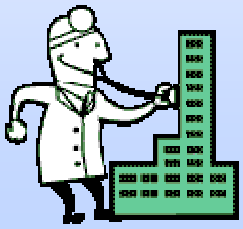
Scoping

Module 3

Scoping…

- Establishes the foundation for conducting the health impact assessment
- Designs and plans the HIA
- Highlights key issues that will be considered



Scoping is a Flexible Process

Questions to Ask When Scoping a Policy or Project

- What are the components of the suggested policy?
- What are the impacts of the policy? Who will be affected and how?
- What information do you need to gather?
- What are the possible health outcomes?
- What are the causal linkages that need to be re-evaluated and refined?

Steps in the Scoping Process

1. Establish ground rules
2. Define the policy or project
3. Gather preliminary information
4. Specify what impacts to assess
   - Create a logic framework summarizing the relevant causal linkages

     or
   - Complete a scoping checklist
5. Consider assessment models

1. Establish Ground Rules

- Clarify roles of stakeholders and partners involved in scoping the HIA
- Determine who has final authority to decide the scope of the HIA
- Set timelines
- Establish responsibility for convening meetings and other administrative tasks
- Determine who will pay for the HIA

2. Define the Policy or Project

- Describe the policy or project and its likely impacts
- Establish boundaries for the HIA
- Identify needed resources and partners
- Determine geographical, temporal, and population based parameters

Involving the Community

- Identify potential health pathways and equity effects
- Develop research questions
- Identify available research methods and data sources
- Identify mitigation strategies
- Participate in a collaborative scoping exercise
- Determine the highest priority HIA questions and tasks
- Assist project staff to synthesize highest priority community issues

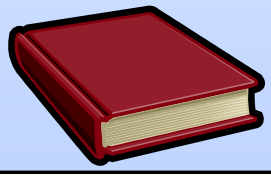
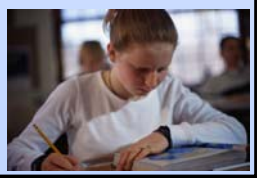
The Program on Health Equity and Sustainability at SFDPH

3. Preliminary Information Gathering

- Describe the demographic characteristics of the population
- Identify at-risk groups
- Describe the health status of the population
- Define environmental conditions of the target population
- Identify quality and quantity of affordable housing

Finding the Information

- Gray literature
- Peer reviewed literature
- Key informants or stakeholders who provide local information that may not be available in the public domain
- Experts in relevant fields who can identify the health related outcomes

4. Specify What Impacts to Assess

- Identify how the policy or project will affect health
- Identify the health outcomes of interest

Tools to Help Specify Impacts to Assess

- A logic framework summarizing the relevant causal linkages

or

- A scoping checklist

A Logic Framework…

The purpose of a logic framework is to

- Organize existing knowledge
- Communicate information
- Guide analysis
- Identify how the policy or project will affect health
- Identify the health outcomes of interest
- There are many ways to create a logic framework
  - Determine the health related outcomes or
  - Identify the health outcomes first

A Scoping Checklist…

- Is a systematic method for quickly identifying and assessing health impacts in terms of their:
  - Potential significance
  - Measurability
  - Directionality
- Has previously been developed by:
  - UCLA
  - Greater London Authority

Walk to School HIA: Program and Policy Elements

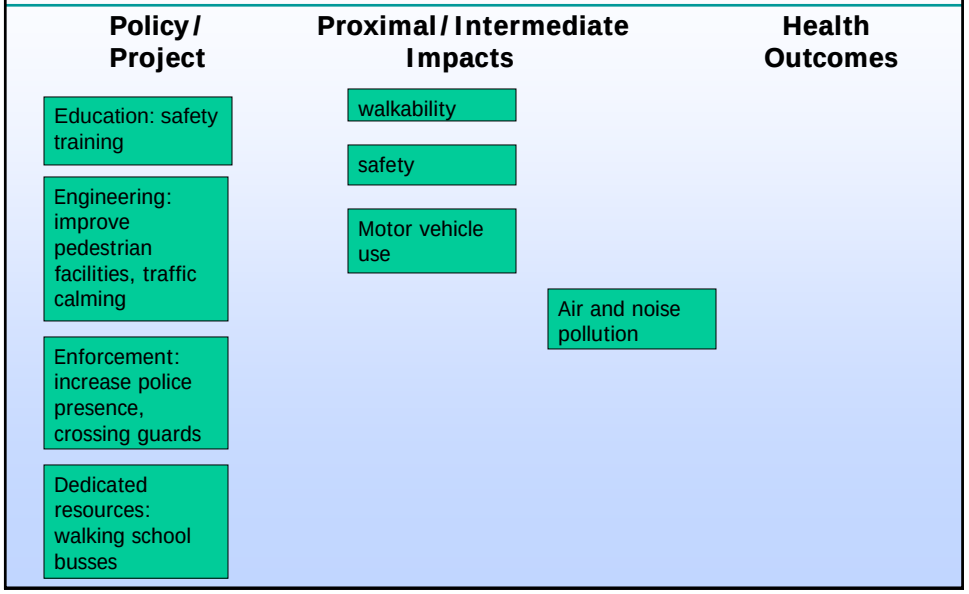
Comprehensive walk-to-school program includes:

- Encouragement
- Promotion
- Education
- Eliminating safety hazards
- Reducing traffic congestion

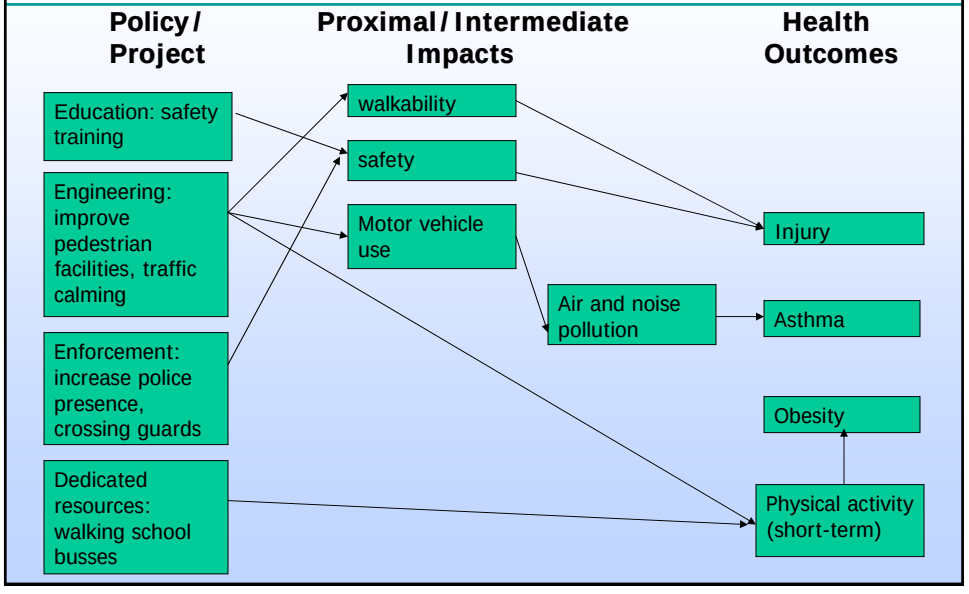
Walk to School Logic Framework

Policy / Project	Proximal / Intermediate Impacts	Health Outcomes
Education: safety training		
Engineering: improve pedestrian facilities, traffic calming		
Enforcement: increase police presence, crossing guards		
Dedicated resources: walking school buses		

Walk to School Logic Framework



Walk to School Logic Framework



Walk to School Checklist

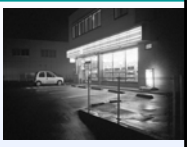
- Which health impacts are potentially significant?
  - Physical activity
  - Social support
  - Air quality
  - Motor vehicle use
  - Pedestrian routes
  - Bicycle traffic routes
- Are these impacts measurable (i.e. could you attach a number to them)?
- Would this be a positive, negative or neutral health impact?

Street Lighting

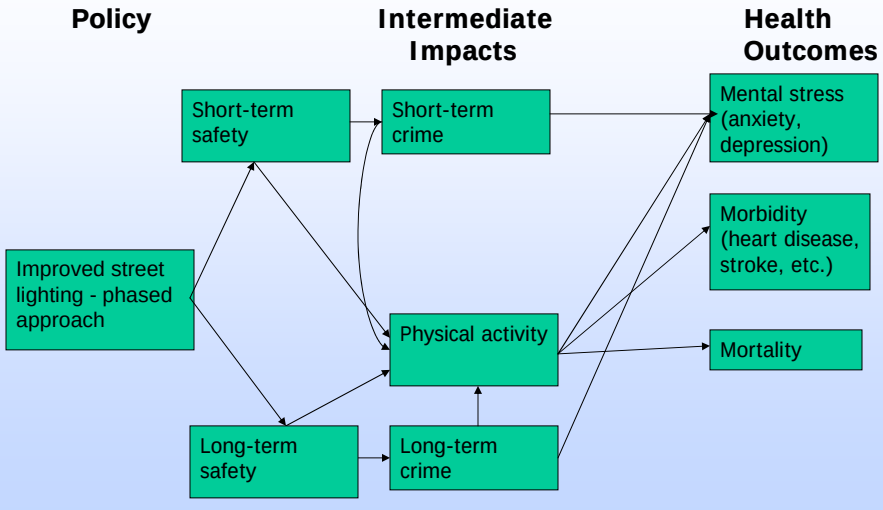
- Wayside has a population of 110,000 with a mixed socio-economic profile. There are some very affluent and other very deprived neighborhoods including two moderately large housing projects.
- Recently, there has been a steep increase in burglaries across the entire community. However, the crime rates are still significantly higher in the lower income areas.
- The need for improved street lighting has been brought to the attention of the Wayside town council following prolonged community action in one of its more affluent neighborhoods. Residents believe improved lighting would reduce the incidence of burglary in their area.

Street Lighting

- The residents of the affluent area were able to secure funding by voting on a special improvements ballot. With this funding the city will be able to undertake an up-grading and replacement of all street lighting. The up-grading will be undertaken in a phased manner over three years.
- Since they are funding the improvements the affluent residents demand that the lighting be placed in their community first, and city hall has approved their phased appraoch.
- Scope this project from the perspective of the residents of the deprived area.



Street Lighting Logic Model

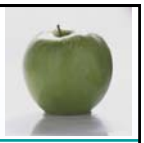


Street Lighting Checklist

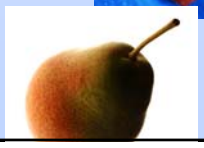
Possible Health Impacts:

	Significant	Measurable	Direction
Social support	Possible	Difficult	Unclear
Social inclusion	Possible	Difficult	Negative
Physical activity	Likely	Possibly	Positive
Pedestrain routes	Likely	Yes	Positive
Street violence	Likely	Yes	Negative

School Fruit

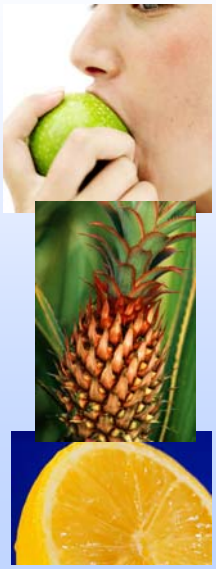


- The school fruit initiative provides children in elementary schools with a free piece of fruit each day. Schools can choose to be part of the initiative and have fruit delivered to them three times a week by local farmers. Schools must make arrangements to receive the fruit, store it, wash it and distribute it to the children and supervise its consumption.

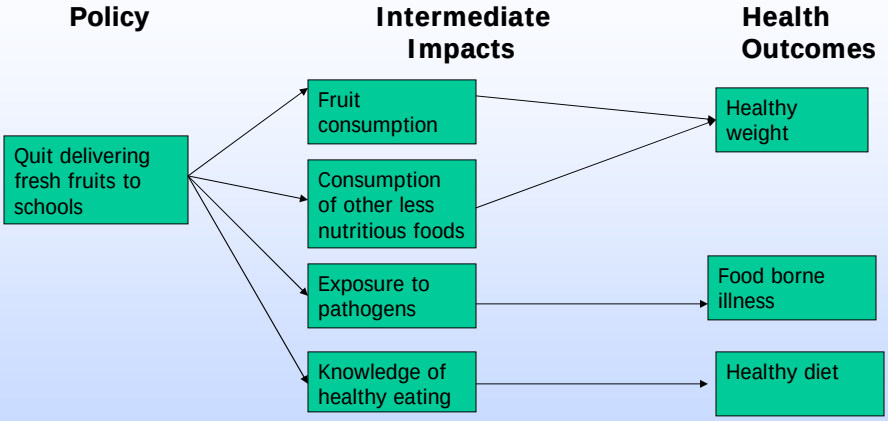


School Fruit

- There was an outbreak of a food borne illness in 3 of the 10 schools that received the free fruit, no illnesses were recorded in schools that did not receive the fresh fruit.
- Parents at the schools where children were ill want to end the program even though it is currently supported by Lottery funds and the schools don't have to pay for the fresh fruit.
- What are the health implications of ***discontinuing*** this program?



School Fruit Logic Framework



School Fruit Checklist

Possible Health Impacts:

	Significant	Measurable	Direction
Diet	Likely	Possibly	Negative
Food Purity & Contamination	Likely	Yes	Positive
Food security and access	Likely	Yes	Positive
Nutritional quality	Likely	Possibly	Negative
Infectious diseases	Likely	Yes	Positive

5. Consider Assessment Approach

- Most HIAs will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative data
- Quantitative HIAs should not be seen as superior to qualitative HIAs
- The most important point is that the HIA has an impact on the decision

Challenges to Scoping

- Finding sufficient information to complete the HIA
- Having enough resources like personnel and time to gather needed information
- Choosing a project that is small enough so that there is not a sense of being overwhelmed
- Keeping the feedback channels open throughout the process

TABLE ACTIVITY:

Scope Sunnyvale Highway