

SCREENING

Module 2



Steps in the Screening Process

- Define the policy, program or project
- Determine whether you should conduct an HIA
- Determine what type of assessment to complete
- Make a preliminary assessment of whether to proceed
- Briefly assess the potential health impacts
- Review decision with stakeholders
- Start to identify modifications to the policy/projects which may increase positive health outcomes and minimize negative health outcomes



HIA Stages are Fluid



Define the project or policy

An HIA is most useful when:

- Health issues are brought to the planning table
- The policy or project decisions do not traditionally consider health
- There are likely to be significant health impacts that are not already being considered
- The HIA can be completed before key decisions are made and stakeholders are likely to use information
- Sufficient data and resources available





When is an HIA not appropriate?



- Instances where information is vague, unreliable or not available
- Situations when there is little or no local support for an HIA
- Decisions where the stakeholders will not take health into consideration
- Situations when decisions have already been made and there is no turning around



Selection Criteria

- Are the health impacts significant enough to proceed with an HIA?
- Does the HIA add value to the decision-making process? (*Will decision-makers view the information as valuable?*)
- Is there enough knowledge and data available to conduct the HIA?
- Are resources such as time, money, and personnel available to conduct an HIA?

Remember: For your first HIA, choose a project that is manageable enough so that there is not a sense of being overwhelmed.

Types of HIAs

- Rapid
- Intermediate
- Comprehensive



A Rapid HIA...

- Provides a broad overview of possible health impacts
- Can be used at an early policy development stage or where limited time/resources are available
- Involves collecting and analyzing existing data and researching previous HIAs
- Is usually carried out in days to weeks with minimal resources.

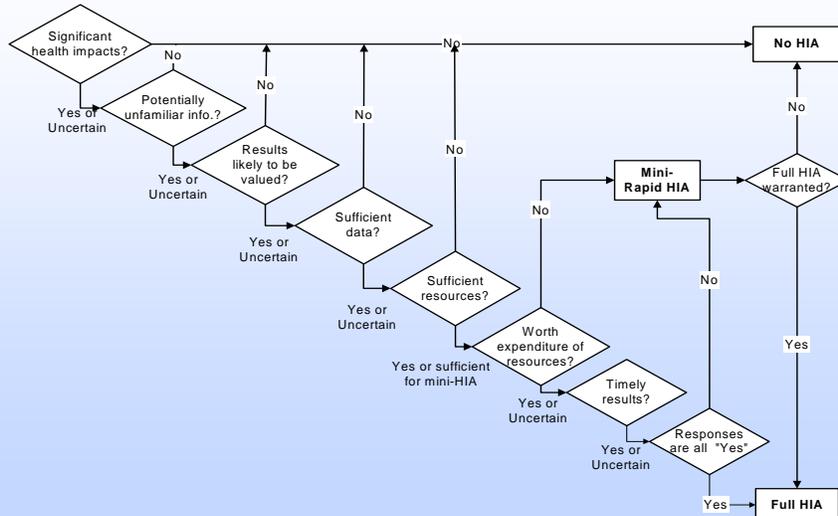
An Intermediate HIA...

- Provides more detailed information of possible health impacts
- Most frequent HIA approach
- Allows more thorough investigation of health impacts, which increases reliability of impacts
- Involves reviewing available evidence and any similar HIAs and collecting and analyzing new data
- Can take weeks to months to complete
- May involve community input

A Comprehensive HIA

- Provides a thorough assessment of potential health impacts
- Most robust definitions of impacts, but least frequently used
- Involves a review of available evidence and any similar HIAs
- Involves collecting and assessing new data using multiple methods and sources .
- A comprehensive HIA may take a long time to complete
- Involves community input

Screening algorithm:



What type of HIA would you conduct when...

- A city plans to develop a run-down neighborhood. It will involve demolishing 3 blocks of dilapidated retail shops, an aging supermarket, and 200 low income housing units.
- At the request of a city council representative, the public health department will explore the possibility of conducting an HIA.
- The developer has agreed to allocate \$5,000 to the health department to conduct the HIA if the city will expedite the approval process. This only gives the health department two weeks to complete the assessment.



What type of HIA would you conduct when...

A large high end development on the waterfront in San Francisco would increase average daily traffic (ADT) by 20,000 cars in an ethnic neighborhood that currently has an ADT of 50,000 cars per day. This area already has a history of high rates of pedestrian injuries and deaths. A decision will be made by the end of the week about allowing the development to take place.



What type of HIA would you conduct when.....

A large metropolitan city plans to transform 22 miles of abandoned rail roads and brownfields in its inner city into transit, parks, trails, and mixed use developments. This project will intersect 45 neighborhoods and impact an estimated 100,000 people. The project will impact some of the wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods in the city.



What type of HIA would you conduct when...

Plans are being made to lay a pipeline through native territory in Alaska. There is fear that this will disrupt the native life style, hurting the traditional hunting and fishing practices of the people.

There's one person with a half time commitment to conducting this HIA and they have 1 year to complete the HIA.



How the community can help determine if an HIA is warranted?

- Understanding the decision and its alternatives
- Judging the breadth and magnitude of health effects
- Determining the strength of the evidence
- Identifying available and ongoing analysis
- Understanding competing stakeholder positions
- Identifying potential for improvements



Remember...

- Scale it down and start small.

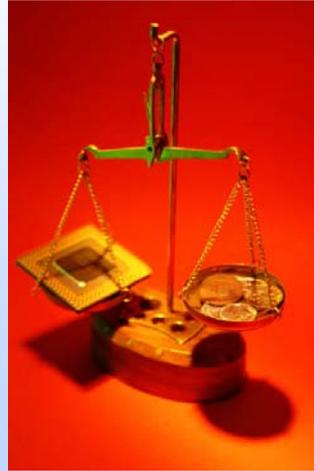


TABLE ACTIVITY:

Conduct a Screen for Sunnyvale Highway

