

Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**

- **Introduction to HIA**

- Step 1: Screening
- Step 2: Scoping - **Review Scoping Questions**
- Step 3: Assessment
- Step 4-6: Recommendations, Reporting & Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement**

Objectives

- The purpose of an HIA: to provide health information to decision-makers to better inform decisions
 - **Note: the role of the HIA is to identify possible solutions and recommendations NOT to stop the project or impact permitting processes.**
- Review Scoping Questions
- Discuss Collaboration Agreement

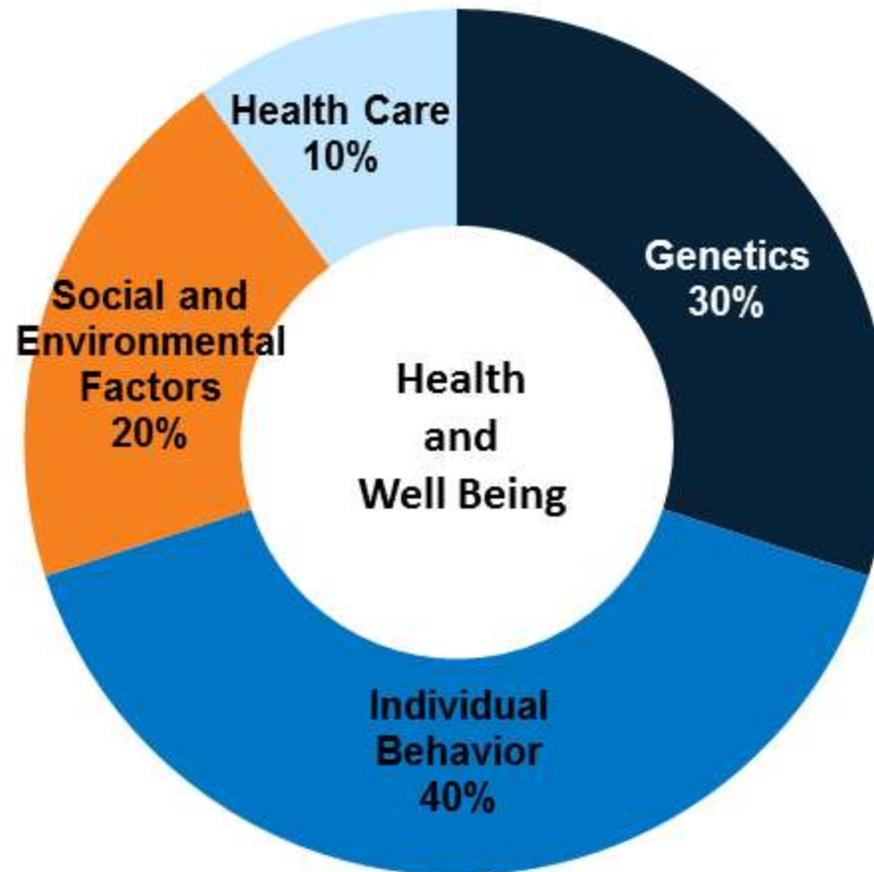
What is Health?

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

Source: World Health Organization

This definition has not been amended since 1948

What Determines our Health?



SOURCE: Schroeder, SA. (2007). We Can Do Better — Improving the Health of the American People. *NEJM*. 357:1221-8.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- Definition: A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

National Research Council, Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment, 2011.

Values of Health Impact Assessment

- HIA aims to advance the values of
 - democracy
 - equity
 - sustainable development
 - the ethical use of evidence
 - a comprehensive approach to health

North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group (Bhatia R, Branscomb J, Farhang L, Lee M, Orenstein M, Richardson M). Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment, Version 2. North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group. Oakland, CA: November 2010.

Why Conduct HIA?

- **Identify harms and benefits before decisions are made**
- **Identify evidence-based strategies and recommendations to promote health and prevent disease**
- Increase transparency in the policy decision-making process
- **Support inclusive and democratic decision-making**
- **Support community engagement in the decision-making process**
- **Advance equity and justice**
- Shift decision-making from an *economic* to a *quality of life* framework
- Inform a discussion of trade-offs involved with a project or policy
- Facilitate decisions and their implementation

Draft Goals – from Collaboration Agreement

- Providing the Applicant, participating agencies, and other decision-makers with information about the relative health and health equity impacts of the proposed silicon smelter plant so they can more effectively address the potential health effects of the proposed project and other development proposals.
- Providing other interested stakeholders with information about the relative health and health equity impacts on the residents of Pend Oreille County.
- Increasing understanding about the connections between major development projects and health and health equity.
- Conducting an HIA that conforms with the “Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment” (Version 3, 2014).¹

¹ Bhatia R, Farhang L, Heller J, Lee M, Orenstein M, Richardson M and Wernham A. *Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment*, Version 3. September 2014.

Six Steps of HIA

1. **Screening** - to determine if an HIA is useful for a specific project or policy
2. **Scoping** - identify which health effects to consider
3. **Assessment** - determine which people may be affected and how they may be affected
4. **Recommendations** - suggest changes to proposal to promote positive or mitigate adverse health effects
5. **Reporting** - present the results to decision-makers
6. **Monitoring and evaluating** - determine the affect of the HIA on the decision process

Step 1: Screening

The Screening process helps determine if:

- **... the HIA is feasible**
Is there sufficient information about the decision?
Is there available resources to conduct the HIA?
- **... the HIA can be done in a timely manner**
Can the HIA fit within the decision-making time frame?
- **... the HIA would add value to the decision making process**
Is health already at the table?
Will the proposed project benefit from an HIA and promote health and influence positive change to the community?

Concerns about HIA

Concern	Response
HIA is costly	Not as costly as treatment of health impacts in the long run
HIA is time-consuming and will slow decision-making process	Conducting the HIA early will bring issues to the front of the decision-making process, potentially speeding approval processes, and preventing costly litigation that delays projects
HIA will stop economic development	The role of HIA is to identify solutions and recommendations, not to say “don’t do that”
HIA is duplicative	While an environmental review generally focuses on mitigating any exceedances or meeting standards for permitting, the HIA is useful when public interests are running high and adds public health analysis that may not otherwise be discussed.
HIA is not scientific	Role of HIA is to pull together the best available peer reviewed science to make a statements about public health impacts

Step 2: Scoping

Main Goals:

1. Create the plan for the HIA
2. **Determine health indicators to be assessed**

Step 3: Assessment

Main goals:

1. Profile baseline conditions, characteristics of target populations
2. Analyze potential health effects of decisions

Analysis

EXAMPLE

Health Outcome/ Determinant	Direction	Likelihood of Impact	Distribution of Impact	Quality of Evidence
Hazardous Gas and Particulate Emissions	▼	Possible	Dairy workers and residents living closest to site and manure application will be impacted the most	**
Nuisance Odors	▼	Likely	Residents living closest to site and manure application will be impacted the most	***
Groundwater Quality	▼	Possible	Residents near site with poorly constructed or shallow wells	*
Surface water Quality	▼▲	Possible	Recreational users of waterways, fish, wildlife	*
Economic Impact	▼▲	Likely	Local economy, property owners, local businesses and farmers	**
Traffic	▼	Likely	Motorists near intersection of HWY 14 and Scharine Rd.	***
Noise	▼	Likely	Residents in close proximity to site	***
Visual Impact	▼▲	Likely	Motorists on HWY 14 and Scharine Rd area residents	*
Insect Borne Disease	▼	Possible	Residents in close proximity to site	***

▼ = Negative impact

▲ = Positive impact

▼▲ = Both positive and negative impacts are possible

Literature Association – strength of studies associating health impact to large animal operations.

*** Many strong studies

** Few good studies

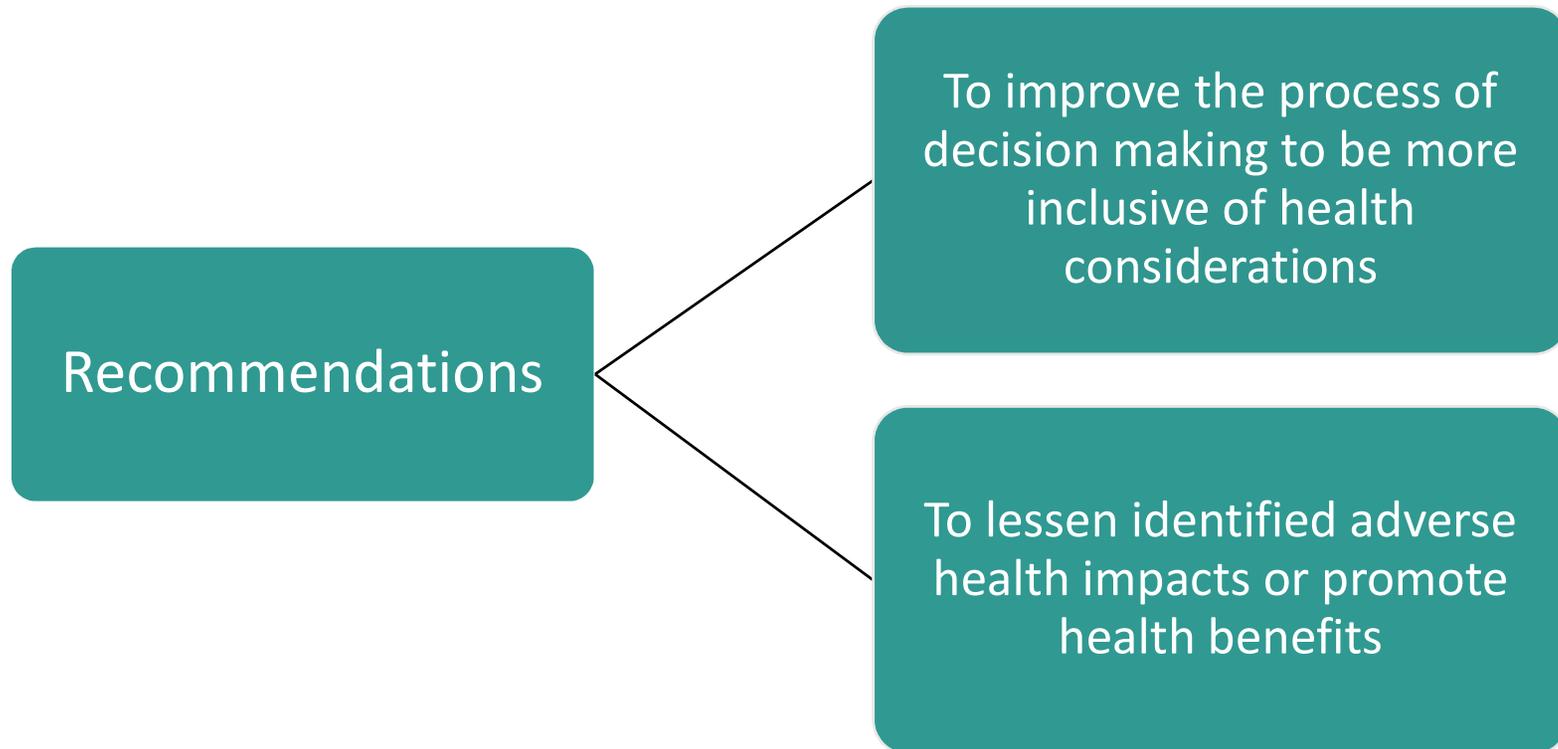
* No clear studies, but consistent with public health principles

Step 4: Recommendations

- Use results from assessment to develop recommendations and mitigations to address any negative health impacts and maximize health benefits
- Recommendations -- alternative ways to design a project, plan, or policy including its location or timing to benefit health
- Management strategies to lessen anticipated adverse health effects of a decision

Recommendations

- Recommendations can focus on Process and/or Outcomes



Step 5: Reporting

- **Two main products:**

- Develop full HIA report and communicate findings and recommendations
- Develop a succinct summary for effective communication

Step 6: Monitoring & Evaluation

- Monitoring—What happened?
- Monitor recommendations & implementation
 - Were the HIA recommendations adopted?
 - Has the policy, program or plan been implemented?
- Monitor health determinants and outcomes
 - Were there changes in exposures, health outcomes/determinants & any unexpected consequences

Review: HIA Steps

1. **Screening** - to determine if an HIA is useful for a specific project or policy
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Questions?

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Community & Environment Website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment>

Washington Tracking Network:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/>