

Analyzing the health impacts of planning projects

What's being done and what's to come

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Sponsors: Centers for Disease Control
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MISSION

Integrating community health
issues into contemporary
urban and regional planning
practice and community
design

Planning and Community Health Research Center

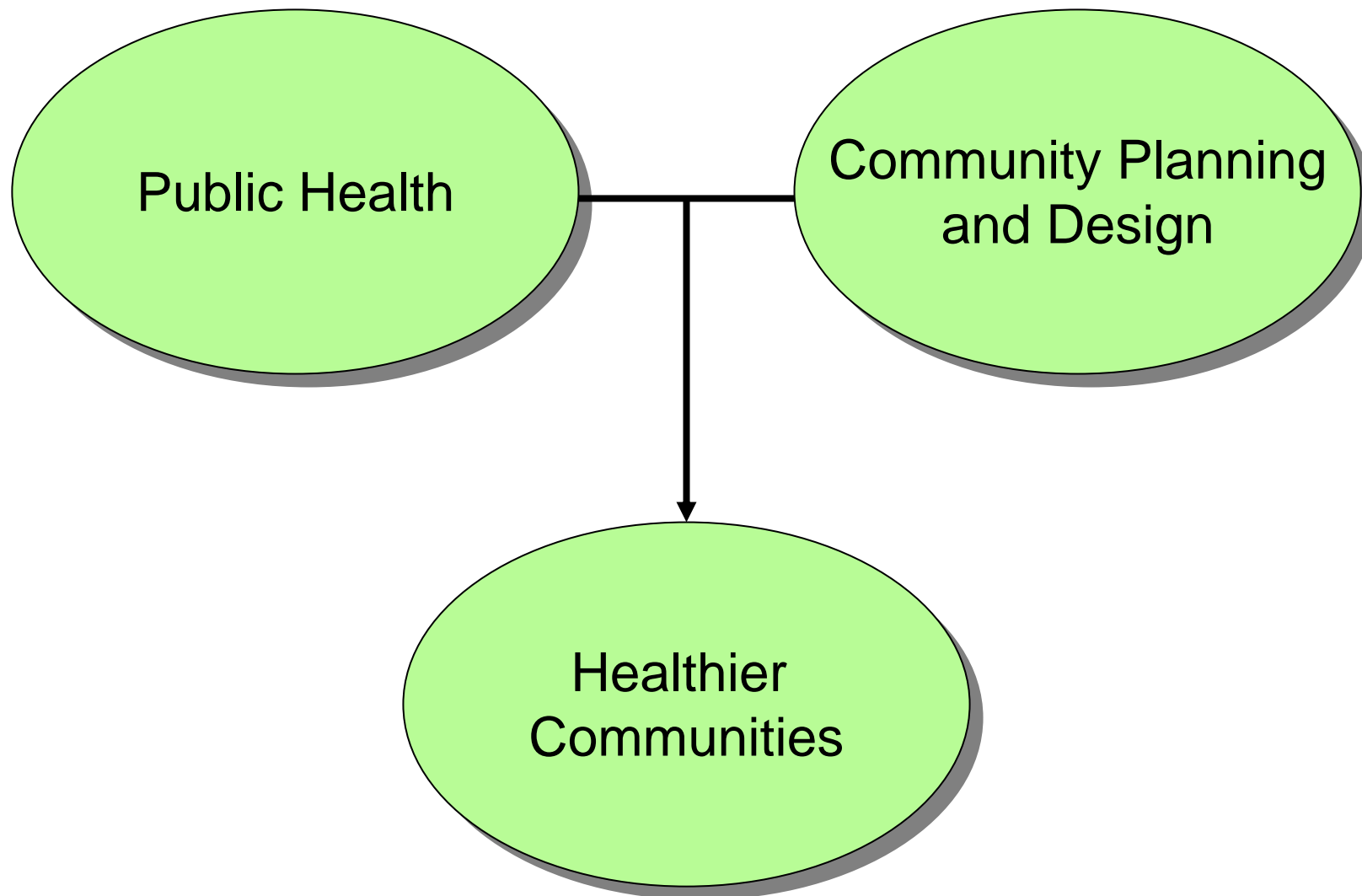


Farmers Market in Bridgehampton, NY
David Shankbone

Planning for...

- Physical activity and active living
- Access to healthy food
- Aging population and people with disabilities
- Community design
- Schools
- Environmental justice and social equity
- Environmental health
- Future planners and health professionals

Convergence of priorities



Integrating Health and Planning

Health Impact Assessments

What is a Health Impact Assessment?

A collection of procedures and tools by which projects, policies, and programs can be evaluated based on their potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population

WHO Regional Office for Europe

What is a Health Impact Assessment?

HIA is a process

HIA products used to summarize and communicate the results of the analysis may include:

- Policy briefs
- Letters to decision-makers
- Visual presentations (slides, videos, posters, etc.)
- Expert testimony
- Reports (of varying length and complexity)
- Spreadsheets and other interactive tools that decision-makers and stakeholders understand potential impacts

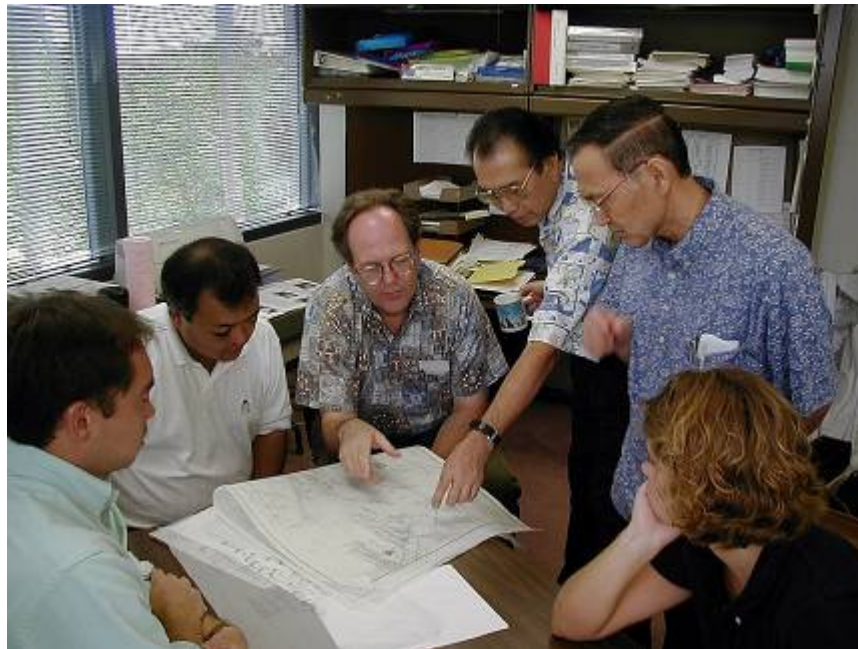
Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Recommendations
- Reporting
- Evaluations

Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Screening

Identify a project or policy for which an HIA would be useful



Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Scoping

Identify which health impacts should be included



Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Assessment

Identify which people may be affected and assess how their health may be affected

Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Recommendations

Identify specific suggestions based on previous analyses

Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Reporting

Create reports suitable in length and depth for various target audiences



Steps in Completing an HIA include:

- Evaluation

Document the process of the HIA, the impact the HIA had on the decisions that were made on the project/policy and how the policy or program impacted the health of the community

Yes...HIAs have an impact

- Influence decision-makers
- Highlight potential health impacts
- Assess how proposals will affect community members and specified at risk subpopulations
- Facilitate collaboration and public participation in decision-making
- Promote sustainable development
- Encourage appreciation of public health in the decision making process.
- Raise awareness of how the built environment affects health.

APA's Five Strategic Points of Intervention

Where to promote change in the planning process

APA's Five Strategic Points of Intervention

1. Visioning and goal setting
2. Rethinking planning in all contexts
3. Local implementation tools
4. Site Design and Development
5. Siting Public Facilities and Capital Spending



1. Visioning and Goal Setting

- Begins with a discussion of shared values
- Results in a shared image of a community -- imagines most desired future
- Provides a broad context within which goals are set and plans are developed
- Majority of planning efforts now launched with a visioning exercise (reflective of more citizen participation)



2. Rethinking State and Local Planning

- Comprehensive plans
- Neighborhood plans
- Redevelopment plans
- Functional plans (health service, bike/ped, trails, parks, housing, streets)



Example: Marin Countywide Plan, CA

The mission of the County of Marin is to provide excellent services that support healthy, safe and sustainable communities; preserve Marin's unique environmental heritage; encourage meaningful participation in the governance of the County for all.

COMMUNITY GOALS

- ◆ Healthy Communities
- ◆ Safe Communities
- ◆ Sustainable Communities
- ◆ Environmental Preservation
- ◆ Community Participation

3. Local Implementation Tools

- Zoning and subdivision regulations
 - Rethink development density
 - Mix land uses
 - Connect streets and routes
 - Require sidewalks
 - Open space
- Transit-oriented development
- Traditional neighborhood development



4. Site Design and Development

- Improve the pedestrian environment
- Security, lighting, visibility
- Protection from traffic
- Adequate accommodation
- Building orientation, setback requirements
- Public art
- Architecture and appearance
- Street trees, landscaping, open spaces
- Well connected routes



Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Ingham County, Michigan

Physical Activity-Related Questions

Does the project provide mobility options for those who cannot drive?

Does the project contain elements that enhance feelings of neighborhood safety?

Does the project provide safe routes for children to walk to and from school?

Does the project contain design elements to calm traffic?

Does the project present unsafe conditions or deter access and free mobility for the physically handicapped?

Does the project include pedestrian crossing signals and pedestrian refuge islands on the median?

5. Siting and Use of Public Facilities and Capital Spending



- Public Spaces
- Schools
- Post offices
- Libraries
- Museums
- Parks
- City Hall
- Campuses
- Community Centers

Thanks!



National Association of County and City
Health Officials

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