Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

With a Focus on Health Equity

Workshop | April 30, 2014

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National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP)

Our mandate

- Support public health actors in their efforts to promote healthy public policies

Our areas of expertise

- Health impact of policies
- Methods for analyzing policies
- Intersectoral actors and mechanisms
- Strategies to influence policy making
The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

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Objectives of this workshop

• Understand the origin and values of HIA
• Acknowledge the value of health equity at the core of HIA
• Describe the five steps of HIA and explore the screening step
• Recognize HIA as an approach to support public sector decision making that takes health equity into consideration
Acting upon the Determinants of Health

- Income and social status
- Social support networks
- Education and literacy
- Employment/working conditions
- Social and physical environments
- Personal health practices and coping skills
- Healthy child development
- Biology and genetic endowment
- Health services
- Gender
- Culture
- Language

1. Income and social status
2. Social support networks
3. Education and literacy
4. Employment / working conditions
5. Social environments
6. Physical environments
7. Personal health practices and coping skills
8. Healthy child development
9. Biology and genetic endowment
10. Health services
11. Gender
12. Culture


Rabaska liquid gas a go: Quebec

Opponents of a liquid natural gas terminal in Lévis, Que., say they'll use their last recourse — a tasting bylaw — to fight the project, despite the government's overwhelming support for the future energy plant.

Quebec's natural resources minister, Claude Béchard, publicly endorsed the project. Given the province's urgent need for alternate sources of energy, the project is, he said, a must.

The 334.6 million liquid natural gas plant stirred concern among local environmentalists who fear it would have a detrimental impact on the environment. The project will also create about 500 jobs and utility bills will increase.

Businesses turning to windmills for power

With electricity costs rising steadily, some businesses on P.E.I. have been forced to find other solutions, including wind turbines on their properties.

Trout River Industries has for the last decade been manufacturing the bottom trailers in Colman, near Summerside. The company, which makes one trailer for every one made in Canada, has been growing steadily, and now has 41 employees.

Owner Harvey Stewart found his profit wasn't the only expense that was growing, his electricity bill was on the rise as well, and he reached the point where he felt he could do better off the grid. Two 50-kilowatt turbines now power his entire plant.

"I just see it as a good fit for P.E.I., especially when you can buy the stuff here in P.E.I. Local guys did it," Stewart told CBC News Thursday.

Council rejects city-wide recycling contract

WINNIPEG — City council has rejected a new city-wide recycling contract that would have seen 60-litre blue boxes replaced with 240-litre rolling carts this September.

One of the province's largest recycling concerns, Greenland Recycling, which serves the city of Winnipeg and surrounding communities, said the new contract would cost the city about $38 million more than the existing one.

"This puts an unacceptable financial burden on the city, and it's not environmentally sustainable," said company spokesperson Leanne Walls.

"While we remain committed to providing the best possible recycling service, we cannot endorse a contract that would result in such a significant increase in costs," said City Coun. John Blakeney.

In an effort to find an alternative, the city's waste management department is negotiating with other companies to provide a more affordable and environmentally friendly solution.

LOCAL

Winnipeg Free Press • PRINT EDITION

Food banks among busiest in Canada

By Geoff Whyte
14/11/2009 10:46 AM (Comments: 2)

Dinners or augmentations to the garbage collection service will be served by rolling carts as part of the recycling plan were Couns. Scott Fielding (St. Gorst Sleeves (St. Vital) and Justin Swanell (St. Norbert).

To defeat a 5-year, $38 million recycling contract because a city-wide recycling contract that would have seen 60-litre blue boxes replaced with 240-litre rolling carts this September.

"I'm sure the waste management does what's right for the city," he said.

The strategy that includes organics, it seems to me entering into doing," said public works chairman Bill Clement.

The 2009 survey found 794,780 Canadians at a food bank in March, a jump of nearly 7.6 per cent. Of the total, more than 72,000 of whom bank for the first time and nearly half of those are children.

Loto-Québec to offer online gambling

CBC News • Updated: Tuesday, March 2, 11:10 PM ET

Quebec's lottery corporation will launch its first online gambling service in September — a move Loto-Québec hopes will attract more customers. In addition to the provinces finance minister said Wednesday.

"Loto-Québec to join the lucrative online market, beginning with poker and sports betting, could earn the province $2 billion over the next three years," Finance Minister Raymond Bachand said. "Aside from that, it's not just for the benefit of the province."
What HIA is not

• An epidemiological study

• A subjective piece to prove a point

• A Human Health Risk Assessment / A public health advisory

• A program evaluation
HIA looks at...

Policies
Programs
Projects

that are **NOT** intended to impact health
but that have the **potential** to have negative
**AND/OR** positive effects on health
and health equity.
HIA Topics : Canadian examples

A municipal compost plant in Montérégie, QC.

© iStockphoto.com/ Rikard Stadler
HIA Topics : Canadian examples

A municipal social development policy in Pincourt, QC.

HIA Topics: Canadian examples

Shared Space Model for Sudbury Community Service (ON).

Source: http://www.sdhu.com/uploads/content/listings/EfHIAPilot-SharedSpace-FINAL.pdf
HIA Topics : Canadian examples

Expansion of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, ON.

Source: http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=e752105d4cff1410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextfmt=default
HIA Topics: Canadian examples

Shipbuilding in Halifax, NS.
Origins

• Environmental impact assessment
  – Environmental health
  – Standardization of the process and methodological rigour (science)

• Determinants of health
  – Health promotion – Ottawa Charter
  – Healthy public policies

• Health equity
  – Distributive effects

Harris-Roxas et al., 2012.
Definition

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.**

ECHP, 1999; Quigley, et. al., 2006.
What is HIA

“HIA is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.”

National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011.
Definition (political)

“To improve public health by adding health awareness to policy making at every level and making concern for improved public health a norm in all policy making”


HIA is public policy analysis using a health ‘lens’.

"Health impact assessment is a process through which evidence (of different kinds), interests, values and meanings are brought into dialogue between relevant stakeholders (politicians, professionals and citizens) in order to imaginatively understand and anticipate the effects of change in health and health inequalities in a given population”

Williams & Elliot, 2010.
HIA Core Values

Democracy

Equity

Ethical use of evidence

Comprehensive approach to health

Sustainable Development

ECHP, 1999; Quigley et al., 2006.
HIA Core Values

How can Health Impact Assessment take health equity into consideration?
Several points of consensus have been established

According to a study on current HIA guides used across the world (N=42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of guides</th>
<th>That highlighted the following features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Encourages community engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Considers equity / inequalities across population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>Includes a list or a diagram of health determinants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Recommends prospective HIA only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Voluntary approach / not tied to regulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extracted from Dannenberg et al., 2011.
Determinants of Health

• Income and social status
• Social support networks
• Education and literacy
• Employment/working conditions
• Social and physical environments
• Personal health practices and coping skills
• Healthy child development
• Biology and genetic endowment
• Health services
• Gender
• Culture
• Language

Population groups

- Aboriginal peoples
- Age-related groups
- Disability
- Ethno-racial communities
- Francophones
- Homeless
- Linguistic communities
- Low income
- Religious / Faith communities
- Rural/remote or inner-urban populations
- Sex / gender
- Sexual orientation
- Others


HIA and equity: Canadian examples

A municipal social development policy in Pincourt, QC.

- Recreational facility
- Citizen participation in municipal decision-making
- Rental housing offer
- Alternative transportation
- Street and bike path design
- Outreach work (social workers)

- Youth
- Migrants
- Renters
- Handicapped
- Low income

Source:

© iStockphoto.com/kristian sekulic
HIA and equity: Canadian examples

Shared Space Model for Sudbury Community Service (ON).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will the initiative have an effect on:</th>
<th>Populations affected</th>
<th>Description of health impact (+ or -)</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy beginnings for children</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Inclusion of child-related agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents/guardians</td>
<td>Possible location for food banks (infant) to support clients</td>
<td>Consider provision of daycare, food bank services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Greater sharing/awareness of supports for children</td>
<td>Facilitate connections with existing Best Start Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Families</td>
<td>Greater/easier access to diverse services for parents = more stability, less stress for families</td>
<td>Consider requirements of a “child friendly” environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lone parent families</td>
<td>Possible shared benefits for agency staff – health, childcare</td>
<td>Connect with Triple P parenting supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consumers of service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employees of participating agencies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presence of certain service users may not create safe/perceived safe environment for children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Potential liability issues for agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIA and equity: Canadian examples

A municipal compost plant in Montérégie, QC.

Important share of the population sending more than 30% of income on housing!

© iStockphoto.com/ Rikard Stadler
A structured process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Appraisal
- Reporting
- Evaluation & Monitoring
Many HIA Guides – Public and Private Sectors
Example: A new highway in Sweden

• New path for a section of a highway
• Improvements in terms of security
• New path would cut through a National Park

Screening

• Determinants that could be impacted:
  – Healthy and safe environments (7 environmental quality objectives)
  – Limited influence on climate, clean air, non-toxic environment, lakes and streams, groundwater, forest, built environment.
  – Safe environment (injuries)
  – Increased physical activity
Screening

- Priority Groups:
  - Children
  - Professional commuters (particular interest with respect to women)
  - Older people
  - Chronically ill/hypersensitive
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Special stakeholder groups: hunters and horseback riders
Scoping

Stakeholders in the HIA:

**Steering group:**
- Swedish National Institute for Public Health
- Swedish Road Administration
- Municipality of Nynäshamn

**Project group**

**Reference group:**
All of the above, plus: Stockholm County Administrative Board, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, etc...
Scoping: Logic model

- Easier access to park with **public transportation** because of direct connection with major road
- Increased physical activity for persons without cars
- Improved physical health and mental health / Improvement in health equity

Laying out your hypothesis as to how the project is linked to health impacts.
Appraisal

Health Matrix:
- ↑ for all priority groups for traffic safety
- ↑ for all priority groups for environmental health impacts
- ↓ for “Sustainable forest ” for all priority groups
- ↓ of “Scope for recreation” for hunters and horseback riders
- ↑ for increased physical activity for all groups, especially children and persons with disabilities
Recommendations

Recommendations also include options for how to minimize the negative health impacts.

A very clear report, intended for the policy-maker, but accessible for a broad public:

http://www.fhi.se/PageFiles/4172/r200542_Health_impact.pdf
Evaluation and Monitoring

– New path was chosen
– HIA had a direct influence on this decision

Effectiveness in influencing decision-making

- Direct effectiveness: 66%
- General effectiveness: 23%
- Opportunistic use: 6%
- No effectiveness: 6%

Source: Haig et al. (2013). N=54 HIAs in Australia and New-Zealand.

Other effects

- Changing the way of thinking and working: eye-opener, intersectoral collaborations, and more.
- Allows one to develop new knowledge related to HIA: on the policy-making process, on health impacts, and more.
- Allows one to develop technical skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models</th>
<th>Mandated</th>
<th>Decision-support</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Community-led</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>By public health experts</td>
<td>On voluntary basis by or with the agreement of the proponent</td>
<td>By organization or groups to promote a specific option</td>
<td>By potentially affected communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Meeting statutory requirement</td>
<td>Improving decision-making</td>
<td>Ensuring under-recognized health concerns are addressed</td>
<td>Ensuring the community’s health-related concerns are addressed. Empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Negative impacts</td>
<td>Positive and negative impacts</td>
<td>Positive and negative impacts</td>
<td>Positive and negative impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vision of health</strong></td>
<td>Environmental health</td>
<td>Environmental health, social view of health, health equity</td>
<td>Social vision of health, health equity</td>
<td>Social vision of health, health equity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extract from Harris-Roxas & Harris (2011)
HIA: The Review

- 5 steps with many tools to guide you
- Systematic but flexible process
- Looks at unintended health effects
- Examines effects on health equity
- Purpose is to inform decision-makers
Questions and discussion
Exercise: the screening step
Case Study

A new multi-use sports and entertainment centre in downtown Moncton

Viewing of the video:

http://www.moncton.ca/Moncton__Our_Tide_is_Rising__/Downtown_Centre/Moncton_Downtown_Centre.htm
Case Study

A new multi-use sports and entertainment centre in downtown Moncton

- 7,000 to 9,000 seats
- Home of local hockey and basketball teams
- Restaurant
- Commercial / Retail spaces
- Outdoor public space
- Public transportation hub
- Stage of policy development process: in fall 2014, bid selection and negotiation.
Determinants of Health

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  - Francophones
- Homeless
- Linguistic communities
- Low income
- Religious / Faith communities
- Rural/remote or inner-urban populations
- Sex / gender
- Sexual orientation
- Others


MOHLTC, 2012.
# Screening Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinants</th>
<th>Yes Negative</th>
<th>Yes Positive</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Affected populations</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
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<td>Job creation</td>
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<td>Working conditions</td>
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<td>Distribution of wealth</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food security</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Access to healthy and nutritious food choices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport of goods and people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Access to education</td>
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Instructions

1. The objective is not to either approve or turn down the project

2. The objective is to make recommendations on how to improve the project with respect to its impact on health and health equity.

3. These recommendations must be based on real potential impacts, and on best practices.

4. Screening is fundamental in choosing your priorities for further analysis.

5. What 4 determinants of health / vulnerable groups would be your priorities?
After the exercise:

Key messages from each table

• Make things concrete
• HIA is not to approve a project
• HIA has a specific role. It is not a planning tool
• Need a mixed group; multidisciplinary group
• Gives a good opportunity to think about all determinants and community groups
• HIA allows PH to approach policy makers as a partner
• We can always find positive and negative health impacts
Screening

Plan the logistics of the process

Scoping

Draw a logic model to make explicit the links between the project and the health of the population

Appraisal

Draw a community profile
Collect and analyze data to verify hypothesis in logic model

Reporting

Formulated recommendations on how to improve the project with respect to health

Evaluation & Monitoring

HIA as a knowledge-sharing experience
HIA Resources
For more examples...

- Human Impact Partners: [http://www.humanimpact.org/projects](http://www.humanimpact.org/projects)
- The Society of Practitioners of HIA (SOPHIA) / Model HIA reports: [http://hiasociety.org/?page_id=57](http://hiasociety.org/?page_id=57)
HIA guides and tools

http://www.ncchpp.ca/54/Health_Impact_Assessment.ccnpps

HIA: GUIDES & TOOLS

HIA: INVENTORY OF RESOURCES
HIA publications by NCCHPP

See the Annotated Bibliography in your folders

Or visit our website:

http://www.ncchpp.ca/
NCCHPP HIA online courses

HIA Step by Step
Continuing Education
12-hour course
Fall 2014

Introduction to HIA
University master-level
45-hour course
May-June 2015

For more information
http://www.ncchpp.ca/274/Online_Course.ccnpps
Key HIA References (1/3)

Key HIA References (2/3)


Key HIA References (3/3)


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Presenter: Julie Castonguay