

Health Impact Assessment in Michigan



On August 11th & 12th, Michigan Department of Community Health Division of Environmental Health held a Health Impact Assessment training at the Ralph MacMullen Center, in Roscommon, MI.

What is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

- ◆ HIA is used to evaluate objectively the potential health effects of a project or policy *before* it is built or implemented.
- ◆ HIA provides *recommendations* to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse health outcomes.
- ◆ The HIA brings potential public health impacts and considerations to the *decision-making process* for plans, projects, and policies that fall outside of traditional public health arenas.
- ◆ HIAs are similar in some ways to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), which are mandated processes that focus on environmental outcomes such as air and water quality. However, unlike EIAs, HIAs can be voluntary or regulatory processes that focus on effects on community's health both direct (asthma or obesity rates) and indirect (income loss).
- ◆ An HIA encompasses an array of qualitative and quantitative methods and tools.
- ◆ Rapid HIAs can be completed in a few days or weeks; full HIAs may require months to complete. The decision to conduct a rapid or a full HIA is determined by the available time and resources.
- ◆ An HIA may be prospective, concurrent, or retrospective.

Why are we promoting HIA?

- ◆ MDCH is working in partnership with CDC to build capacity for using HIA in developing policies and programs related to climate change and emergency preparedness.
- ◆ HIAs can promote community health, sustainable development and environmental responsibility.
- ◆ MDCH is supporting local health departments with funding and training to conduct HIAs.
- ◆ HIAs raise the profile of health and health issues and make it more likely that they'll be considered.
- ◆ HIA is a participatory approach that helps people from multiple sectors work together and promotes equity.

HIA can assess diverse projects.

Example HIAs include projects and policies in the area of transportation, food and agriculture, forestry, energy, land use, waste management, urban renewal plans, housing, noise abatement strategies, safe routes to schools, location of landfills and climate action planning.

Steps for Conducting an HIA include:

Screening: identify projects or policies for which an HIA would be useful,

Scoping: identify which health effects to consider,

Assessing Risks and Benefits: identify which people may be affected and how they may be affected,

Developing Recommendations: suggest changes to proposals to promote positive or mitigate adverse health effects,

Reporting: present the results to decision makers, and

Evaluating: determine the affects of the HIA on the decision process.

HIA Projects in Michigan

Wayne County Dept. of Public Health

[HIA of Gender Pay Inequity](#)

Ingham County Health Dept.

[Tool Created to Assess Health Impacts of Development Decisions](#)

HIA Resources

HIA Resources

Human Impact Partners

www.humanimpact.org

Health Impact Project

www.healthimpactproject.org

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia>



HIA Practitioner, Jennifer Lucky, describes how pathway diagrams are used to link a proposed decision to health. This analysis is done during the “Scoping” step of HIA.

MDCH’s Climate & Health Adaptation Program HIA Goals are:

- ◆ Provide HIA technical assistance.
- ◆ Complete 2 HIAs during 3-year grant period.
- ◆ Develop a Request for Application (RFA) for local health departments (LHDs).
- ◆ Fund up to 4 LHDs to complete climate-change related HIAs.



HIA Practitioner, Kim Gilhully, explains why health should be included in all decision-making.

2011 HIA Training Participants

City of Ann Arbor

City of Dearborn

Wayne County Public Health Department

Washtenaw County Public Health Department

City of Hazel Park

Bay County Health Department

Ingham County Health Department

Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

Public Sector Consultants

Detroit Dept. of Health & Wellness Promotion

Marquette County

Resource Recycling System

Kent County Health Department

Michigan Public Health Institute

Oakland County Health Department

University of Michigan

MDCH—Division of Environmental Health

MDCH—Building Healthy Communities

Detroit City Planning Commission

MICHAP Resources

www.michigan.gov/climateandhealth

[MICHAP Strategic Plan](#)

For more HIA information contact Dominic Smith at smithd82@michigan.gov