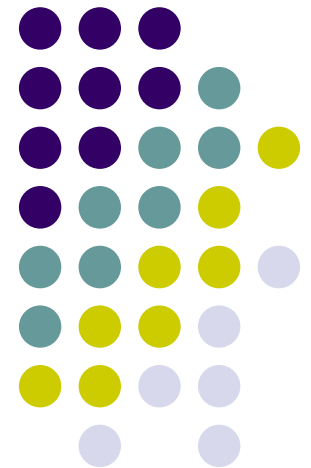


Health impact assessment: applying it in an urban setting?

Erica Ison
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Healthy Cities Network

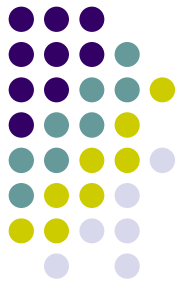




Structure of the talk

- **Introduction to health impact assessment (HIA)**
- **Application of HIA in an urban setting**
- **HIA in the Healthy Cities Network**
- **HIA in London**

HIA: how is the term used?



- **Concept**
- **Process**
- **Methodology**
- **Model**
- **Tool**
- **Approach**



HIA: what is it?

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

WHO Gothenburg Consensus Paper, 1999

HIA: how and why did the methodology develop?



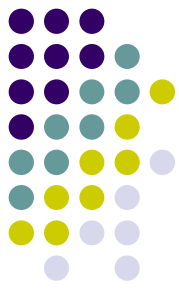
How?

- **Developed by the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research for the assessment of non-health proposals**

Why?

- **To offset the inadequate appraisal of impacts on human health in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and social impact assessment (SIA)**

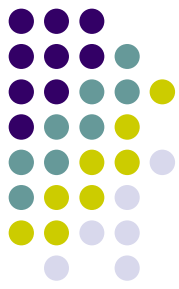
HIA: judging the potential effects on health and well-being



Any proposal has two main types of effect on health and well-being:

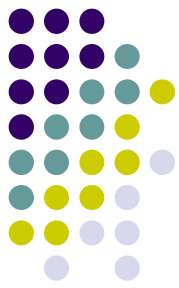
- 1. direct**
- 2. Indirect, through the determinants of health, such as employment, housing conditions, and access to services and facilities**

HIA: why do we identify impacts on health?



The main reason for identifying a proposal's impacts on health and well-being is to explore the *possibilities* of changing the proposal to optimise the health gain we could get from it by maximising the positive impacts and minimising the negative impacts

HIA: optimising health gain



Once the health impacts have been identified, we try to optimise health gain from a proposal by framing suggestions to modify it aimed at:

- Protecting health, by minimising negative impacts**
- Improving health, by maximising positive impacts**
- Reducing health inequalities, a combination of minimising negative impacts and maximising positive impacts on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups**

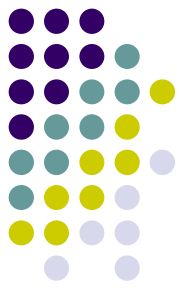
HIA: optimising health gain



To optimise health gain overall through HIA, we need:

- **To achieve health gain from non-health-related proposals – getting added value from these proposals**
- **To maximise health gain from health-related proposals**

HIA: why do it?



The main intention when undertaking HIA is to provide information to politicians, and other decision-makers, so that:

- They are able to *take health into account* when making decisions about a particular proposal
- They can *consider ways of changing the proposal* to protect and improve health

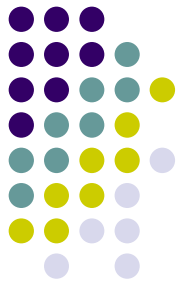
HIA: Supporting decision-making



Information generated by HIA to support political and strategic decision-making

- **The potential beneficial and potential harmful effects on health and well-being of a particular proposal**
- **Suggestions about ways to modify the proposal to maximise the benefits and to minimise the harms to health and well-being**

HIA: Supporting decision-making



Decision-making about a particular proposal can occur at the time of:

- **Proposal design**
- **Proposal development**
- **Proposal implementation**

HIA or an HIA approach can be applied at any of these points

Characteristics of HIA



- **Multidisciplinary**
- **Intersectoral**
- **Range of different methods**
- **Use of quantitative and qualitative evidence**
- **Focus on health inequalities**
- **Participatory**



Values for HIA

- **Sustainability – work towards sustainable development or sustainable communities**
- **Democracy – people’s democratic right to participate in open and transparent decision-making processes**
- **Equity**
- **Ethical use of evidence**

HIA: evolution in the application of the concept



There are two main strands of development in HIA:

- **Applying the classic or traditional process of HIA – 5 or 6 stages**
- **Using an HIA approach – taking specific elements from the process, and adapting and using them during the design and development of a proposal, known as *desk-top appraisal***

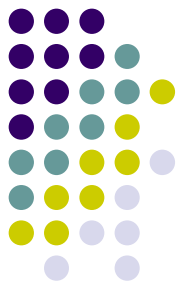
HIA: classic or traditional process



5 stages

- **Screening**
- **Scoping**
- **Appraisal (risk assessment), including report-writing**
- **Supporting or influencing decision-making**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**

HIA: classic or traditional process



6 stages

- **Screening**
- **Scoping**
- **Appraisal (risk assessment)**
- **Report-writing**
- **Supporting or influencing decision-making**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**

HIA: classic or traditional process



WHO Healthy Cities: 3 stages

- Screening and scoping
- Appraisal (risk assessment), including report-writing
- Monitoring and evaluation

Supporting decision-makers is *not* included as a stage because it is seen as the main purpose of HIA

Function of stages in the HIA process



- **Screening – do we need to do an HIA on this proposal?**
- **Scoping – having decided to do an HIA, what are the parameters of the study and how are we going to manage it?**
- **Appraisal – what are the impacts on health and well-being, and how are we going to address those impacts?**

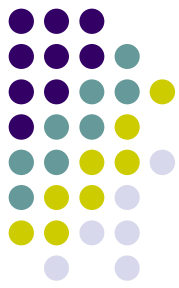
Levels or depths of appraisal



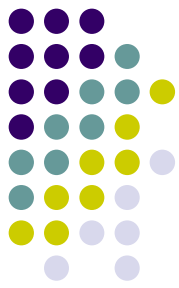
There are two ends of the spectrum:

- ***Rapid* appraisal** – using best available information, i.e. no “new” information is collected
- ***Comprehensive* appraisal** – primary research is conducted, i.e. “new” information is generated

Function of stages in the HIA process



- **Supporting decision-makers – presenting the results of the HIA, and negotiating changes to the proposal to optimise health gain from it**
- **Monitoring and evaluation:**
 1. **Process evaluation – what worked well, and what needs to be improved about the HIA process?**
 2. **Impact or effectiveness evaluation – what impact did the HIA have?**
 3. **Outcome evaluation – what are the outcomes for health or the determinants of health?**

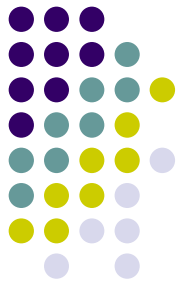


Taking an HIA approach

When is it not appropriate to undertake the HIA process?

- **Consider proportionality or value for money – will the investment of resources be too great in relation to the value obtained from the results?**
- **Consider practicality or feasibility – is there enough time or are there enough resources available to undertake the HIA process?**

Taking an HIA approach



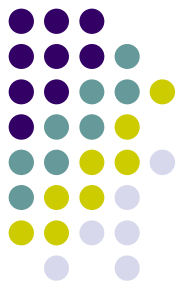
- **Elements of the HIA process are adapted and used to obtain results**
- **Elements of the HIA process usually adapted are from the screening or appraisal stages**
- **Best to use a specially designed tool to ensure systematic assessment of the proposal and good-quality results that are usable**
- **Referred to as desk-top appraisal**



Taking an HIA approach

Taking an HIA approach can enable:

- **HIA to be integrated into the routine work of a municipality;**
- **HIA or a concern for health to be integrated into other impact assessments and appraisals used by the municipality, such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**



HIA: when do you do it?

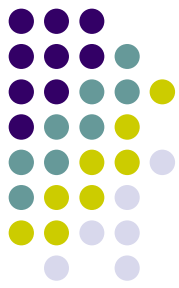
- **Before a proposal is implemented – referred to as *prospective* HIA**
- **While a proposal is being implemented – referred to as *concurrent* HIA**
- **Some time after a proposal has been implemented – referred to as *retrospective* HIA**

Main models of HIA



Biomedical model of health	Social or socio-economic model of health
Biomedical model of HIA	Social or socio-economic model of HIA
Environmental determinants of health	Socio-economic determinants of health
Quantitative evidence	Qualitative evidence
Measurement of variables, modelling	Descriptive

HIA: which model do you use?



- **It is important to try and achieve a balance between the two models of HIA**
- **This balance might be different for different types of proposals**
- **In rapid appraisals, this balance can be affected by the availability of evidence, data and other information**
- **The availability of resources can also dictate the relative balance**

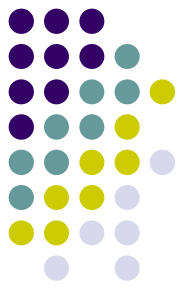
HIA: key features of the methodology



HIA is specific

**HIA is undertaken on:
a specific proposal that will impact
on a particular community
living in a particular set of
circumstances**

HIA: key features of the methodology



Flexibility/adaptability

HIA can be used on:

- ✓ **national policies through to projects in a part of the city**
- ✓ **any subject or topic**

HIA can be adapted to suit:

- ✓ **time available**
- ✓ **resources available (human, financial, material)**
- ✓ **organisational procedures and practices**

Health and well-being in an urban setting



“... the urban context combines in high concentration, interaction and intensity the most challenging issues in modern public health. ... these issues can only be tackled in a framework of integrated health development strategies and policies that address inequalities, social determinants of health, sustainable development, community empowerment, and accountability for health.”

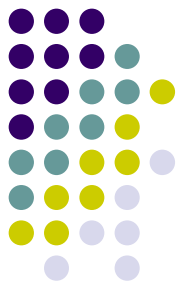
Tsouros and Farrington, 1999

Health in an urban setting



The health of a city's people is determined by many factors in the urban environment:

- **Environmental factors – covering the natural, physical and built environments**
- **Social factors**
- **Economic factors**
- **Cultural factors**



Health in an urban setting

Cultural factors in an urban environment

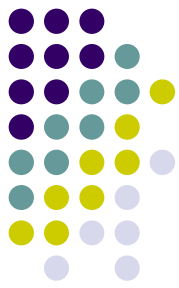
- **Social aggregation**
- **Migration**
- **Modernisation**
- **industrialisation**

Problems in an urban setting



- **Large numbers of people**
- **Rapid growth – inadequate infrastructure, urban sprawl, poor urban planning**
- **Diverse communities with different needs and demands**
- **Disparities of wealth – rich and healthy people live in the same city as poor and disadvantaged people suffering health and other inequalities**
- **Decline of inner city – failing infrastructure, poor access to services and facilities, low-quality services and facilities, environmental degradation, inadequate housing and overcrowding**

Health problems in an urban setting



- **Stress and mental health problems**
- **Accidents**
- **Violence and its consequences for physical and mental health**
- **Substance abuse – alcohol, drugs**
- **Poor life-expectancy**
- **Limiting long-term illnesses**

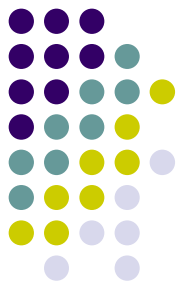
How can HIA help in an urban setting?



HIA can be applied in an urban setting to proposals dealing with:

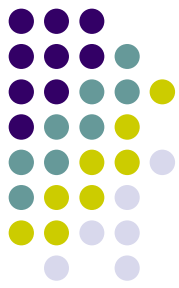
- **Urban or spatial planning**
- **Economic development**
- **Redevelopment and regeneration**
- **Housing**
- **Transport**

HIA in the World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Network



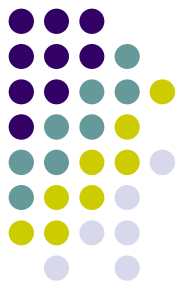
- **The aim of the WHO Healthy Cities Network is to enhance the physical, social, mental and environmental well-being of people who live and work in cities**
- **HIA is a methodology that can help politicians, administrators and technicians in a municipality achieve this aim**

HIA in the WHO Healthy Cities Network



- **HIA is a core theme for Phase IV of Healthy Cities**
- **All Healthy Cities are expected to introduce HIA into their municipality and conduct pilot studies by 2008 – Bursa is a Healthy City**
- **Methodology of HIA will be developed by a small group of Healthy Cities – the Sub-Network in HIA, which includes Yalova**
- **Developments in HIA methods and practice will be disseminated to all WHO Healthy Cities and cities in the WHO National Networks, including the Turkish National Network**

Examples of using HIA in the WHO Healthy Cities Network



Belfast Healthy Cities

- **HIA of the Air Quality Action Plan**
- **HIAs of Masterplans for the City Centre**

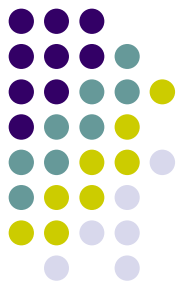
Geneva Healthy Cities

- **Policy to ban smoking in public places**

Venice Healthy Cities

- **Strategy to support older people in the city**

HIA in London



Mayor of London has made a political commitment to conducting HIA on *all* the mayoral strategies:

- **Transport**
- **Economic development**
- **Spatial development**
- **Waste management**
- **Noise**
- **Energy**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Air quality**
- **Culture**
- **Older people**

HIA in London



Governance and accountability

- **HIAs undertaken by the London Health Commission (LHC) for the Mayor of London – LHC is independent**
- **The London Health Commission submits the results to the Mayor, the Greater London Health Assembly and the strategy team responsible for the strategy**

HIA in London



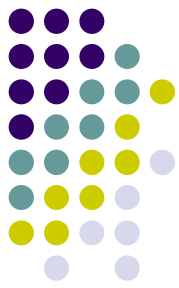
Preparation

- **Scoping the main topic areas of the strategy that the HIA will focus on**
- **Literature review of potential impacts on health and effective interventions relating to the strategy**

Appraisal

- **Rapid appraisal techniques are used**
- **Stakeholder workshop held before public consultation period – stakeholders from the private, public and voluntary sectors**
- **Reporting the results**

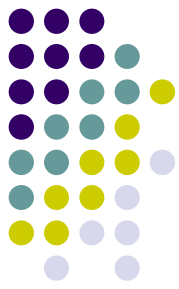
HIA in London



Questions participants were asked in the stakeholder workshop on the Noise Strategy

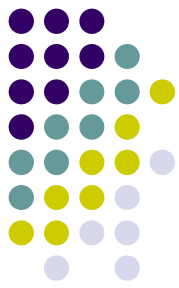
- **What parts of the strategy need to be kept on the basis of the impacts on people's health and well-being? How can we increase those positive impacts?**
- **What parts of the strategy need to be changed because of their impacts on health and well-being? How can we change the proposal to reduce or avoid the negative impacts?**
- **What could be added to the strategy to promote health and well-being?**

HIA: what can it bring to the city administration?



- **HIA is a systematic framework that enables people to explore health and health-related issues during decision-making about a proposal**
- **Health may not be the only priority for politicians and other decision-makers**
- **Information from HIA needs to be considered in relation to information from other sources relating to other priorities**

HIA: what can it bring to the city administration?



If HIA is undertaken regularly, and the results used by politicians and other decision-makers, it can help to improve the public health by:

- **Encouraging an awareness and understanding of health at the level of policy- and decision-making**
- **Establishing a desire to improve health as routine during policy- and decision-making**
- **Making policy- and decision-making “healthy”**

HIA: what can it bring to the city administration?



HIA can contribute to the development of sustainable communities in cities

A healthy community is better able:

- **to work and contribute fully to economic development**
- **to protect and maintain its environment, whether natural, physical or built**
- **to support its members and contribute to its social capital**