Health impact assessment (HIA)

A tool to promote and foster healthy public policy

Pre-symposium workshop
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Healthy public policies

HPPs allow for a better coordination in public policies in multiple sectors.

They aim to reduce inequities and address factors that determine wellbeing.
Rabaska liquid gas a go: Quebec

Businesses turning to windmills for power

Council rejects city-wide recycling contract

Food banks among busiest in Canada

Loto-Québec to offer online gambling
Plan

1) Definition of HIA
2) Theoretical basis
3) Current practices
4) The five steps of HIA
The most common definition

« a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population »

ECHP, WHO, 1999
Two roots

- **Environmental impact assessment (EIA)**
  - Methodological rigour
  - Expert-driven

- **Health promotion**
  - Social determinants of health and equity (distributive effects)
  - Community participation (empowerment)
  - To translate into practice the Ottawa Charter strategy: healthy public policies and healthy environment
Basic principles

- Reduction of social inequities in health
- Rigor and neutrality of the analysis
- Involvement of stakeholders and intersectoral parties
- Supporting the decision-making process
- Collective responsibility towards the population

Democracy, sustainable development, equity, participation, ethical use of evidence

(Gothenburg Consensus)
HIA in the policy cycle

Adapted from Knoepfel, Larrue and Varone (2001)
Practice varies according to the purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Use of scientific literature</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production of a public health advisory</td>
<td>Scientific approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democracy/empowerment</td>
<td>Citizenship/participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raising awareness of decision-makers outside the health sector</td>
<td>Exchanges/Intersectoral dynamics</td>
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Focus: Terms are used in relation to the context of the purpose.

Use of scientific literature:
- Positive: +
- Negative: -
Practice across the world
The HIA Steps

1. SCREENING
2. SCOPING
3. APPRAISAL
4. REPORTING/RECOMMENDATIONS
5. EVALUATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
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**Annexe A**
Grille de dépannage
Annexe a de la dépannage de la santé.
### Scoping

#### Table 2: Scoping Checklist – choosing the appropriate level of HA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response to question</th>
<th>Guidance on the appropriate level of tool &amp; more/less comprehensive tool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the magnitude of the proposed policy change significant?</td>
<td>The greater the magnitude of the policy shift, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there significant potential health impacts of the policy change?</td>
<td>The greater the significance of potential health impacts, and the higher the degree of uncertainty, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
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<td>How urgent is the need for policy change?</td>
<td>If there is relatively high urgency then, select a less comprehensive tool</td>
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<td>Is the timing critical in relation to other policies/issue?</td>
<td>If timing is critically linked to other policy developments and timeframes are short, select a less comprehensive tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the level of political interest?</td>
<td>The higher the level of political interest, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there other political considerations?</td>
<td>The more politically complex the policy change is, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the level of public interest?</td>
<td>The higher the level of public interest in the policy change, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a &quot;window of opportunity&quot; for the world?</td>
<td>Consider if there is a window of opportunity (e.g., timeliness, currency, political support). If the window is likely to close, select the less comprehensive tool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What level of staff resource is available?</td>
<td>The higher the resource level, the more comprehensive the tool should be</td>
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</table>
Evaluation
The choices we make are shaped by choices we have.

Help make the healthy choice the easy choice for everyone.
Questions?
HIA put into practice: a few resources


• HIA connect (CHETRE-Centre for health equity training, research and evaluation): [http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/](http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/)

• National collaborating centre for healthy public policy (NCCHPP), section on HIA: [http://www.ncchpp.ca/627/Health+Impact+Assessment.htm](http://www.ncchpp.ca/627/Health+Impact+Assessment.htm)


• Swiss portal (in French): [http://www.impactsante.ch/spip/](http://www.impactsante.ch/spip/)

• World health organization-HIA section: [http://www.who.int/hia/en/](http://www.who.int/hia/en/)