

Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Six Steps to Factoring Health into Decision-making Florence Fulk¹ and Justicia Rhodus²

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a process that

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HIA CORE VALUES

Equity

Sustainability

Equity

Democracy

Ethical Use of Evidence

Approach to Health

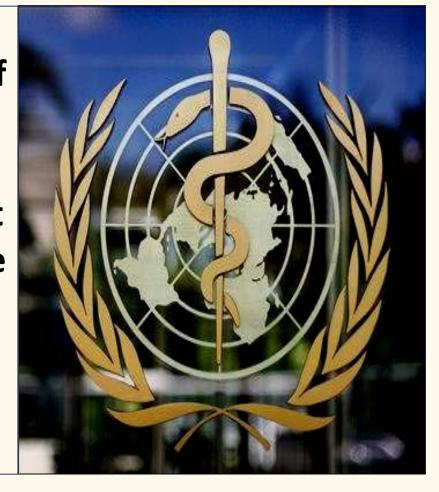
HIA is a process that uses *scientific data, health expertise, and public input* to factor public health considerations into the decision-making process.

WHY HIA? How does the proposed project, plan, policy, program affect Social, Economic & Political Factors Public Services & Infrastructure Resident Activity Public Serv

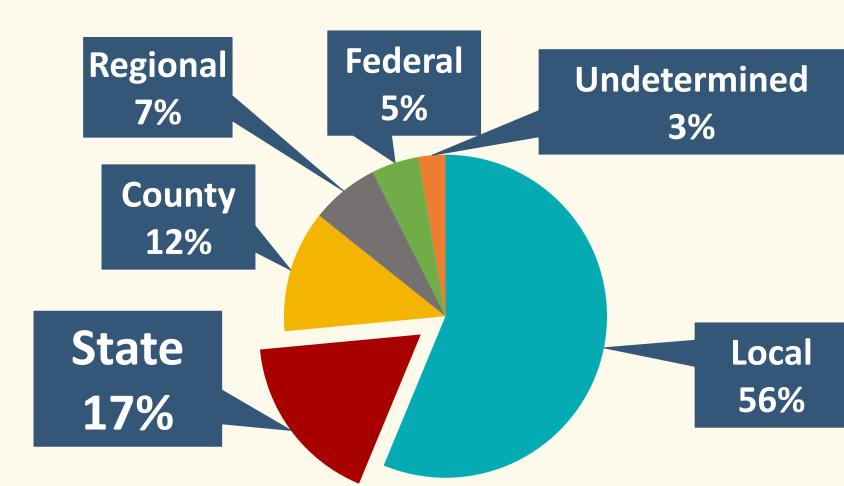
WHAT IS HEALTH?

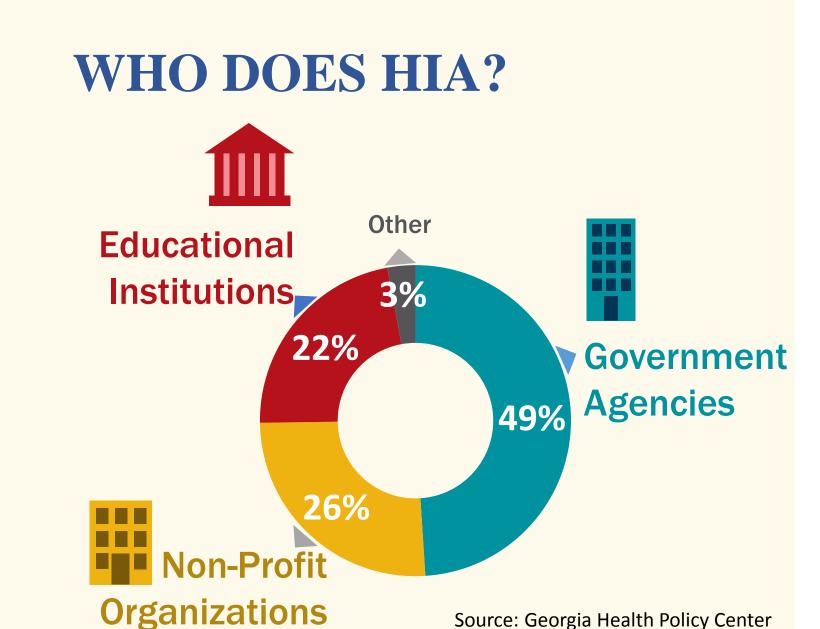
Health is "a state of complete physical, social and mental well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

 Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization



LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING INFORMED BY HIA





Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluate how the HIA was conducted; the effect of the HIA on the decision-making process; and the impact of the decision on health

- Establish a monitoring and evaluation plan, identifying responsible parties; participant roles; plans for stakeholder involvement; indicators; sources of evidence; tools; and methods to be used
- > Conduct and communicate the results of monitoring and evaluation

Reporting

Communicate the results of the HIA to decision-makers and other stakeholders

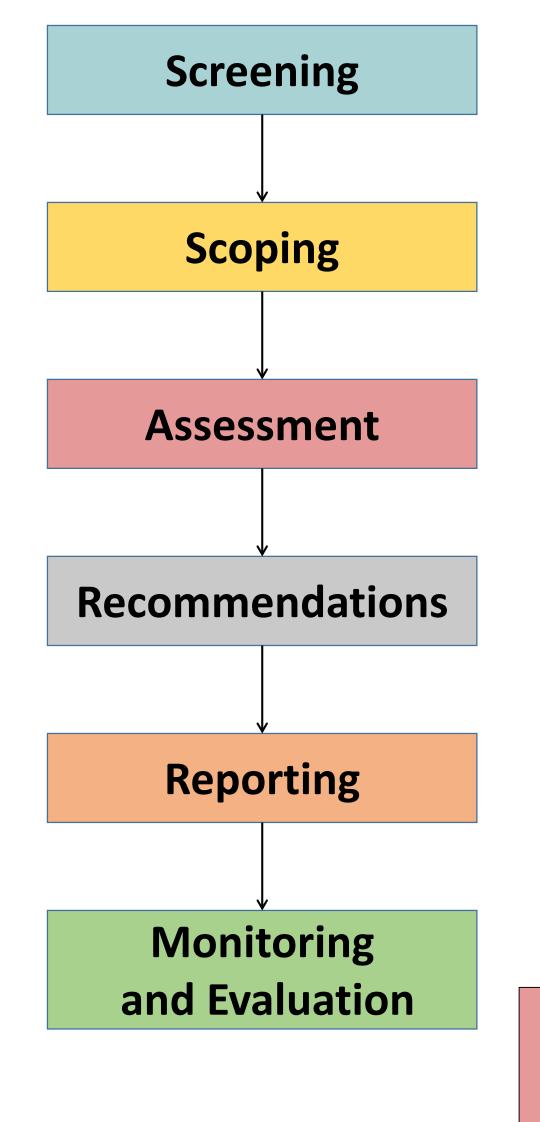
- Develop a transparent, publically-accessible report that documents the HIA's purpose, participants, processes and methods, findings, and recommendations
- Prepare communication materials and communicate the HIA findings and recommendations to decision-makers and other stakeholders

Recommendations

Provide strategies for promoting positive health impacts and/or mitigating adverse health impacts of the decision

- ➤ Identify and if desired, prioritize, recommendations to promote the positive health impacts and/or mitigate the adverse health impacts
- > Develop an implementation plan for developed recommendations (e.g., responsible party for implementation, timeline, indicators that can be monitored)

STEPS OF HIA



Screening

Determine the need and value of an HIA

- Define the decision and its alternatives
- > Assess the feasibility of conducting the HIA given the timeframe and available resources

Scoping

Determine health impacts to evaluate, methods of analysis, and scope of the HIA

- Examine pathways by which the decision could impact health, including populations and vulnerable groups likely to be affected
- Establish a work plan for completing the assessment (HIA goals, timeline, participant roles, stakeholder involvement, impacts to be considered, research questions, methods of analysis, and communication and reporting strategies)

Assessment

Use qualitative and quantitative information to a) create a profile of existing health conditions, and b) evaluate the potential health impacts of the decision

- > Utilize existing data, tools, and methods and primary data collection
- Consider direction, magnitude, severity, likelihood, and distribution/equity of impacts via qualitative and quantitative analysis

