

Welcome. This module focuses on the first step in the HIA process, screening.

**Review the goal of this module.**

The goal of screening is to determine if an in-depth impact assessment is necessary and if an HIA adds value to the decision-making process.

Completing this step helps prevent conducting an HIA that is not needed or will not add useful information to the project.

**Summarize the module objectives.**

- Identify the steps included in the screening process
- Use screening tools to select or not select policies or projects for assessment
- Describe the role of the community in the assessment process
- Describe the challenges communities have encountered with the assessment process

## 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



### **Review the steps in the screening process.**

•*Define the policy, program or project* Large and unwieldy projects are hard if not impossible to contain. Start with a neighborhood or a troublesome intersection, don't try to start with an entire city plan.

•*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



**Remind participants** that the steps are fluid and it may be necessary to revisit previous steps in the process.

## 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



**Discuss how to define a project or policy.**

An HIA is most useful when:

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- *Sufficient data and resources available*

One of the biggest challenges with an HIA is restricting the scope of the project so that it is possible. Sometimes cities or towns want an HIA to address the master plan for the entire area. Attempting an HIA on a project this size will be much more difficult especially for people who are new to conducting HIAs. Policy HIAs are also more complicated than projects since they tend to affect more people and are less concrete. Beginning with a doable HIA is a way to begin the process. Once you have developed partnerships and relationships, it is easier to conduct larger and more complex HIAs.

Remember, define the project and limit it to something that is feasible.



## 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



**Transition to a discussion of when an HIA is 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*

There will be times when information is not vague and the health outcomes are obvious and already being considered. At this point there is no need to move forward. There are also times when no significant health impacts are expected from a project or policy, thus it is not advisable to conduct an HIA.

**Example**

Sometimes there little or no support for an HIA. For instance, in a mid-sized city that has a wide range of income levels two supermarkets file for bankruptcy. There are still numerous supermarkets remaining in the high end areas but individuals living in the low income areas now have to travel twice as far to get to a supermarket. A new supermarket chain wants to open a store in one of the high income areas of the city. The supermarket has the final say in the matter but the city council can propose incentives.

**Ask:** Is it feasible to do an HIA in this situation? What incentives can a city offer?

## 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?

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

### Discuss the criteria for beginning an HIA.

Once a project or policy is clearly defined, it is necessary to ask some questions before proceeding.

- *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.*

### Ask:

As you think about the project you're involved in, is there a way you can better define the project so that you and your team will not be overwhelmed?

## Types of HIAs

- Rapid
- Intermediate
- Comprehensive



**Review the three types of HIA.**

- *Rapid*
- *Intermediate*
- *Comprehensive*

As we discussed earlier, there are different types of HIAs. During the screening process it's necessary to determine what type of HIA is best for a given project or policy.

Remember, HIAs are flexible and can be adapted to meet the requirements of the situation. An HIA can be something you complete in a day and write up a one page summary or it can be a year long project that includes volumes of data and reports.

## 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.

### **Introduce the rapid HIA**

#### *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

### **Introduce the intermediate HIA**

#### *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 a few months to complete.*
- *May involve community input.*

## A Comprehensive HIA

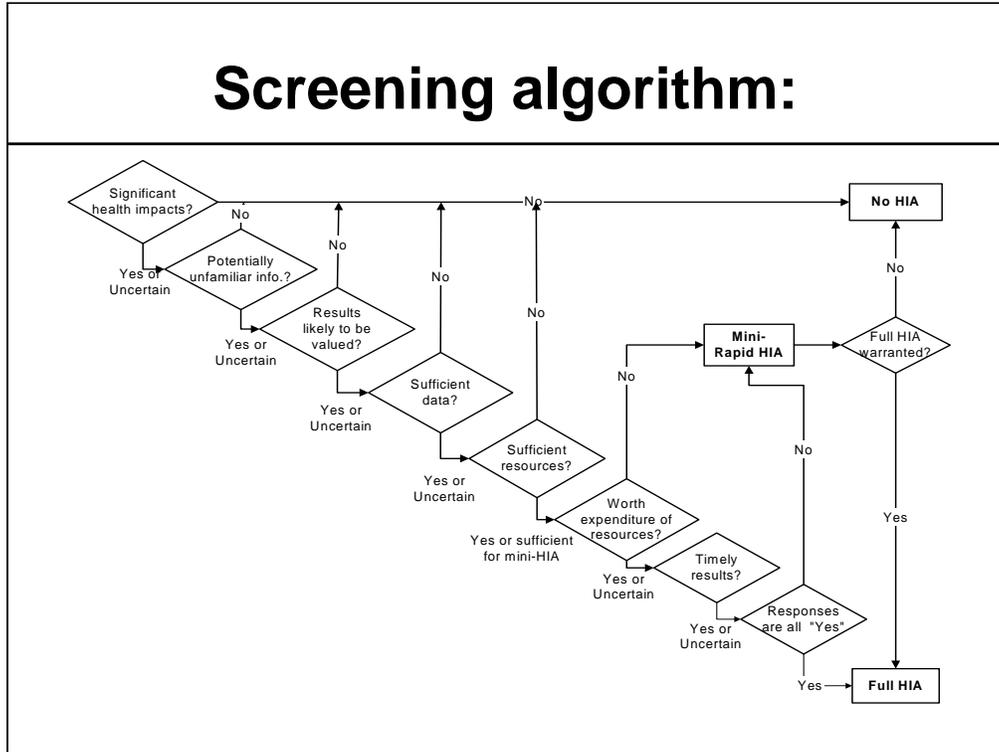
- Provides a thorough assessment of potential health impacts
- Most robust definitions of impacts, but least frequently used
- Involves a review of available evidence and any similar HIAs
- Involves collecting and assessing new data using multiple methods and sources .
- A comprehensive HIA may take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

### **Introduce the comprehensive HIA**

#### *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 (quantitative and qualitative data including stakeholders' opinions).*
- *A comprehensive HIA may take a long time to complete*
- *Involves community input*

# Screening algorithm:



**Introduce the algorithm. (NOTE that there is a larger copy of the algorithm in Appendix A)**

There are many tools you can use to help with the screening process. This algorithm is one of those tools. Another is a checklist that you can find in the Appendix A of your manual.

Let's walk through the algorithm and then use the algorithm in some examples.

## 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.



Use the algorithm for this example by asking the following questions.

- Are significant health impacts likely?
- Is there potentially unfamiliar information?
- Will the results be valued?
- Are there sufficient data?
- Are there sufficient resources?
- Is it worth the expenditure of resources?
- Will the results be timely?

**Ask:** Is an HIA feasible in this situation? What type of HIA would you recommend?

## 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.



Use the algorithm for this example by asking the following questions.

- Are significant health impacts likely?
- Is there potentially unfamiliar information?
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- Will the results be timely?

**Ask:** Is an HIA feasible in this situation? What type of HIA would you recommend?

## 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.



Use the algorithm for this example by asking the following questions.

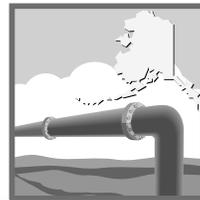
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**Ask:** Is an HIA feasible in this situation? What type of HIA would you recommend?

## 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.



Use the algorithm for this example by asking the following questions.

- Are significant health impacts likely?
- Is there potentially unfamiliar information?
- Will the results be valued?
- Are there sufficient data?
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- Is it worth the expenditure of resources?
- Will the results be timely?

**Ask:** Is an HIA feasible in this situation? What type of HIA would you recommend?

## 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



### Describe community involvement in an HIA.

In many HIAs the screening process does not involve the community. Typically the health and planning departments make a decision on whether to move forward.

In large HIAs communities can be involved in the screen. Including a community is not always easy and can even be troublesome. Still nothing makes or breaks a project or policy more than the involvement of community stakeholders.

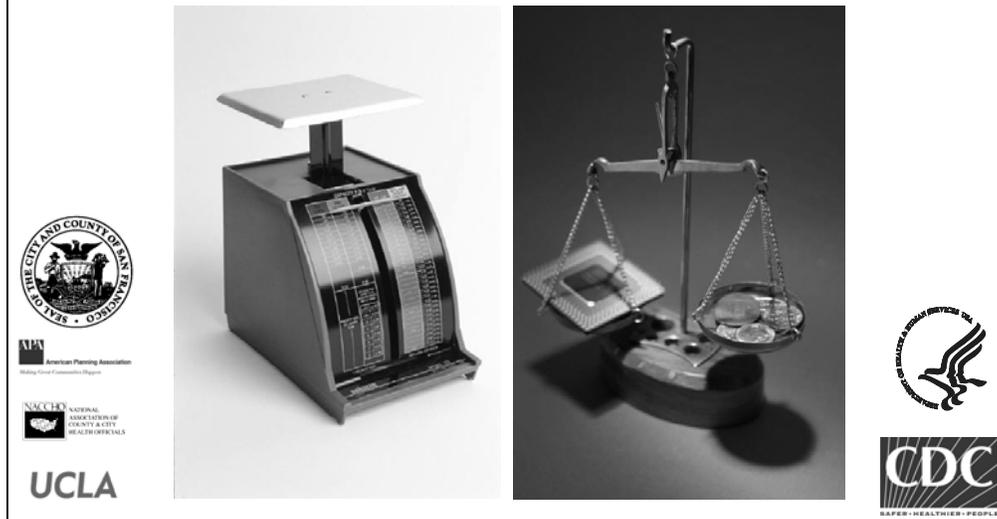
In the screening process there are several roles that the stakeholders play to determine if an HIA is warranted.

- *Understand the decision and its alternatives*
- *Judge the breadth and magnitude of health effects*
- *Determine the strength of the evidence*
- *Identify available and ongoing analysis*
- *Understand competing stakeholder positions*
- *Identify potential for improvements*

**Ask** - If you were to involve the community, how might you do it? What would community participation add to one of the previous examples?

## Remember...

- Scale it down and start small.



**Remind participants to begin with a manageable project the first time and then build on their experience as they take on larger projects.**

## TABLE ACTIVITY: Conduct a Screen for Sunnyvale Highway



**Instruct:** Working with your team, complete the screening algorithm and the screening checklist for Sunnyvale Highway

Allow 10 minutes for teams to complete screen.

**Direct participants:**

Go around the table and have each team share the results of their screen.

**Back in the large group ask each table:**

How were your screens different and how are they similar?

**NOTE responses on flip chart. Post results**