

Evaluating Health Impacts with HIA

1. What is HIA? Another form of assessment
2. HIA explained: Current practice, theory, and emerging concerns
3. HIA tools
4. Lowry Avenue case

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HIA? What It Is

- "A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program 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"

World Health Organization, Gothenburg Consensus Paper, 1999

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- Emerged in the 1980s and 1990s in multiple locations
 - Large scale infrastructure projects in developing countries
 - Healthy public policies movement in Canada and Central/Eastern Europe
- Strong influence from EIA
- Centers of activity in Europe, Canada, and Australasia
- Aim to improve decision making, increase participation
- Very diverse in terms of topics addressed, evidence used, organizational framework

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HIA? Many Determinants of Health

Causes of health include

- Biology
- Individual behavior
- Social and economic contexts
- Access to various services, and
- The environment

- HIAs tend to deal with the lower end of the list / outer part of the diagram

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<http://www.rotherhamcpt.nhs.uk/hia/determin.gif>

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HIA Explained: Typical Steps

Steps in HIA Process	HIA Formats (may be used alone or in combination)
1. Screening	• Screening
2. Scoping	• Scoping
3. Impact assessment	• Desktop or mini HIA
	• Rapid assessment or appraisal
	• Intermediate
	• Full
	• Integrated HIA
4. Reporting	
5. Evaluation and monitoring	

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HIA Explained: When in a Process to Do it


Typical Policy Process	Possible HIA Input
1. Set Broad Goals/ Determine Needs	Rapid HIA for public input on broad topic and/or technical screening + scoping
2. Collect Data	Rapid/participatory HIA to get local knowledge, technical health data
3. Analyze Data	Technical HIA analysis tools (e.g. statistical, GIS), assess against thresholds
4. Draft Proposal	Prospective HIA: Preliminary, rapid, or full HIA for technical and/or participatory review
5. Refine Proposal	
6. Implement	Retrospective HIA to evaluate implemented plan, policy, or program and prepare for update
7. Evaluate, Monitor, and Update	

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HIA Explained: Current Practice

- Has a lot in common with EIA, sustainability assessments, social impact assessment
- To date HIA primary focus assessing social programs and facilities (e.g. hospital redevelopment, home winterization)
- Dannenberg et al. (2007) document 27 completed HIAs in US:
 - most of policies or programs (e.g. Farm Bill) or developments (e.g. senior housing)
 - Only eight at a planning scale



HIA Training

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HIA Explained: Kinds of Questions

- HIAs may emphasize different concerns
 - Approach—very quantitative vs. mixed vs. very participatory
 - Topics (one or more)
 - Significance, equity, cost-effectiveness...
- Examples:
 - What are the health effects of closing a street to motorized traffic? (general assessment)
 - What is the most cost effective way of giving an underserved community access to healthy food? (cost-effectiveness)
 - How would cut-backs in park programming affect the health of different age, gender, and ethnic groups? (equity)
 - Are there substantial health benefits from stormwater management programs? (significance)

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Draws on: http://www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/health-impact/training/pdfs/Intro_to_HIA_04132007.pdf

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HIA: Off the Shelf Tools

- Wide general practice, particularly in rapid assessment with much advice on this type – less planning-specific
- 4 complete “kits” in the U.S. for use by others
- Remaining applications are one-off
- Other resources available internationally

HIA Tools

- San Francisco Healthy Development Measurement Tool
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND)
- Sustainable Sites Initiative
- Design for Health HIA Suite

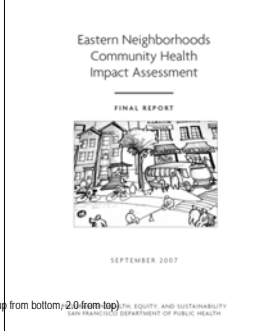
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SF Healthy Development Measurement Tool

San Francisco Healthy Development Measurement Tool

- Created by SF Department of Health
- Respond to health impacts of development in eastern neighborhoods – social focus
- Launched widely in 2007
- Reviewed by agencies and technical experts
- Focus on project review
- <http://www.thehdmt.org/>



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SF Healthy Development Measurement Tool

- 6 elements, 28 objectives, 125 benchmarks

- Environmental stewardship (e.g. per capita water use, buildings with green roofs, outdoor noise levels)
- Sustainable and safe transportation (e.g. vehicle collisions, transit frequency and access, bicycle commuting)
- Social cohesion (e.g. crime, perceived safety, voting rates, active neighborhood watch groups)
- Public infrastructure/access to goods and services (e.g. childcare costs, graduation rates, public funding for arts)
- Adequate and healthy housing (e.g. eviction rates, residential densities, household income)
- Healthy economy (e.g. income inequality, works with access to sick days, locally owned businesses)

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SF Healthy Development Measurement Tool

- Online tool includes maps, data, and regulations specific to SF
- Checklist version with queries yes/no/insufficient info
- Citations support relationships between health and built environment, but not thresholds

Social Cohesion		Yes	No	Insufficient Info
SC.3.f	Benchmark #1: Did decision-makers provide written explanation of why or why not each public comment was included or not included in the final policy, project or plan? AND Benchmark #2: If the project is commercial greater than 50,000 square feet or residential greater than 50 units, were representatives of four or more city agencies (such as departments of parks and recreation, transportation, schools, public health, public works, mayor's office, housing, etc) present at community meetings to hear community concerns voiced in the planning process?			
ST.3.g	Benchmark: Did project developers create and implement ongoing communication methods to share project status updates and solicit additional input into the planning and construction process through 3 or more of the following: email trees, newsletters, press releases, project update presentations, web pages, email chat rooms, distributed minutes of meetings, photo journals, or teleconferences?			
SC.3.h	Benchmark: Was there a community benefits agreement, impact fee or other legally binding financial contribution created by which the existing community will receive financial or infrastructure benefits from new development as compensation for increased demand for services/on infrastructure?			
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHECKS IN EACH COLUMN				

HIA Lowry Ave

- HIA of 16 block long reconstruction/redevelopment area carried out by Hennepin County
- Completed later in project timetable by County staff
- Steps:
 1. Screening (like Preliminary Checklist)
 2. Scoping (to focus)
 3. Assessment
 4. Communicating results (19 page report)
 5. Evaluating HIA impact
- Used mapping, demographic data, SHAPE health survey

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Table 2: Scoping Checklist

Question	Yes	Impact Description
Is the magnitude of the proposed construction project significant?	Yes	This is a large scale Community Works project for Hennepin County. It is a significant financial project (approximately \$23 million) and is more comprehensive than typical roadway construction because it includes redevelopment planning.
Are there significant potential health impacts of the project?	Maybe	There is not a direct significant health impact from the roadway construction; however, potentially significant health benefits could be gained if it is paired with redevelopment that fosters community building, as well as a health awareness and education campaign.
What is the level of political interest in this project?	High	Minneapolis Mayor, RT Rybek, has made North Minneapolis a priority, this corridor is a significant capital improvement project for Hennepin County, and has high level county support.
Are there other political considerations?	Yes	Redevelopment potentially creates other political considerations at the city staff and council member levels, and Hennepin County administration priorities include increased high school graduation rates and lower teen birth rates.
What is the level of public interest?	High	High for neighborhood organizations, residents, elected officials and staff.
Are there funds available for HIA?	No	\$10,000 was received in NACCHO grant funds for this HIA pilot project.

HIA Lowry Ave: Assessment

- Assessment looked at social/cultural, economic, environmental, population, and individual factors (determinants of health)
- Determined:
 1. Direction of the impact (positive or negative)
 2. Level of impact (low, medium or high)
 3. Likelihood of the impact occurring....
 4. Whether or not the impacts might be felt by a particular group in the community
 5. What indicators should be measured and potentially monitored" (included specific data sources)
- Most effects were positive

Categories of health determinants	Specific health determinants	Impacts: + Pos. - Neg.	Severity of Impact: Low, Medium or High	Likelihood of Impact	Differential Impacts on particular Group(s)?	Measurable Indicators of Health Determinants Numbered at Left (Quantitative or Qualitative)
Environmental Factors	1. Storm water runoff will be of improved quality 2. Improved Right Of Way (ROW) design increases green space, boulevards, sidewalks, bike lanes and transit facilities	+ +	H H	Probable Probable	No No	1. Existing research demonstrates this. 2. Before and after inventory of corridor infrastructure

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HIA Lowry Ave: Implementation Excerpts

Health Impact: Population-based Factors and Services	Health Determinant: Improved roadway design increases access to amenities and public transportation	Recommendation	Coordinating Entity (ies)
Encourage healthy food outlets and discourage unhealthy food/tobacco/alcohol outlets.	Hennepin County Public Health Promotion	Locate unused public space for community gardens and/or a local farmer's market.	Hennepin County Public Health Promotion
Design a colorful, graphically designed way-finding map that clearly and creatively shows community assets and amenities, as well as transit routes.	Hennepin County HCWV	Identify walking route(s) and collaborate with Minneapolis Artist in Residence to develop signage markers to mark the routes and denotes steps, etc.	Hennepin County Public Health Promotion
Dedicate Hennepin County public health staff to write grant for a Minnesota artist to partner with neighborhood associations and schools to develop traffic calming artwork.	Hennepin County Public Health Promotion		

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HIA Lowry Ave: Recommendations

- Key "themes" from HIA report:
 - 1.) *Social connections* could be improved through making Phase 2 of Lowry Avenue more aesthetically pleasing" (e.g. via art, neighborhood markers, landscaping).
 - 2.) *Stabilization of the neighborhoods* can be achieved through improving transit, upgrading businesses and eventually realizing increased home values."
 - 3.) *Improved Right of way design* improves physical safety of pedestrians and bicyclists...."
 - 4.) *Physical activity* is encouraged through improvements to pedestrian facilities and the addition of community based programs." (p. 3)
- Detailed implementation grid with responsible agencies
- Full report available at:
<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=60512>

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