Health Impact Assessment: A tool for considering and integrating health in public housing decision-making
The Health Impact Project
A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts

A national initiative designed to improve health by promoting and supporting the use of health impact assessments as a decision-making tool.
America Is Not Getting Good Value for Its Health Dollar

The U.S. spends more money per person on health than any other country, but our lives are shorter—by nearly four years—than expected based on health expenditures.
Where You Live Matters
Health Outcomes

Length of Life 50%

Quality of Life 50%

Health Behaviors (30%)
- Tobacco Use
- Diet & Exercise
- Alcohol & Drug Use
- Sexual Activity

Clinical Care (20%)
- Access to Care
- Quality of Care

Social and Economic Factors (40%)

Physical Environment (10%)
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Family & Social Support
- Community Safety
- Air & Water Quality
- Housing & Transit

Source: County Health Rankings, www.countyhealthrankings.org
So many daily policy decisions made outside of the health sector have significant health implications that go unrecognized.
A structured process that uses scientific data, professional expertise, and stakeholder input to identify and evaluate public health consequences of proposals and suggests actions that could be taken to minimize adverse health impacts and optimize beneficial ones.

Source: “Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessments” by the National Research Council, September 2011
HIA Addresses Social Determinants of Health

How might the proposed project, plan, policy affect

Housing
Air quality
Noise
Safety
Social networks
Nutrition
Parks and natural space
Private goods and services
Public services
Transportation
Livelihood
Water quality
Education
Inequities

and potentially lead to predicted health outcomes?

Slide courtesy of Human Impact Partners (www.humanimpact.org)
Key Points about HIA

- Conducted to inform a specific decision
- Broad analytic framework
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Pragmatic and focused on solutions
- Addresses health equity
HIA Can Be Applied to a Range of Sectors

- Built Environment: 34%
- Transportation: 21%
- Natural Resources & Energy: 14%
- Agriculture & Food: 9%
- Housing: 7%
- Education: 5%
- Labor & Employment: 4%
- Other: 6%
Completed HIAs, 2007 (N = 27)

- CA: 15
- AK: 3
- CO: 1
- MN: 1
- MA: 2
- GA: 3
- FL: 1
- NJ: 1
Completed HIAs, 2009 (N=54)

Health Impact Project Founded

CA 25
OR 2
WA 4
AK 3
CO 2
MT 1
MN 5
MI 1
GA 4
FL 1
OH 1
PA 1
MA 2
NJ 1
MD 1
WA 4
 méxico
Completed and In Progress HIAs
2015 (N = 345)

Federal HIAs:
- ME: 2
- NY: 2
- AZ: 6
- Puerto Rico: 1
- NV: 1
- CA: 69
- CO: 13
- MT: 2
- MN: 21

Maps created through a partnership between Health Impact Project and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Healthy Community Design Initiative.
Steps of HIA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Recommendations
- Reporting
- Monitoring and Evaluation
Examples: Using HIA to Inform Public Housing Redevelopment

- Choice Neighborhoods transformation plan for McIntosh Homes in Albany, GA (2012)
- Coffelt-Lamoreaux public housing redevelopment HIA in Phoenix, AZ (2013)
- HIA to inform the replacement of public housing destroyed by Hurricane Ike in Galveston, TX (2014)
Example: Using HIA to Inform Specific Housing Authority Policies

- HIA of the San Francisco Housing Authority’s policy on flooring options (2002)

Photo Sources: www.flooring.org and www.flooring-professionals.com
Example: Using HIA to Inform Federal Public Housing Policy

- HIA of designated housing rulemaking at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2015)
The Value of Considering Health in Housing Decisions

Build community and decision-maker buy-in

Leverage partnership opportunities

Reduce unit turnover and the substantial associated costs
Question Break!
Basic Yes/No Screening Questions

1. Is there a **DECISION** regarding a policy, plan, or project, **CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION** that is likely to impact health? Will some **POPULATIONS** face greater harms or benefit more than others?

2. Is health (broadly defined) **ALREADY A FOCUS** of the project, program, plan, or policy? Would the HIA bring **NEW INFORMATION** to the decision-making process?

3. Is there an **OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM** the decision-making process?

4. **WHO** will the HIA inform? Who are the key decision-makers and stakeholders?

5. Are **RESOURCES** available to conduct the HIA?
Screening Exercise
How to Get Started

• Review available online tools
• Reach out to national HIA experts and organizations that support HIA practitioners
• Attend a training on how to conduct an HIA
How to Get Started (continued)

• Identify a housing decision where HIA could add valuable health information
• Use existing data sources to examine the project’s potential connections to health
• Identify a local health practitioner to partner with
Health Impact Project Resources

www.healthimpactproject.org
### Other HIA Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Website/Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Impact Project</td>
<td><a href="http://www.healthimpactproject.org">www.healthimpactproject.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Places</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center (HIA-CLIC)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hiaguide.org">http://www.hiaguide.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Planning Association: Online HIA Training</td>
<td><a href="http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx">http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Thank you!

Contact: rlinberg@pewtrusts.org or Marjory.Givens@match.wisc.edu