

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES: AN UPSTREAM APPROACH TO ADVANCE HEALTH AND EQUITY

What Is Health in All Policies?

“Health in All Policies” (HiAP) or “Healthy Public Policy” refers to the practice of taking an integrated and comprehensive approach to introduce health, well-being, and equity considerations into the development and implementation of policies in non-health sectors. It involves a range of activities, such as health impact assessment (HIA), to achieve better health outcomes and reduce health disparities.

In 2010, the World Health Organization published the Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies, describing the value of HiAP and how to successfully integrate health, well-being and equity into policy-making. Tactics include: clear mandates for intersectoral collaboration, mediation across interests, accountability and transparency, stakeholder participation, and practical projects to build partnerships and trust. Ultimately, health sectors must learn to work in partnership with other sectors and jointly explore opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

How does HiAP Relate to HIA?

HiAP includes HIA and a range of related activities. A full, six-step HIA can be appropriate for a proposed project, plan, or policy. Many times, however, decision-makers want some form of health input before a project, plan, or policy is developed; or, community organizations and public agencies want to use only select tools and methods of HIA to influence a policy-maker. In these contexts, we call the process a Health in All Policies project instead of an HIA. The distinction is important in accurately setting expectations and goals among stakeholders.

What are HiAP Approaches?

- Joint policy development
- Intersectoral collaboration
- Integrated budgeting
- Health impact assessments
- Indicators development and application

HIP Provides the Following HiAP Services:

- Writing comment letters on planning documents and EIRs
- Integrating health into planning processes
- Developing and using health and equity indicators in land use, housing and transportation contexts
- Conducting research on social and environmental conditions in decision-making contexts
- Writing existing conditions data reports
- Providing institutional support to integrate a health and/or equity perspective into the work of agencies and organizations
- Applying specialized assessment tools (e.g., walkability assessments) within planning contexts
- Integrating health language into RFPs
- Offering a health perspective in policy development processes
- Providing process-related services such as , community engagement, facilitation, consensus-building, and relationship-building across agencies to advance any of the above activities

What Are Examples of HIP’s HiAP Projects?

Over the past several years, Human Impact Partners has worked on the following HiAP projects with community organizations, government agencies and others:

- Developed health and equity metrics for Metropolitan Planning Organizations to consider in their Sustainable Communities Strategies/Regional Transportation Plans;
- Conducted existing conditions and alternatives analysis in the context of a local land use plan;
- Drafted and submitted a comment letter on a draft Environmental Impact Report related to goods movement;
- Conducted research for a public agency on approaches to collecting and reporting health data;
- Published a fact sheet on the health impacts of paid family leave;
- Provided input on affordable housing design alternatives.

