

Health in impact assessment

Conceptual underpinning

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Concepts ... Reflections

- Impact Assessment
- Health
- Health as a component part of
 - Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Health equity



Impact Assessment has a dual nature, each with its own methodological approaches ...

- As a technical tool for analysis of the consequences of a planned intervention (policy, plan, programme, project), providing information to stake-holders and decision makers; or unplanned events, such as natural disasters, war and conflicts.
- As a legal and institutional procedure linked to the decision-making process of a planned intervention.

What is impact assessment?

International Association for Impact Assessment
(2010)

<http://bit.ly/XHuar6>.



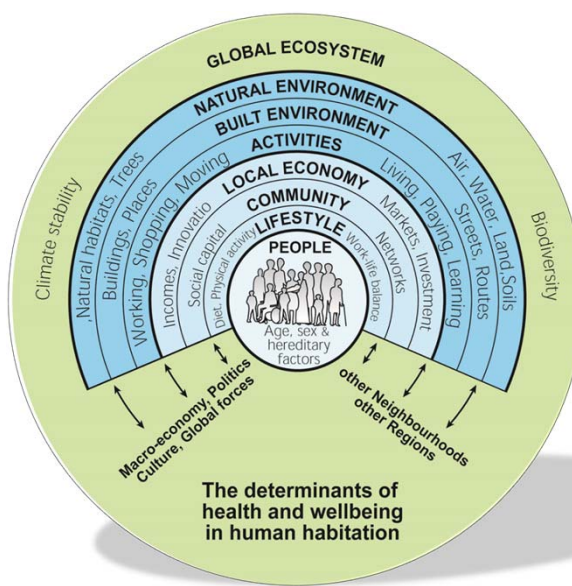
... Health Impact Assessment

- ... is a combination of procedures, methods and tools
- ... that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, programme or project
- ... on both the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population.
- ... **HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.**

International Association for Impact Assessment, 2006
<http://bit.ly/X2iOxM>



What is health?



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

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States and entered into force on 7 April 1948.
www.who.int/about/definition/en/print.html

From Hugh Barton and Marcus Grant,
University of the West of England

Public health ...

- ... is the 'science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society'

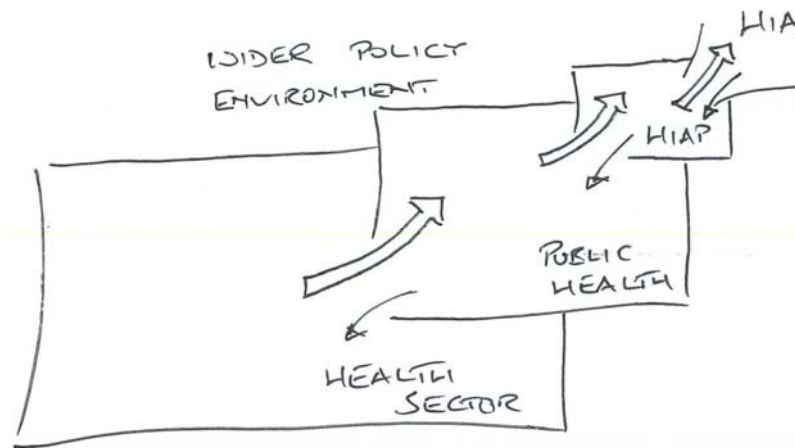
Donald Acheson

- ... 'the purpose of public health is to fulfil society's interest in assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy'.

US Institute of Medicine, 1988,
2002



HIA, HiAP, Public Health, the Health Sector ... & beyond



HiAP: Health in All Policies

Health and planning

Three components of Public Health

Health services

Health protection

Health improvement

Activities relating to Spatial Planning *for example ...*

Calculate developer contributions for health services

Close, and existing, links with Environmental Protection services

Forward planning

See Royal Town Planning Institute. Delivering Healthy Communities.
RTPi Good Practice Note 5, 2009. www.rtpi.org.uk



... health in EA or HIA

- Early concern that integrating health into EA would lose essential characteristics of HIA
- Health now regularly as component part of ES of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and as part of some planning applications – alongside EIAs



... In EIA

There are a number of issues that are considered (to varying depths) within the scope of the majority of EIAs. These include:

- landscape and visual
- ecology
- land use
- traffic and transport
- air quality
- noise
- water
- ground conditions
- archaeology
- cultural heritage



From C. Pettit. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. E Brief, 2012. <http://bit.ly/14b3fHk>

Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014

(3) Article 3 is replaced by the following:

Article 3

1. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors:

- (a) population and human health;
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate;
- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;
- (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).



See <http://bit.ly/1Oq7OCD>

Action required ..



From 23 ½ hours: *What is the single best thing we can do for our health?*

Mike Evans
2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUalnS6HIGo>



Thank you ...

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