CENTERING HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION

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EESI Briefing
Towards Healthier Outcomes in
Surface Transportation
April 10, 2025

Multiple Sectors Influence Health

https://sl.bing.net/jBtUgVvQtTU

Health Equity

"Health for everyone, *everywhere*"

-National Academy of Medicine

Transportation & Health Equity

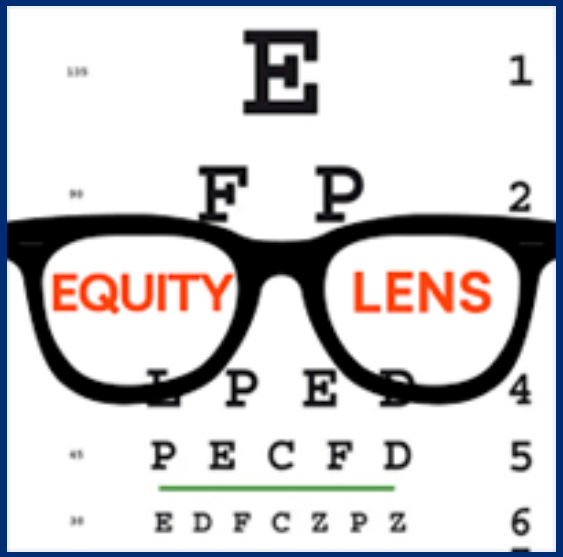
- Underresourced communities have less opportunity for physical activity, increased traffic crashes and fatalities, increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Neighborhoods have limited transportation options
    - Redlining
    - Highways to nowhere
    - Disparities in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities
    - Inability to consistently and reliably access healthcare, jobs, schools, etc.

The-State-of-Transportation-and-Health-Equity_FINAL-PUBLIC.pdf; Public Transportation In The US: A Driver Of Health And Equity | Health Affairs

How to Achieve Health Equity?

- Working “upstream” as opposed to “downstream”
- Addressing structural drivers or social determinants of health, and “root causes”
- Centering community
- Promoting civic engagement
- Changing dominant narratives
- Changing policies and systems



HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES
Kent County, Michigan

HiAP

CALIFORNIA HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES TASK FORCE

https://www.cdc.gov/policy/hiap/index.html; www3paho.org; https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/images/hiap-FocusAreas.png

Key Elements of HiAP

- Promote health, equity, sustainability considerations
- Support interagency & intersectoral collaborations
- Create co-benefits for multiple partners
- Engage a broad array of stakeholders, including community
- Create structural or process changes
- Uses various types of data; data-driven

https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/factsheets/health_inall_policies_guide_169pages.ashx?la=en&hash=641B94AF624D7440F836238F0551A5FF0DE4872A

Tools to Achieve HiAP

- There is no one single way to “do” health in all policies
- Creating cross-sector government structures
- Integrating health into planning processes including zoning updates and General Plans
- Integrating health language into Request for Funding proposals
- Developing health-related grant scoring criteria
- Using Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and related tools

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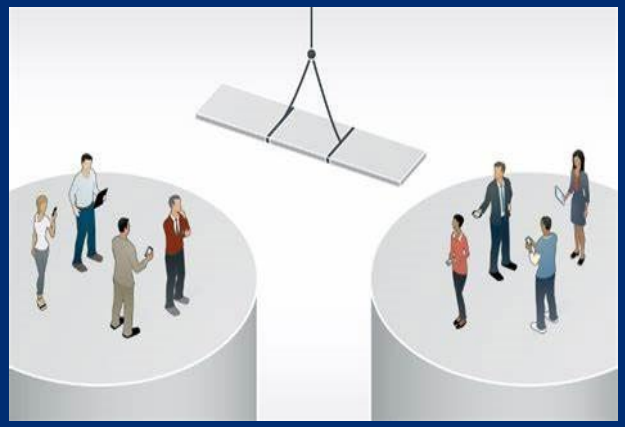
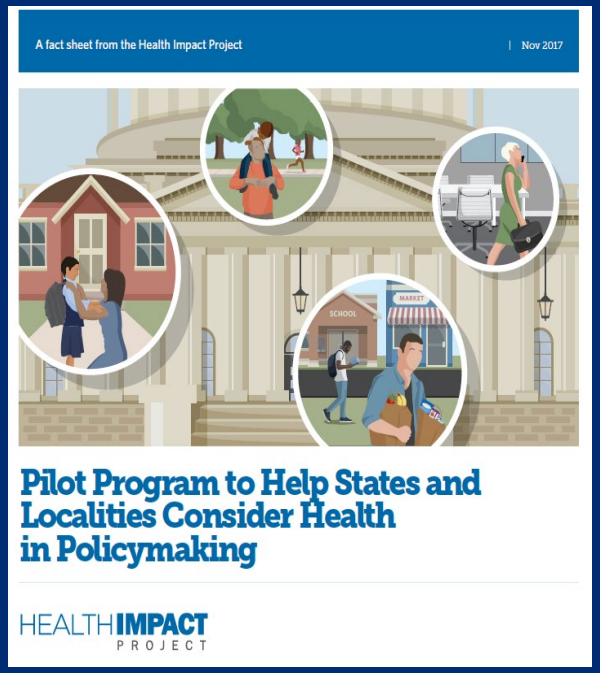
Learn More About HIAs:

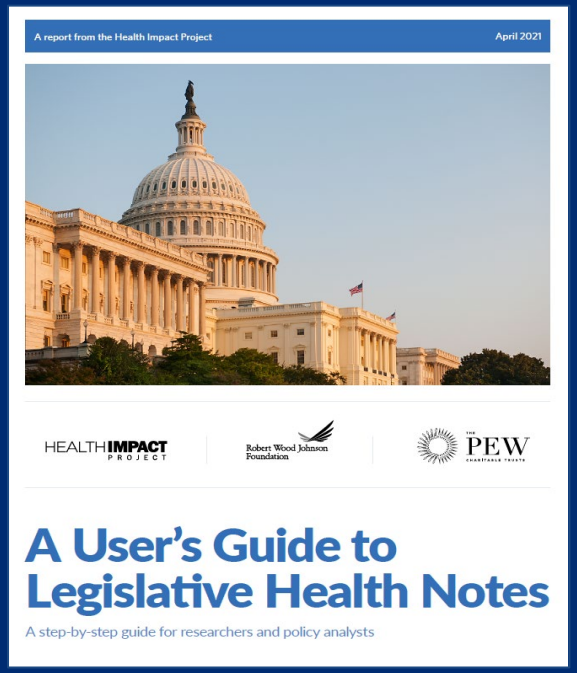
hia.communitycommons.org

Barriers to Implementing HiAP



Advancing Health in All Policies: Legislative Health Note





Health Note Pilot: What Did We Learn?

- Started in 2018-2019, pilot, intentionally worked with partners in Indiana and Colorado
- Partnered with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to work with partners in CA, NC, OH
- Convening held in December 2019 to share lessons learned
- 2020-2022 partnered with the DC City Council
- Completed 22 legislative health notes
- Evaluated our experience

Practice Full Report

OPEN

SDC

Legislative Health Notes: Preliminary Learnings From Piloting a New Policy Analysis Tool

Stefanie Carignan, MA; Ruth Lindberg, MPH, MUP; Gregory J. Tung, PhD, MPH; Jennifer Sullivan, MHS; Cynthia Stone, DrPH, MSN; Keshia M. Pollack Porter, PhD, MPH

ABSTRACT

Context: In 2018, the Health Impact Project (the Project) developed and tested a new health in all policies (HiAP) tool called "legislative health notes" to provide state and local legislators with peer-reviewed evidence, public health data, and local data that illustrate potential positive and negative health and equity effects of proposed bills.

Objectives: The Project sought to refine the health note methodology while piloting the tool in the Colorado and Indiana General Assemblies, and with the Council of the District of Columbia, and worked with affiliates to introduce them in North Carolina, Ohio, and California.

Design and Participants: External partners solicited feedback on health notes via semistructured interviews and surveys from legislators, legislative staff, and expert reviewers who were familiar with health notes in each of these jurisdictions.

Results: Respondents shared that health notes were nonpartisan, were easy for nonexperts to understand, and would be more effective if delivered earlier in the legislative process.

Conclusion: In response to informant feedback, practitioners can explore adding high-level summaries, increasing focus

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Journal of Public Health Management and Practice 30(3):p E135-E142, May/June 2024. | *DOI:* 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001866

Conclusions

- HiAP can make policies from non-health sectors health and equity promoting and less harmful for health
- HiAP can be a successful strategy to expand collaborations between health and non-health sectors
- Acknowledge history and context of transportation decisions to rectify them
- Community participation and responsive, authentic engagement and inclusive processes are essential
- Health equity involves working <u>with</u> not *on* affected communities!

ASTHO 2021; Framing Health in All Policies: Terms that Resonate
https://www.astho.org/ASTHOReports/Framing-Health-in-All-Policies-Terms-That-Resonate/07-29-21/