



# Wisconsin Health Impact Assessment

## Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Health Impact Assessment is a tool that communities and decision makers can use to evaluate the potential health effects of a project or policy before it is built or implemented. The HIA process encourages bringing together public input and data relevant to the project or policy in order to make recommendations that maximize positive health impacts while minimizing unintended negative consequences.

### Who can use HIA?

HIA is best utilized across disciplines—*housing, planning, public health, transportation*—with decision makers at all levels—*organizational, local, state, federal, and global*.

### Benefits of HIA

- HIA brings public health issues to the forefront in areas where health may not typically be considered, such as land use and transportation projects.
- HIA can be straight-forward and cost-effective.
- HIA can be very quick or more involved, depending on available resources and the scope of the proposal.
- Community input is an integral part of the HIA process.
- HIA forges new partnerships between health and other disciplines.

***Health means physical, economic, and social wellbeing. To create healthy communities, we need to consider changes in our homes, communities, and policies. HIAs can help us identify ways to make these changes.***

**For help in starting your own HIA, visit Wisconsin’s HIA Online Toolkit at: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/hia>**



# Wisconsin Health Impact Assessment *Including Health in All Policies*

## **STEPS OF HIA**

The steps of HIA help identify how proposed projects, plans, and policies may affect all areas of our lives including the impact on health outcomes for individuals and communities.

- 1) SCREENING:** Determine the need, feasibility, and value of an HIA.
- 2) SCOPING:** Determine which health impacts to consider, the methods for analysis, and a workplan for completing the assessment.
- 3) ASSESSING RISKS AND BENEFITS:** Create a profile of current conditions, evaluate potential health impacts, and find strategies to manage potential negative impacts.
- 4) REPORTING:** Develop an HIA report, communicate findings and recommendations.
- 5) MONITORING:** Track and evaluate the impact on the decision making process and on health outcomes.

## **How do HIAs get started?**

HIAs are often started by local communities interested in understanding how a policy or decision might influence health. They can vary in scope from a rapid or quick assessment in a couple months to a full HIA which can take several months or even years to complete. Communities can access many free tools online to help them carry out an HIA, including useful data. For more information, visit Wisconsin's HIA Online Toolkit at: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/hia>

## **Potential HIA Partners**

- Community members
- Community Based Organizations
- Local businesses, private industry
- Coalitions
- Healthcare providers
- Academia
- Local/State/Federal Government
- Elected officials

