Health Impact Assessment: A Collaborative Tool for Advancing Smarter Polices and Healthier Communities

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The Pew Charitable Trusts
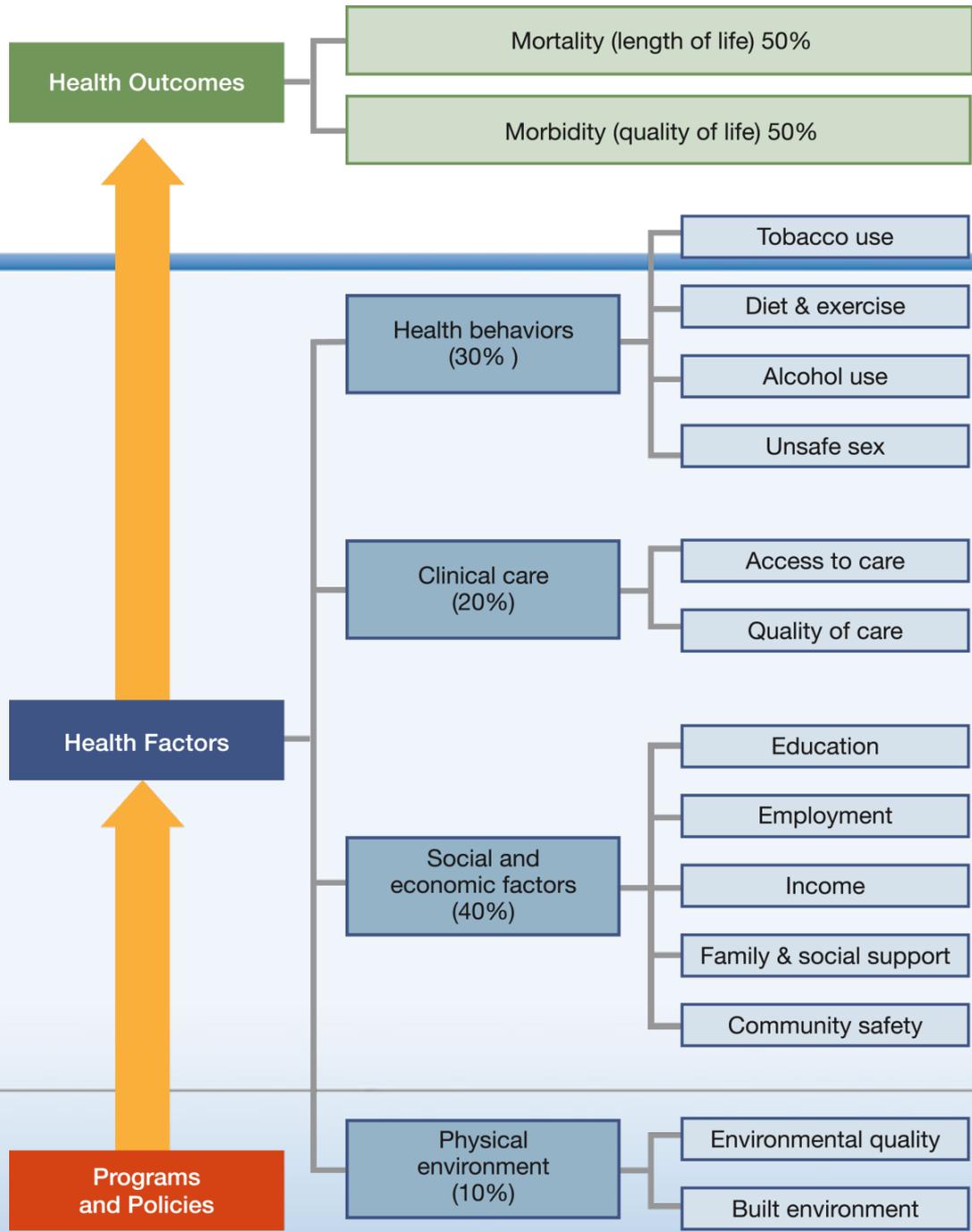
6th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference
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A collaboration between Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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Outline

- Context for HIA
- Steps of HIA
- Description of the field
- Examples of HIA
- Health Impact Project overview
- Lessons learned from grantees
- Helpful HIA Websites and resources

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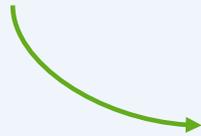County Health Rankings model ©2010 UWPHI

The Problem

Policy, program and project decisions made in sectors that do not consider health as their primary mission generally do not consider the potential effects on human health, often resulting in unintended negative consequences.

HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy

Affect
Housing
Air quality
Noise
Safety
Social networks
Nutrition
Parks and natural space
Private goods and services
Public services
Transportation
Livelihood
Water quality
Education
Inequities

and lead to health outcomes

Slide courtesy of Human Impact Partners
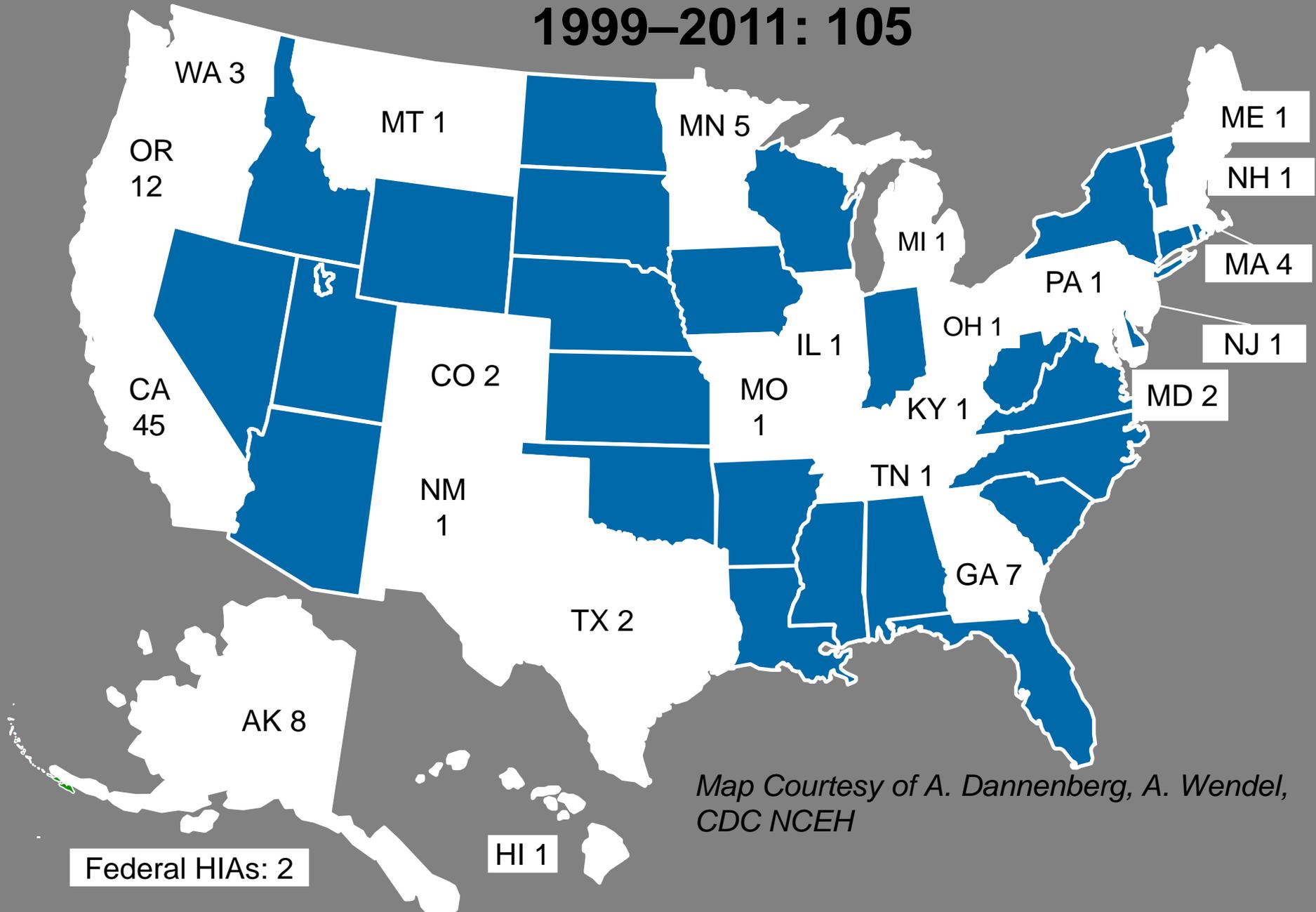
Definition of HIA

A pragmatic, six-step approach that helps translate the best available public health data into practical information that's useful to a decision maker in planning a new program, project or policy.
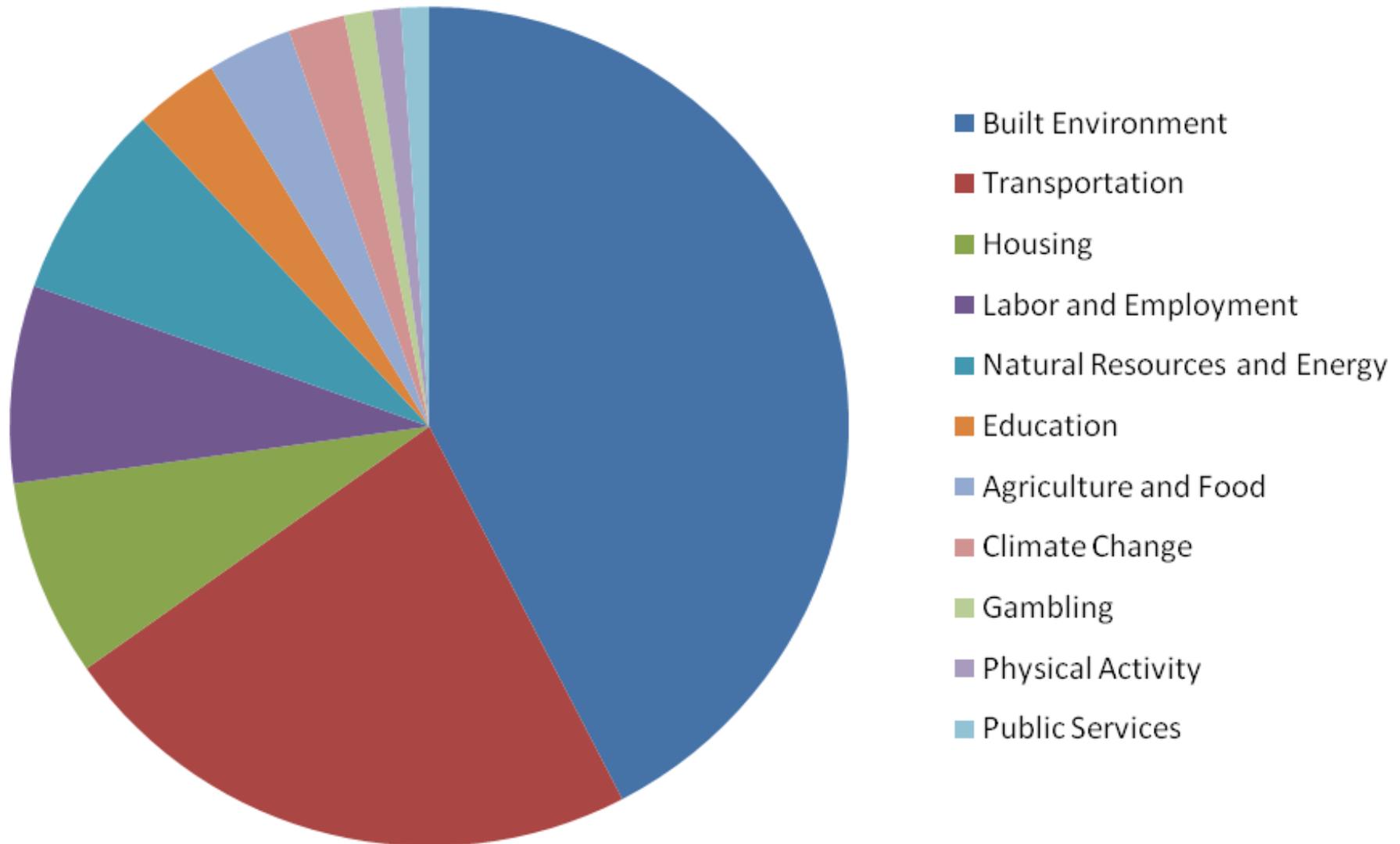
(Health Impact Project 2009)

The HIA Process

- **Screening:** *Is HIA feasible and likely to add value?*

- **Scoping:** *What are the important health effects? Who are the affected populations? What is available evidence?*

- **Assessment:** *What are the baseline conditions and likely health impacts?*

- **Recommendations:** *Develop health-based recommendations and a feasible plan for implementing them*

- **Reporting:** *Disseminate the report to the public, stakeholders; solicit input*

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** *Monitor results of HIA, monitor health outcomes; evaluates the HIA process*

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Completed and In Progress HIAs
1999–2011: 105

WA 3

MT 1

MN 5

ME 1

NH 1

OR 12

MI 1

PA 1

MA 4

CA 45

CO 2

IL 1

OH 1

NJ 1

MO 1

KY 1

MD 2

NM 1

TN 1

GA 7

TX 2

AK 8

Map Courtesy of A. Dannenberg, A. Wendel, CDC NCEH

HI 1

Federal HIAs: 2

HIA in the United States: Sectors and Topics

Legend:
- Built Environment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Labor and Employment
- Natural Resources and Energy
- Education
- Agriculture and Food
- Climate Change
- Gambling
- Physical Activity
- Public Services

Who Does HIA?

- Non-profit organizations

- Community groups affected by a decision

- Local and state government agencies

- Universities and research institutions

- Industry/business community

HIA: Tool to Increase Multi-Sector Partnerships

What Differentiates HIA?—Emphasis on Engagement

- Brings public health professionals, community stakeholders—especially often overlooked populations—to the table with planners, developers, and decision makers to focus on practical, realistic solutions

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What HIA is not . . . What HIA is

- It's not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project <u>should</u> be proposed.

- It's not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented.

- The Sweet Spot – It's <u>proactive</u>! It's meant to inform a proposed policy, program or project currently under active consideration by a decision-making body.

- It's not a community assessment tool (i.e., MAPP, CHIP, CHA), but those are used during assessment stage of HIA.

- HIA is the framework that translates that data into well-informed policies.

HIA Case Studies for Healthy Communities

- Farm-to-School & School Garden Legislation – Oregon

- Page Avenue Revitalization – near St. Louis, Missouri

To see more case studies visit our interactive map of in-progress and completed HIAs in the U.S. at:
www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us

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HIA Ex: Oregon Farm-to-School Bill

Authors: Upstream Public Health, non-profit based in Portland, OR

Decision: To inform the debate around HB 2800: Oregon Farm-to-School and School Garden Legislation. Would reimburse 15 cents for lunch and 7 cents for breakfast to schools that purchased Oregon products; also includes $$ for school garden & nutrition education grants

Impacts: Looked at effects of proposed legislation on employment, diet and nutrition, cross-curriculum education opportunities, environmental health, social capital

HIA Ex: Oregon Farm-to-School Bill (Cont.)

Findings:

- School reimbursement funds would:

  - Create and maintain up to 800 jobs for Oregonians over 5-10 yrs
  - Increase student participation in school meals program
  - Improve household food security

- Food, garden and agricultural grants would:

  - Increase childhood food preferences for fruits and vegetables
  - Shape long-term healthy diet choices that affect children's learning and academic achievement while preventing obesity

Outcome: HIA authors provided testimony to the legislature and two key HIA recommendations were implemented through a legislative amendment process.

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HIA Ex: Page Avenue Revitalization

Authors: Washington University in St. Louis

Decision: Addressed a $45-million community redevelopment project in the City of Pagedale, Missouri

Impacts: Employment; access to goods & services, healthy foods, recreation; pedestrian safety; community safety; community identity; housing

Recommendations:
- Improve pedestrian infrastructure
- Recruit businesses that hire locally
- Space for community marketplace
- Adopt healthy food zone ordinance
- Prioritize spaces & programs for youth recreation
- Demolish vacant buildings & plant orchards as interim infill
- Integrate affordable & market rate housing units
- Design buildings for mixed use

The Health Impact Project Overview

Goals/Objectives:

- To build the field of HIA in the U.S.

- Make the case for institutionalization of HIA

Project Activities:

- Funding a series of demonstration projects

- Providing technical assistance to support new HIA practitioners through key partnerships

- Neutral convener – connect people to resources in the field

- Garner lessons learned to identify potential policy levers for institutionalizing HIA

Lessons Learned from Grantee Portfolio

1. HIA can be successfully applied to a wide array of topics:

   - The implementation of **California's Cap and Trade** regulation
   - The island of **Hawaii's county agricultural plan**
   - A **smart metering pilot project** in Chicago
   - A **light rail project** in Minnesota led by a faith-based advocacy group
   - A major commercial **brownfield redevelopment project** near Atlanta's airport
   - The **Atlanta 2040 regional plan**
   - And even **New Hampshire's state budget process**

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Lessons Learned from Grantee Portfolio

2. HIA works in the setting of real time planning and decision-making.

- Flexible (scope can be scaled to fit available time and resources)

- Solutions-oriented and pragmatic (can actually speed approval of a project/decision)

3. Not for EVERY decision

4. Requires a full consideration of health outcomes/benefits/ trade-offs, not just one factor like childhood obesity

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Lessons Learned (Continued)

5. The best way to learn HIA is just to do one!
   Legacy of HIA:

   - Relationships/trust is built among partners
   - Increased efficacy for carrying out HIA
   - Increased stakeholder understanding of value of HIA
   - Increases likelihood of doing another HIA in future

6. Learning HIA is the first step—training is helpful, but not necessary; a wealth of resources are available online

7. Most HIAs aren't all that expensive—primarily staff time

8. Takes a champion willing to spearhead effort

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Helpful HIA Websites & Resources

- **Health Impact Project: Interactive Map of HIA in U.S.**
  www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us

- **CDC's "phConnect": Online HIA Community of Practice**
  www.phconnect.org

- **Human Impact Partners: HIA Training Materials & Worksheets**
  www.humanimpact.org

- **UCLA's HIA-CLIC: HIA Clearing House for Practitioners**
  www.hiaguide.org

- **American Planning Association: Online HIA Training**
  http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx

- **Wisconsin State Health Department: HIA Online Toolkit**
  www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hia

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Questions?

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