Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
9:30-11:00 a.m.

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Jennifer Lucky Human Impact Partners
Steve White Oregon Public Health Institute
Mac Gillespie Benton County Health Department
Agenda

9:30  Welcome
9:40  Introduction to HIA
9:50  Case Study 1: *Portland to Lake Oswego Transit*
10:00 Q & A
10:10 The Steps of HIA
10:30 Case Study 2: *Accessory Dwelling Units*
10:40 Q & A; Discussion
10:50 HIA Resources; Evaluation

*Oregon Health Authority*
Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
Incorporating Health into Decision-Making

The world would look different

Development  Farm Policy  Incarceration

Immigration  Ports  Education

[Images of a suburban area, a vineyard, a prison, the Statue of Liberty, a port, and a school sign]
Why Health?

Limitations to economics-based decision-making
Externalities
Disparities
Money is not the same as happiness

A health frame can be persuasive
People understand health personally
Health is an indicator of quality of life and well-being
Health is a shared value
People are morally outraged by health inequities
Health Impact Assessment
A combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.

International Association for Impact Assessment, 2006
HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy affect

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

and lead to health outcomes
HIA Purpose

Primary
Judge health effects of a proposed project, plan or policy
Highlight health disparities
Provide recommendations
Shape public decisions & discourse
Make health impacts more explicit

Secondary
Engage & empower community
Emphasize everyday experience
Build consensus
Build relationships & collaborations
A Brief History of HIA

1969
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires study of environmental & health effects (however, health impacts have not been adequately addressed in EIA)

1980s
WHO encourages Health Promotion/Healthy Public Policy in 1986 Ottawa Charter

1990s
England, Acheson Report recommends analysis of impacts of policy on health inequities
WHO publishes Gothenburg Consensus Paper on HIA
First HIA in US (SFDPH, Living Wage)

2000s
World Bank requires HIA of all large projects
HIA on proposed Alaska North Slope Oil Lease

2010s
HIA used around the world and, recently, across the U.S.
North American HIA Practice Standards Released

HIA continues to gain momentum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>Determines the need and value of a HIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a workplan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Provides:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) a profile of existing health conditions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2) evaluation of potential health impacts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3) strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Includes:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) development of the HIA report</td>
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<td>2) communication of findings &amp; recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Tracks:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) impacts on decision-making processes and the decision</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) impacts of the decision on health determinants</td>
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## HIA Topics

HIA can evaluate many types of projects, plans, policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development projects</th>
<th>Housing developments, mixed-use retail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation plans</td>
<td>New transit stations, roadway expansions, new rail lines</td>
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<td>Comprehensive or specific area plans</td>
<td>Guides for future development</td>
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<tr>
<td>City, state, or national policies</td>
<td>Labor, education, incarceration, immigration</td>
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</table>
Three Scenarios

1. No Build
2. Enhanced Bus
3. Streetcar
   - Various design options
Case Study:
Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Study

Enhanced Transit
• Level of Service

- Noise
- Income

Opportunities for Physical Activity

Air Quality

Traffic Safety

Access to Health-Supportive Resources

SCOPING
Case Study: Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Study

1. Existing conditions
2. Scenario components
   - Enhanced transit service
   - Additional infrastructure
3. Exposure-response relationship
   - Direction
   - Magnitude
   - Likelihood
4. Results
5. Recommendations

ASSESSMENT

Changes in health determinants
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Air quality
- Exposure to traffic accidents
- Access to health supportive resources

Enhanced Transit Level of Service

Corridor Region
Case Study: Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Study

Key Feature:
Focused on process
• develop interest and capacity in partner organization (Metro)
  • Brown bags
  • Project team
• Concern over methodology and its validity
• Address concerns about conducting HIA in conjunction with DEIS
Case Study: Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Study

Current status:
• reporting and dissemination

Key issues/lessons learned (so far):
• HIA vs. C-B analysis
• Significant overlap between positive health outcomes and alternative transportation.
• (Lack of) control over timeline
Questions?
The HIA Process

- Screening
  - Scoping
  - Assessment
  - Reporting
  - Monitoring
Step 1: Screening

Objective
To decide whether a HIA is feasible, timely, and would add value to the decision-making process.
When is a HIA carried out?

The purpose of HIA is to inform decision-makers before they make decisions.

A HIA is most often carried out prospectively - before the decision is made or the policy is implemented.

HIA is used to assess a defined project, plan or policy.
The HIA Process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Monitoring
Objective
To create a plan and timeline for conducting a HIA that defines priority issues, research questions and methods, and participant roles.
HIAs can vary greatly in scope. How will available resources impact the scope?

- Review of available reports
- Literature review
- Analysis and mapping of existing data from the census, public agencies, etc.
- Expert opinion
- Application of quantitative forecasting methods using existing studies
- Interviews or focus groups
- New quantitative data collection and analysis
A Pathway Diagram demonstrates the links between health determinants and outcomes.

- Rents on formerly affordable housing increased to market rate → ↑ Rent & housing insecurity → ↓ Disposable income → ↑ Moving to cheaper, sub-standard housing → ↑ Exposure to: Waste/sewage Mold/mildew Damp/cold → ↑ Respiratory disease/asthma ↑ Injuries ↑ Lead poisoning → ↑ Stress/poor mental health ↑ Hunger ↓ Healthcare → ↑ Infectious disease ↑ Noise & inability to concentrate ↑ Stress → ↑ Sharing housing → ↑ Overcrowding → ↓ Resources for food, child care, and health care
## Example Scoping Questions

For each health issue of concern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Conditions</td>
<td>What do we know about existing conditions, potential health impacts, and vulnerable populations?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Populations</td>
<td>What are specific populations (age, gender, race, income, place) that will be impacted by this project/policy proposal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Questions</td>
<td>What research questions do we want to answer?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What are your goals for this HIA?
The HIA Process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Monitoring
Step 3: Assessment

Objective
To provide a profile of existing conditions data, an evaluation of potential health impacts, and evidence-based recommendations to mitigate negative and maximize positive health impacts.

Tasks
Key points
Tools
Resources
Empirical Literature Review

Peer-reviewed research
Pubmed

Systematic reviews
Campbell Collection

Grey literature
non-peer reviewed reports

Children living within 500 ft of a freeway have reduced lung capacity.
Noise above 60dB increases the risk of heart attack.
Those earning $15,000 annually are 3x more likely to die prematurely than those earning $70,000.
Indicator Data Sources

United States Census Bureau, American Fact Finder
Population data on demographics, social and economic characteristics, at state, county, city, zip code, census tract, block group, and block level

Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
The world’s largest, on-going telephone health survey system, tracking health conditions and risk behaviors in the U.S.; data are collected monthly

Public Agencies
Health, transportation, environment, planning

See “HIA Data Sources” link on HIP’s website
Residents
Neighborhood organizations
Medical practitioners
Public officials
Health agencies

“It affects my community, making residents sick. We need to stop the diesel trucks from passing through residential areas, also diesel buses, and if possible make it the law or policy.”

Focus groups
Surveys
Interviews
Surveys can help provide information that cannot be found in other data sources

For example

What is the health status of the community?

What are residents perceptions of environmental conditions and community needs?

What is the likely effect of a change in policy?
Recommendations & Mitigations

A key function of HIA is to identify opportunities for public decisions to promote health

HIA may suggest

Recommendations: alternative ways to design a project, plan, or policy, its location, or timing to benefit health

Mitigations: strategies to lessen anticipated adverse health effects of a decision
Step 4: Reporting

Objective
To develop the HIA report and communicate findings and recommendations.

Tasks
Key points
Tools
Resources
HIA Reporting Formats

Letters to proponents & decision-makers
Comment letters on draft EIAs
Formal report
Presentations
Peer-reviewed publications
The HIA Process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Monitoring
Step 5: Monitoring

Objective
To track the impacts of the HIA on the decision-making process and the decision, the implementation of the decision, and the impacts of the decision on health determinants.

Tasks
Key points
Tools
Resources
Evaluation

Objective
To evaluate the process of conducting the HIA.

Tasks
Key points
Tools
Resources
Case Study: Accessory Dwelling Units
Benton County, Oregon

• History of ADUs in Benton County
• Existing policies
• Opportunities to impact decision making
• Decision alternatives
• Outcomes
Case Study: Accessory Dwelling Units
Benton County, Oregon

Health impact indicators:

- **Access to goods and services**
  - Schools/childcare, food markets, etc

- **Social and family cohesion**
  - Caregiver living space, “ageing in place”, maintaining family unit

- **Transportation and mobility**
  - Accessibility of public transit, walkability, reliance on autos

- **Environmental considerations**
  - Increased air pollution, vehicle miles travelled

- **Healthy housing**
  - Proper property maintenance, substandard housing
Case Study: Accessory Dwelling Units
Benton County, Oregon

Rural Focus Groups

Monroe – pop 600
Alsea – pop 1100
Case Study: Accessory Dwelling Units
Benton County, Oregon

Outcomes:
- Recommendations for this project
- Relationships built

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Options</th>
<th>Impact Categories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Healthy Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 1: No Policy Change</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 2: Restriction of Current Rules</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 3: Dependent ADUs</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 4: Independent ADUs</td>
<td>+ +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 5: Independent ADUs in UGB zones</td>
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Next Steps:

- Report to Benton County Planning Commission, Benton County Board of Commissioners, and community

- Evaluate project and outcomes

- Continue the integration of HIA into future work!
Questions?
What are some projects or policies suitable for HIA in your community?
Resources

Oregon Public Health Division HIA Website: www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/hia

HIA Request for Proposals: Due 12/10/10

HIA Network: Next meeting 1/13/11

HIA Webinar Series: Second Wednesdays, January-April 2011
Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Webinars

Introduction to HIA
December 1, 2010

Screening, Scoping and Collaboration
January 12, 2011

Assessment
February 9, 2011

Recommendations, Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation
March 9, 2011

Intervention Points in Policy Processes
April 13, 2011

This free webinar series is intended for public health professionals, community planners, partners, and local leaders interested in health, social and economic decision making. The Introduction to HIA webinar will define Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and provide an overview of the steps of HIA. The subsequent webinars will walk through the steps of HIA while also highlighting the role of collaboration, and opportunities to apply HIA to decision making contexts in Oregon.

All webinars take place from 9:30-11:00 a.m. (PST)
Registration information will be sent via email for individual modules to the HIA Network listserv
Questions? Email: nancy.m.goff@state.or.us