Health Impact Assessment

Andy Pennington,
IMPACT - International Health Impact Assessment Consortium,
University of Liverpool

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Introduction

1. My background

2. Aims of the presentation
   - What is HIA?
   - Purpose of HIA and why you should do it
   - Definition of health
   - Model of health and relationship to the social determinants of health
   - A generic model of HIA
   - HIA and health inequalities

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What is HIA?

A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme 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.

WHO 1999

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Purpose of HIA

HIA aims to inform and influence decision-making to reduce (or eliminate) any negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts of any decision.

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10 reasons for doing HIA (1)

1. Core responsibilities of public sector/government
2. Corporate responsibility and reputation
3. ‘Good business sense’ and ‘added value’
4. Costs of mistakes
5. Sustainable development

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10 reasons for doing HIA (2)

6. Risk management

7. Legislation/license to operate

8. Public/stakeholder participation

9. A balanced approach

10. Appropriate at different levels

(Sources: adapted from Birley, 2004; adapted from Briggs, 2008; HIA CONNECT, accessed January 2010)

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Core Values of HIA

• Democracy
• Ethical use of evidence
• Equity
• Sustainable development
• Openness and transparency

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Definition of Health in HIA

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

World Health Organization, 1948

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Model of Health


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A Generic Model of HIA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Conduct assessment
- Report on health impacts and policy options
- Monitoring
- Impact and outcome evaluation
- Policy analysis
- Profiling of communities
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection
- Impact analysis
- Establish priority impacts
- Recommendations developed
- Process evaluation

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HIA methods and the social determinants of health

Structure of the community health profile

- Health Determinants
  - General socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors
  - Living and working conditions
  - Social and community networks
  - Individual Lifestyle factors
  - Biological factors

- Health Outcomes
  - Health Status & Morbidity
  - Life expectancy & Mortality

HIA Community Health Profile

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HIA and Health Inequalities

1. Two different views - Health Impact Assessment and Health Equity Impact Assessment

2. Addressing health equity within HIA:
   - HIA steering group and TOR
   - Scoping
   - Community profiling
   - Evidence from the literature
   - Evidence from stakeholders
   - Impact analysis
   - Recommendations
   - Monitoring and evaluation

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Risk based Approach

1. Screening
2. Scoping
3. Health Action Plan addressing risks identified
4. Monitoring & Evaluation

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True HIA Approach

- Screening
- Scoping
- Conduct assessment
- Report on health impacts and policy options
- Monitoring
- Impact and outcome evaluation

- Policy analysis
- Profiling of communities
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection
- Impact analysis
- Establish priority impacts
- Recommendations developed
- Process evaluation

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Sources of further information

The HIA Gateway contains:

- HIA screening tools
- Guides to conducting HIAs
- Sector and topic specific examples of HIA
- Information on the relationships between HIA and other assessments such as SEA and EIA
- Information on HIA conferences and training

See: [http://tinyurl.com/yfx7r87](http://tinyurl.com/yfx7r87)

or access through the IMPACT Website

[www.healthimpactassessment.co.uk](http://www.healthimpactassessment.co.uk)
If time allows
3 Levels of HIA

- Desk-top
- Rapid
- Comprehensive
HIAs of employment policy

For HIAs of employment policy conducted by IMPACT in 2004 see:

• HIA of the European Employment Strategy – EU
• HIA of the European Employment Strategy – UK
• HIA of the European Employment Strategy – Ireland
• HIA of the European Employment Strategy – Netherlands
• HIA of the European Employment Strategy – Germany

@ http://www.liv.ac.uk/ihia/IMPACT_HIA_Reports.htm

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Examples of IMPACT HIA work

• North West Region HIA capacity building programme
• Comprehensive HIA of housing and neighbourhood investment programme in Salford
• Rapid HIA of housing investment programme in Liverpool
• Tower Hamlets regeneration HIA and production of best practice guidance
• The Liverpool Local Authority and PCT HIA capacity building programme
• Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council HIA capacity building programme
• HIA of the Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority Core Strategy
• European Policy Health Impact Assessment (EPHIA) Guide
• Prospective Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the proposed Sports Stadium and Retail Development in Kirkby
• Health Impact Assessment of the Health is Wealth Commission’s ‘Big Ideas’
• Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the Liverpool Mutual Homes Housing Investment Programme
• Prospective Rapid Health Impact Assessment of an Energy for Waste Facility in the States of Jersey
• Rapid Health Impact Assessment of Oldham Town Centre Integrated Care Centre
• Rapid Health Impact Assessment of Birmingham International Airport’s Proposed Runway Extension
• Liverpool CitySafe Anti-Social Behaviour Trailblazer Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment
• Integrated Rapid Health Impact Assessment and Race Impact Assessment of the Reconfiguration of Women’s and Children’s Health Services in N.W. England
• Desk-Based Health Impact Assessment of the Residential Relocation Core Document for Liverpool

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Differences between HIA and EA

- Backgrounds, perspectives and aims
- Different approaches
- Skills & understanding
- Overcoming differences

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