



Health Impact Assessment: An overview

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The problem

Policy decisions have consequences.

Some may result in:

- negative health outcomes
- missed opportunities to improve health
- differential impacts across social groups

Part of the solution:
health impact assessment (HIA)



Presentation goals

- Describe HIA and how it's used
- Summarize the 5 steps of conducting an HIA
- Explain HIA's place in contemporary public health



HIA is a decision-support tool

- Is a systematic process
- Uses an array of data sources and analytic methods
- Considers input from stakeholders
- Determines potential health effects and their distribution within the population
- Suggests ways to monitor and manage those effects



Influences on health outcomes



Social and Environmental Determinants of Health

slide courtesy of Oregon Public Health Institute

Assessing health determinants

*How does the
proposed
project, plan, policy*



affect

- Housing
- Air quality
- Noise
- Safety
- Social networks
- Nutrition
- Parks and natural space
- Private goods and services
- Public services
- Transportation
- Livelihood
- Water quality
- Education
- Inequities



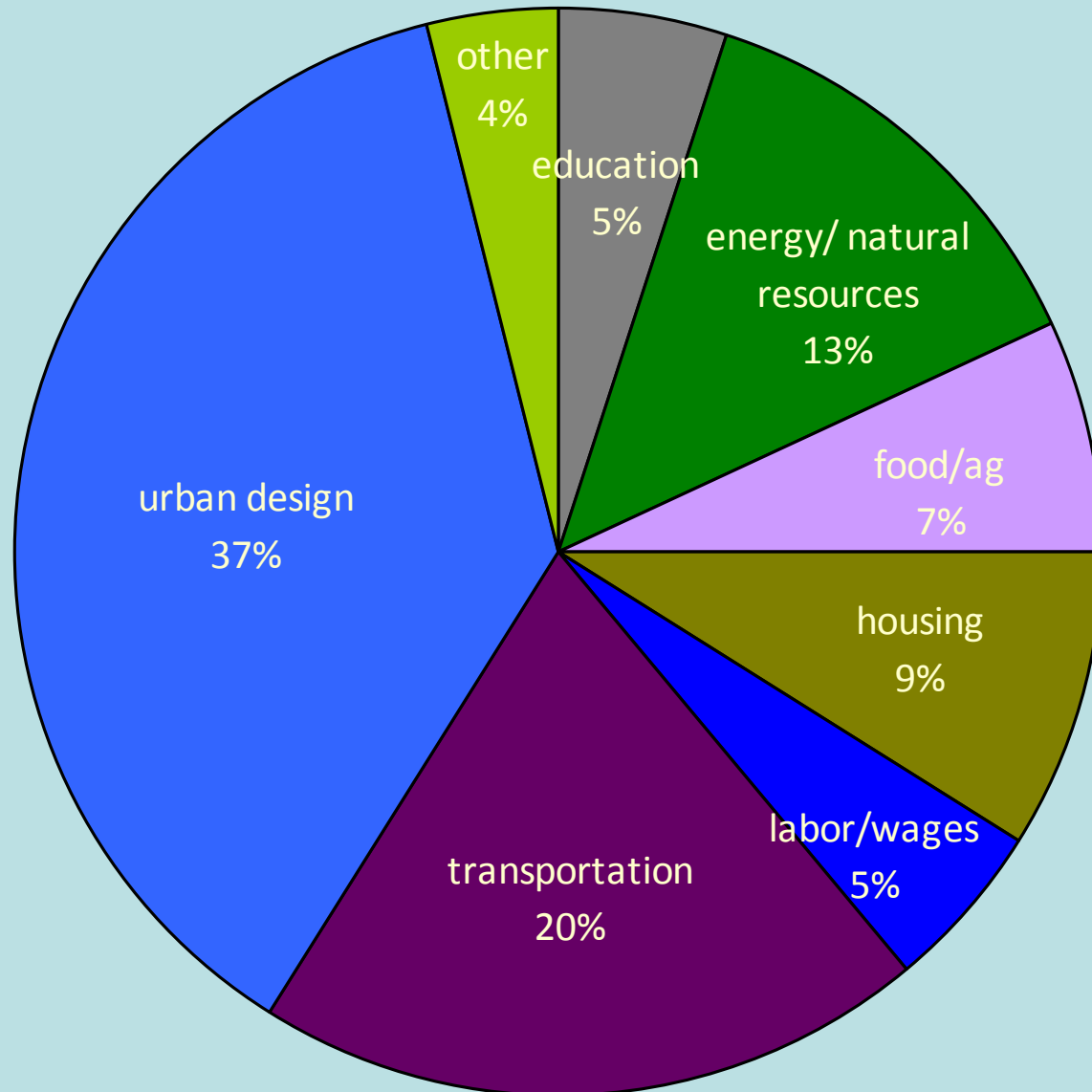
*and lead to
health
outcomes*



slide courtesy of Human Impact Partners



Completed HIA's by sector (U.S.)



*data courtesy of
Health Impact Project*

5 Steps in the HIA process

1. Screening
2. Scoping
3. Assessment
4. Reporting
5. Monitoring



1. Screening

Should an HIA be conducted?

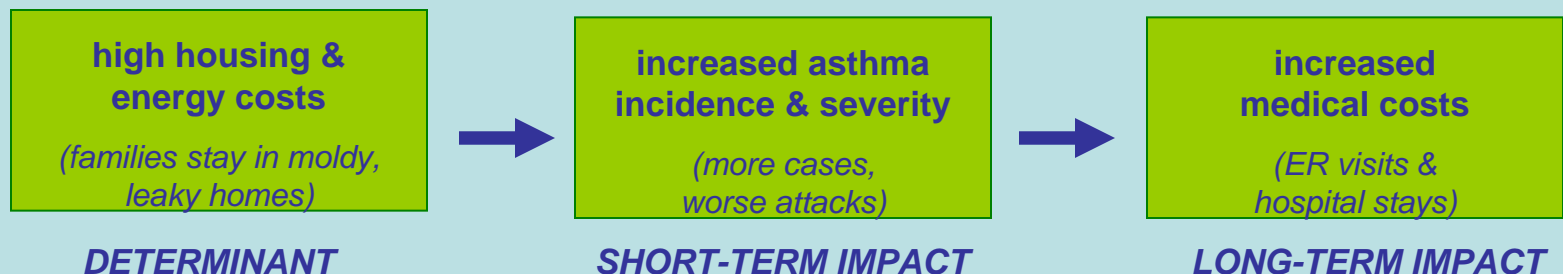
- What decision will be influenced?
- Is the decision likely to affect health?
- Will the HIA be useful to decision-makers?
- Are resources available to conduct the HIA?
- Who should conduct the HIA?



2. Scoping

How will the HIA be conducted?

- Which health effects are the most important?
- What are the equity implications?
- Which analytical methods will be used?



3. Assessment

How will the decision change things?

- What are the baseline healthy and equity conditions?
- How might the policy decision change these conditions?



4. Recommendations

How could the decision best support health and equity?

- Are there ways to assure more equitable distribution of benefits and burdens?
- How can “co-benefits” be maximized?



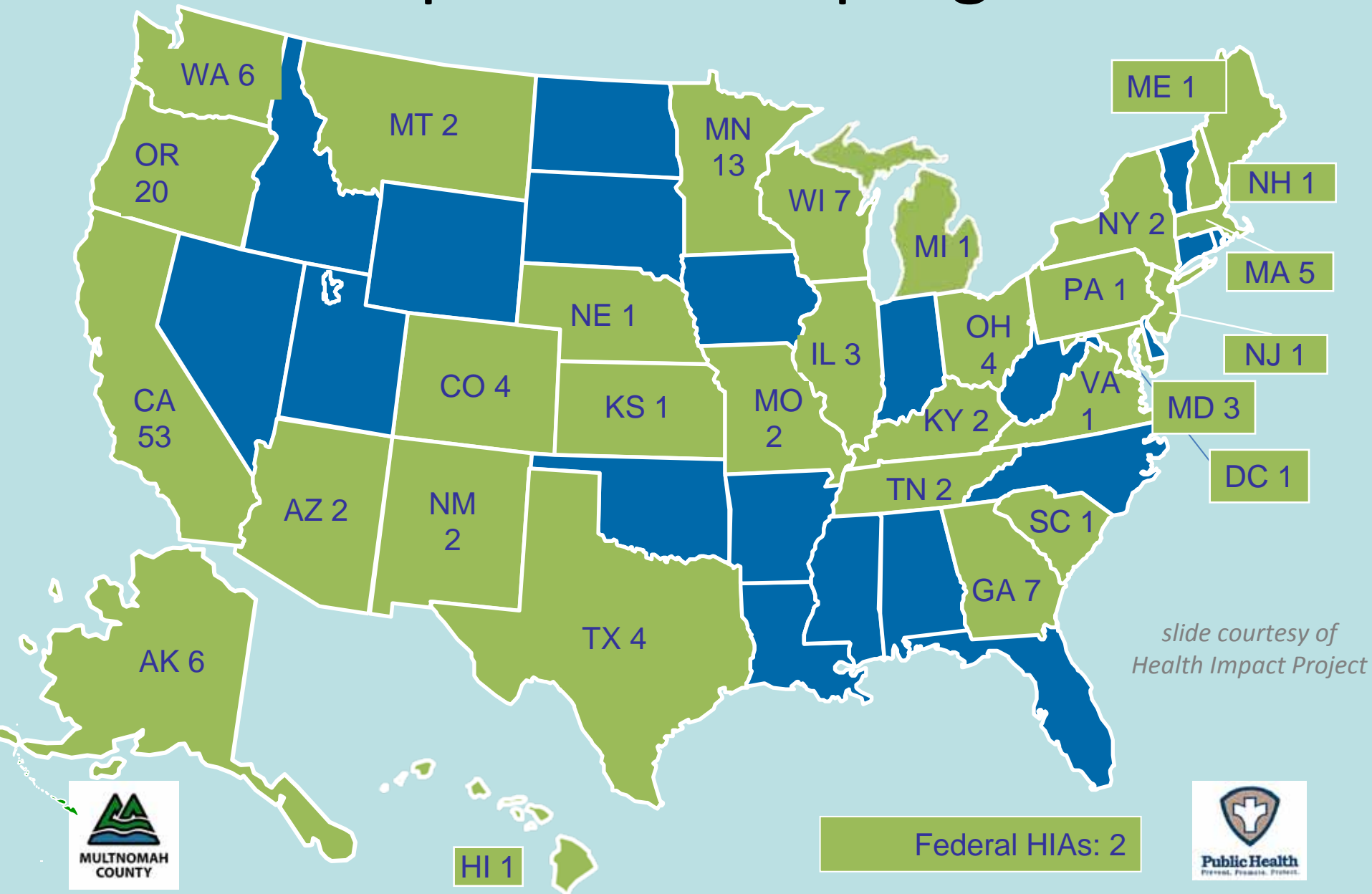
5. Monitoring

How successful was the HIA?

- How did the HIA affect the decision-making process?
- What were the ancillary effects of the HIA?
 - Cross-sector relationships
 - New analytical methods
 - Lessons learned



HIA's completed or in progress



How projects come about

- Internal and external requests
- Key selection criteria
 - Adds unique value to decision-making process
 - Benefits from specific Health Dept. technical expertise
 - Fits with Health Dept. program areas
 - Resources are available
 - Leverages partnerships
- Whether HIA is the tool is a separate question

(HIA Step 1: Screening)



Choosing an appropriate tool

- Devised health and equity metrics for East Metro Connections Plan project selection criteria
- Developed Healthier People “measures of success” benchmarks for Portland Plan
- Advised on West Hayden Island ESEE scope



Online resources

- Human Impact Partners FAQ
www.humanimpact.org/faq
- UCLA HIA Clearinghouse & Info Center (HIA-CLIC)
www.hiaguide.org
- National Research Council
“Improving health in the United States: The role of Health Impact Assessment”
www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13229



Thank you!

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