Health Impact Assessment and Health in All Policies

Tools to improve, promote and protect health and wellness
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

As Vermonters, we take great pride in our quality of life, strong communities, natural places and commitment to healthy living.

We share a common goal: to ensure that our state continues to be one of the healthiest and best places in the U.S. for all of us to live, work and play.
Determinants of Health
Factors influencing health status

Figure 1. Proportional Contribution to Premature Death


Figure 2. Factors Affecting Health Outcomes

Adapted to include genetics and McGinnis weighting of factors
County Health Rankings http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/our-approach

Vermont Department of Health
Spending Mismatch: Health Care and Other Key Determinants of Health

Determinants
- Access to Care 10%
- Genetics 20%
- Environment 20%
- Healthy Behaviors 50%

National Health Expenditures
- Medical Services 88%
- Other 8%
- Healthy Behaviors 4%

Factors that Affect Health

Socioeconomic Factors

Changing the Context to make individuals’ default decisions healthy

Long-lasting Protective Interventions

Clinical Interventions

Counseling & Education

Examples

- Condoms, eat healthy
- Rx for high blood pressure, high cholesterol
- Immunizations, brief intervention, cessation treatment, colonoscopy
- Fluoridation, 0g trans fat, iodization, smoke-free laws, tobacco tax
- Poverty, education, housing, inequality
A New Approach: Health in All Policies

“integrate health criteria into decision making across multiple sectors.”

“support cross sector activities to enhance access to high quality education, jobs, economic opportunity and opportunities for healthy living.”

National Prevention Strategy, 2012
How do we put this into practice?

1. Health in All Policies (HiAP)
2. Health Impact Assessments (HIA)
3. ...and lots of creative variants
What is HiAP?

An approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health and health systems implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts, in order to improve population health and health equity.

WHO Consultation and HiAP Framework, 2013

http://www.healthpromotion2013.org/health-promotion/health-in-all-policies
Current Activities in Vermont

Health and Housing
- Support and Services at Home (SASH) Program

Health and Agriculture & Food
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) prescriptions for health

Health and Transportation
- Complete Streets
- Safe Speeds

Health and Land Use Planning
- Healthy Community Design
- ECOS sustainability project
- Act 250?
Potential Partnerships

- Agency of Administration
- Agency of Agriculture
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agency of Education
- Agency of Human Services
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Transportation
- Natural Resources Board
- Public Service Department
- Public Service Board
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Vermont Housing Finance Agency
Act 48 Sec. 11. HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING, REGULATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Charges the state with “recommending a plan to institute a public health impact assessment process to ensure appropriate consideration of the impacts on public health resulting from major policy or planning decisions made by municipalities, local entities, and state agencies.”
“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. Health impact assessment provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.”

National Research Council, 2011
Essential Questions

• How will the proposed change impact health – positively or negatively?

• Are potential health benefits and risks distributed equitably?

• Are there ways in which the proposal can be modified to maximize beneficial impacts and minimize harmful ones?
Distinguishing Features

• Initiated to inform a decision-making process, and conducted in advance – decision point

• Utilizes a systematic analytic process -- best data

• Solicits and utilizes input from stakeholders – community values

• Identifies appropriate recommendations, mitigations and/or design alternatives – improved decisions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIA Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>Determines the need and value of an HIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a work plan</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Provides:</td>
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<td>1) a profile of existing health conditions</td>
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<td>2) evaluation of potential health impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Provide strategies to manage identified adverse health impacts and maximize benefits to health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Includes:</td>
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<td>1) development of the HIA report</td>
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<td>2) communication of findings &amp; recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation &amp; Monitoring</td>
<td>Tracks and evaluates:</td>
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<td>1) the process of conducting the HIA</td>
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<td>2) impacts on decision-making processes and implementation of the decision</td>
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<td>3) impacts of the decision on health outcomes</td>
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HIA: United States

- Housing redevelopment
- Highway corridor redevelopment
- Pedestrian/bicycle trail development
- Highway bridge replacement
- Transit line
- Community transportation plan
- Local area and comprehensive plans
- After-school programs
- Living wage ordinance
- Paid sick leave policy
- Coal-fired power plant
- Low income home energy subsidies
- Oil and gas leasing policies
**Topic of HIA:** proposed housing development: 61 senior housing units near two major freeways and the Port of Oakland.

**Health Risks:**
1. *Indoor air quality* from outdoor pollution sources (NOT a part of the required permit process) could harm residents
2. *Noise:* related to sleep disturbance, high blood pressure
3. *Pedestrian Safety* – identified dangerous road crossings

Outcomes

1. **Air Quality** – developer implemented air filtration; changed windows facing freeway.

2. **Noise** – developer added a noise-buffered courtyard and entranceway away from the highway.

3. **Safety** – recommendations for “traffic calming” measures (speed bumps, wider sidewalks with narrower lanes, safe cross walks) to allow residents walking access to nearby retail. Under consideration.

Source: [http://humanimpact.org/JLG_case_study_draft.pdf](http://humanimpact.org/JLG_case_study_draft.pdf)
Jack London Low-income Senior Housing: Now people live there...

The way that they designed this building, it’s for your health. We can open up the air purifiers to get fresh air. I’m even on the side facing the freeway but the building is sound-proof, so you can barely hear the traffic. It’s so peaceful. Before I lived here, I had to have shots for asthma and go to the hospital for oxygen to get my breathing down to the right level. Since I’ve lived here, I haven’t had to do that once. I love it.
Vermont has a need to look beyond medical care
- Focus on the contributors and key determinants of health
- Address the spending “mismatch” for health and healthcare

Vermont has a framework for HiAP
- Engaging multi-agencies
- Act 48
- Municipal and Regional Planning (Chapter 117)

Are there other options?
- Healthcare reform? Potential changes in investments and priorities
- Act 250
Thank you