

Health in All Policies

Issue

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach that emphasizes consideration of the public's health and well-being in policy decisions across all sectors. It provides a lever for governments to address the key determinants of health through a systematic approach.¹

HiAP is based on the recognition that population health is largely determined by living conditions and other societal and economic factors (also known as the social determinants of health) and therefore influenced by policies and actions beyond the primary scope of the health care sector.²

Why this is important for Oregon

The state's most challenging health problems, including obesity, chronic diseases, and widening health inequities, are driven by such things as the built environment; transportation options; access to food; and educational and economic opportunities. In order to address these complex problems and improve the public's health, it is necessary to ensure that all policies in all sectors promote health.



Health in All Policies approaches that work

Integrate health considerations into non-health decision-making processes

Use health impact assessments (HIAs) to determine the potential health and health equity impacts of a proposed policy or program and provide recommendations on how to minimize negative health outcomes and promote positive health outcomes.

Promote specific policies outside the traditional health sector

Develop transportation policies that promote active transportation; school policies that increase physical activity during the school day.

Develop policies based on the success of other states

Create a multidisciplinary task force to recommend priority programs, strategies and policies to improve the health of Oregonians. In 2010, California formed a Health in All Policies Task Force of 19 state agencies and wrote a report that identifies shared health goals.

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division aims to implement HiAP by:

- Building the knowledge and evidence base of effective policy options and strategies;
- Assessing health consequences of options within the policy development process;
- Creating regular opportunities for dialogue and problem solving with other sectors;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of cross-sector work and integrated policy making;
- Building staff capacity for cross-sector policy conversations.

¹ Kickbusch, I., Buckett, K. (Eds.). *Implementing Health in All Policies: Adelaide 2010*. Rundle Mall, South Australia: Department of Health, Government of South Australia. 2010.

² World Health Organization. *Closing the gap in a generation. Health equity through action on the social determinants of health*. Geneva: WHO. 2008.



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Health
Authority

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
971-673-1222 Local
971-673-1299 Fax

<http://public.health.oregon.gov>

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