



# The Health Impact Assessment and Public and Environmental Health Laboratories

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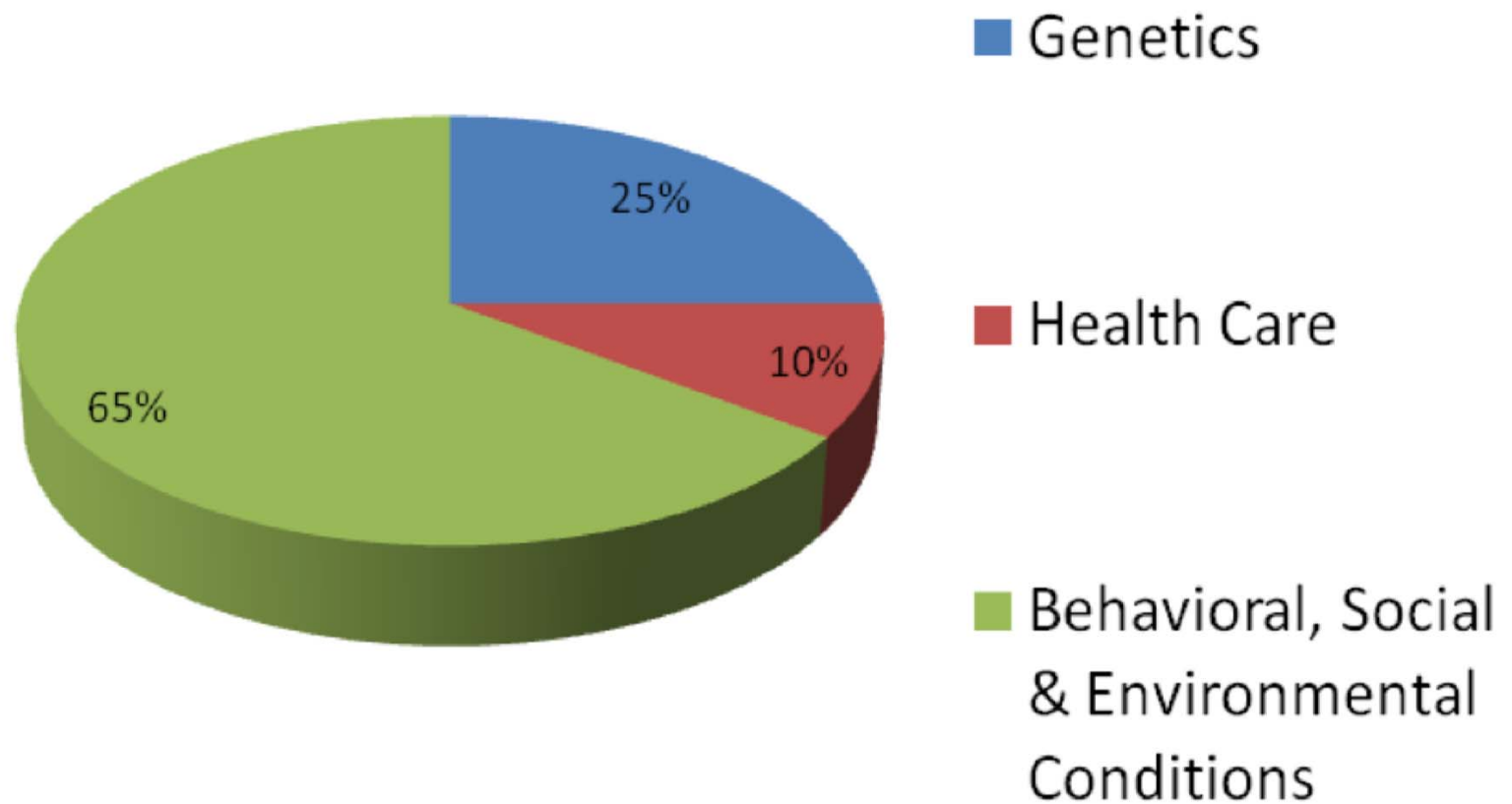
# What is Health?

*“A state of complete physical, social and mental wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.*

(World Health Organization, 1948)



# Health Determinants



*(J Health Affairs, 2002)*

# Health Determinants



# Health Determinants



**Economic Development:**  
Employment &  
Insurance

Decisions made on  
policies, programs  
or projects  
operating outside  
the health sector  
can all impact  
health



**Transport:**  
Air & noise pollution,  
traffic injuries



Healthy Foods

**Agriculture:**  
Food safety &  
availability

**Education:**  
Socioeconomic  
status



# Consequences



## Budget Cuts

# So what's the next step?





# What is Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

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

(WHO, 2012)



# What exactly is HIA?

- ❖ **A tool to assess the health impacts of a proposal (policy, program or project)**
- ❖ **Can be employed by different sectors of the economy to address health concerns in their decision making processes**
- ❖ **Differs from other health assessments:**
  - **Informs decisions on a specific proposal**
  - **Uses a broad definition of health**
  - **A systematic assessment of multiple health determinants (social, economic, environmental etc)**

# HIA Framework

<b>Screening</b>	❖ Will the proposal benefit from a HIA?
<b>Scoping</b>	❖ Identify objectives, health impacts, data collection and analysis methods
<b>Assessment</b>	❖ Conduct data collection & assessment
<b>Recommendations</b>	❖ Identify strategies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• minimize/eliminate negative health impacts</li><li>• maximize benefits to health</li></ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	❖ Prepare HIA report ❖ Communicate of findings & recommendations
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	❖ Conducted throughout the HIA to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effectiveness of the HIA process</li><li>• Impact of HIA on decision-making</li><li>• Impacts of decisions on health determinants</li></ul>



# HIA Framework cont..

## HIA Evaluation Processes

Screening

Scoping

Assessment  
& Developing  
Recommendations

Reporting

Implementation of  
Recommendations

Long-term  
Outcomes

Process Evaluation & Reporting of Results

Impact  
Evaluation &  
Reporting of  
Results

Outcome  
Evaluation &  
Reporting of  
Results

# Types of HIA

Type	Conducted When and Why?
Prospective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ During the development stages of a proposal</li> <li>❖ Determine changes needed to reduce/eliminate negative health impacts and enhance beneficial ones</li> </ul>
Retrospective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Evaluation of existing policies, programs or projects (PPPs)</li> <li>❖ Determine any resulting health impacts/inequities</li> <li>❖ Can inform future development of similar proposals</li> </ul>
Concurrent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Evaluate health impacts of PPPs during their respective implementation</li> <li>❖ Assists implementers to under take prompt action on identified health impacts</li> </ul>

# HIA Methodologies

Method	Consists of	Time Frame
<b>Desk-based/Rapid HIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Broad overview of possible health impacts</li> <li>❖ Collection &amp; assessment of existing data</li> </ul>	2 - 6 weeks up to 12 weeks
<b>Intermediate HIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review of available evidence</li> <li>❖ Collection and analyzes of new data</li> <li>❖ Stakeholder participation</li> </ul>	> 12 weeks
<b>In-depth HIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Comprehensive assessment of all potential health impacts.</li> <li>❖ Data collection &amp; analyzes using various methods and sources</li> <li>❖ Stakeholder participation</li> </ul>	6 months – 1 year (assessment of possible seasonal variations)



# Which HIA Method?

## Selection Criteria

- ❖ **Status (stage) & complexity of the proposal**
- ❖ **Resources (funding, data, personnel, time)**
- ❖ **Purpose of the HIA and its goals**
- ❖ **Potential scale & severity of health impacts**
- ❖ **Quality of the health evidence base**
- ❖ **Access and availability of quality data**
- ❖ **Support for HIAs at local and/or state level**

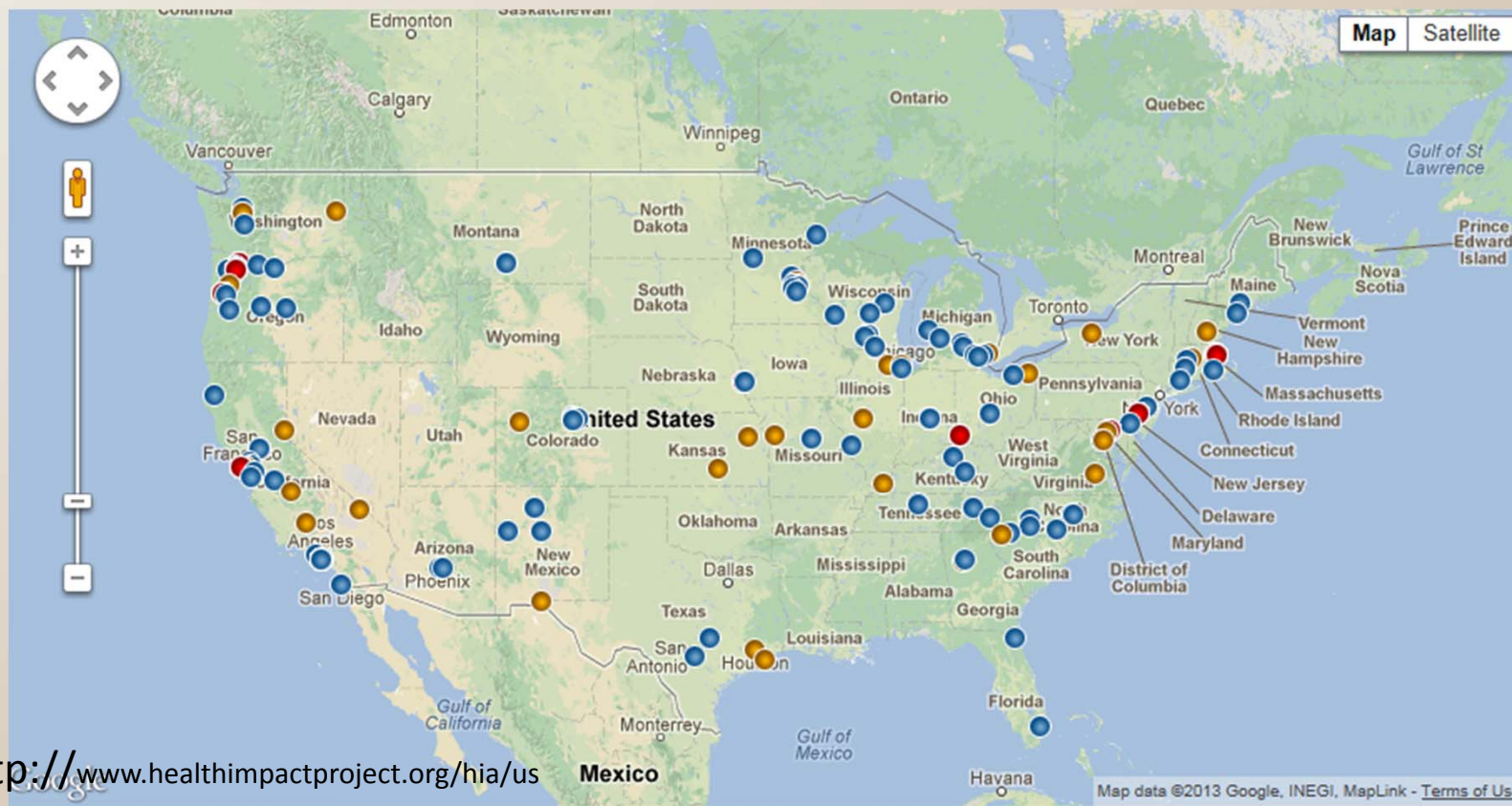


# Benefits of HIA as a Policy Tool

- ❖ **Increase awareness/acceptance of a broader definition of health**
- ❖ **Serve as an institutional mechanism to screen new proposals systematically**
- ❖ **Provides a mechanism for more democratic, better informed & transparent decision-making.**
- ❖ **Serve as a means to achieve health in all policies and reduce the burden of ill-health**

# HIAs in the United States

By the end of 2007, there were 27 completed HIAs in U.S.  
There are now more than 225 completed or in progress.



CHOOSE A REGION



**LEGEND**

- HIA
- Health Impact Project-Funded HIA
- Multiple HIAs





# HIA application in the US

Decision Making Level	Lead Organization/s	Sector
<b>Local</b> (Sacramento, CA)	UCLA School of Public Health, CDC, Project MOVE	<b>Education:</b> Health impacts of the Sacramento Safe Routes to School Program
<b>County</b> (Knox Cnty, TN)	Knox County Health Department & Communities Coalition	<b>Built Environment:</b> Zoning changed to include community gardens.
<b>State</b> (WI)	WISDOM (Faith based organization)	<b>Economic Policy:</b> Potential health and economic impacts of Treatment Alternatives to Prison
<b>Regional</b> (NC)	Davidson Design for Life (initiative of the Town of Davidson)	<b>Transportation:</b> Health impacts of a commuter line project connecting Mooresville to Charlotte, NC.
<b>Federal</b>	Partnership for Prevention, UCLA Health Impact Assessment Project	Impacts of the <b>2002 Farm Bill</b> on health determinants (rural economy, dietary choices and air pollution)

<http://www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us>



# 2013 Health Impact Project Awardees

Detroit, MI	Detroit Urban Research Center	Determine impact of redistribution of city services and infrastructure to stabilize neighborhoods and improve safety
Paducah, KY	Kentucky Environmental Foundation	Analyze health concerns related with air and water pollution from plans to retrofit or retire the Shawnee coal plant
Vinton, TX	University of Texas, Pan American health Organization, Border Environment Cooperation Commission	Impacts of proposed water and sanitation improvement projects (vs. failing system)
Native Americans, Mojave Desert	National Indian Justice Center	Determine benefits tied to renewable energy project, including improved air quality opportunities for employment
Minnesota	Human Impact Partners and ISAIAH	Examine how school integration affects academic achievement, cross-race understanding and influence health issues

<http://www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us>



# Current Funding Sources

- ❖ **The Health Impact Project  
(Pew Charitable Trusts and the RWJ Foundation)**
- ❖ **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- ❖ **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)**
- ❖ **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
- ❖ **The Kellogg Foundation**
- ❖ **Annie E. Casey Foundation**
- ❖ **Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland**
- ❖ **Other local funders**



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# Acknowledgements:

Denise Sacco Attard, BS, MPH, CHES

Amy Terry, MS



**Any Questions?**