Assessment." Second Edition. Liverpool, International Health IMPACT Assessment Consortium.
- Mindell, J., E. Ison, M. Joffe (2003). "A glossary for health impact assessment." *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* **57**(9): 647-51.
- Kemm, J., J. Parry, S. Palmer, Eds. (2004). *Health impact assessment: concepts, theory, techniques, and applications*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Dannenberg, A. L., R. Bhatia, B. L. Cole, et al. (2006). "Growing the field of health impact assessment in the United States: an agenda for research and practice." *American Journal of Public Health* **96**(2): 262-70.
- Mindell, J., A. Boaz, M. Joffe, et al. (2004). "Enhancing the evidence base for health impact assessment." *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* **58**(7): 546-51.
- Cole, B. L., M. Wihelm, P. V. Long, et al. (2004). "Prospects for health impact assessment in the United States: new and improved environmental impact assessment or something different?" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law* **29**(6): 1153-86.
- Mindell, J., A. Hansell, D. Morrison, et al. (2001). "What do we need for robust, quantitative health impact assessment?" *Journal of Public Health Medicine* **23**(3): 173-8.

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