



Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

Health Impact Assessments for Community Development Corporations

EXPLORING BEST PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**June 18 and June 20, 2013
2:00-3:00 PM**

Presenters



Allyson Auerbach
Community Health Associate
Health Resources in Action
aauerbach@hria.org



Brittany Chen,
Senior Program Manager
Health Resources in Action
bchen@hria.org



Ben Wood
Healthy Community Design Coordinator
MA Department of Public Health
ben.wood@state.ma.us



Fostering Healthy Community Design

- “Fostering Healthy Community Design Through Health Impact Assessment”
 - Focus on Land-use, Housing, Transportation
 - HIAs, training, capacity building
 - Collaboration with many partners (BCHAP, BEH, MAPC, HRiA, Mass in Motion)
- The importance of Community Development
- CITC HIA!



Overview of today's webinar

- What is health and what impacts health?
- Overview of HIA
- Steps to the HIA process
- Examples of HIA
- Opportunities for CDCs to get involved

Slides are adapted from Human Impact Partners, Health Impact Project and the Georgia Health Policy Center



Factors Responsible for Population Health



Health status is determined by:

Genetics: 20–30%

Health care: 10%

Social, environmental conditions, and behavior: 60–70%

J

Health Affairs, 2002



“Get more exercise”...

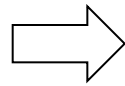


“Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables” . . .



Unintended Adverse Impacts on Health

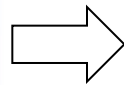
Highway Policy



- Increases in driving and traffic
- Lack of physical activity
- Air pollution
- Traffic injuries

Estimated costs of traffic-related health outcomes in the US could be as great as \$400 billion annually

Education Policy



- Has led to disproportionately poor education among low income and minorities
- Impacts opportunities for jobs and income, as well as life expectancy



Decisions Have Unintended Health Benefits Too

1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta

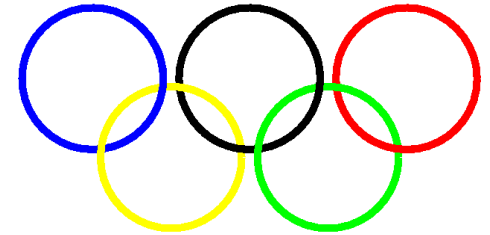
24 hour public transportation

Addition of public buses

Reduction of auto travel and congestion

Public announcements

Was shown to decrease acute
childhood asthma events



Introduction of EZ Pass, Northeastern U.S.

Reduced traffic congestion

Reduced motor vehicle emissions

Reduce disparities

Resulted in reduction of low birth-weight infants in
surrounding neighborhoods



The Problem

So many daily decisions made outside of the health sector have significant health implications that go unrecognized because health is just not on the radar screens of decision makers.



What is a healthy neighborhood?

A neighborhood with housing options, quality schools, thriving businesses, reliable public transit and markets full of fresh food. It's where parents have access to good jobs, children have parks to play in, and grandparents can age in place. It's where we look out for each other and know we are safe. Most importantly, healthy neighborhoods provide access to the resources we need to lead stable, fulfilling lives.

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation,
an Oakland, California-based nonprofit agency



What is HIA?

- A framework or process that tries to predict anticipated health outcomes of a decision/project
- Translates that information into recommendations for well-informed decisions
- Helps folks outside the health field understand the direct health impacts of their work
- HIA's purpose is to improve health, track unintended consequences and mitigate risk



HIA Definition

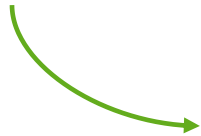
A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011



HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

*How might 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 potentially lead to
predicted health
outcomes?*



HIA Core Competencies

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Equity
- Communications
- Evaluation



What HIA is not . . . What HIA is

- It's not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project should be proposed – it is not an advocacy tool.
- It's not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented.
- The Sweet Spot – It's proactive! 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, but those can be used during assessment stage of HIA.
- HIA is the framework that translates that data into well-informed decisions.



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
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitors results of HIA, monitors health outcomes; evaluates the HIA process



HIA Example: Oasis on Ballou HIA- Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation

Authors: Health Resources in Action

Decision: Plan for 23,000 sq. ft. parcel of land next to Fairmont Indigo Commuter Rail Line

Parcel design included a tot lot (playground for young children), teaching and production gardens, and a learning/teaching kitchen.

Timeline: April – August 2012



SCREENING

SCOPING

ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORTING

MONITORING &

EVALUATION



Screening: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose:

To determine whether a proposal is likely to have health effects and whether the HIA will provide useful information

Minimum Elements:

- Informs a decision-making process
- Conducted in advance of a policy, plan, program, or project decision



Basic Yes/No Screening Questions

- Is there a decision regarding a policy, plan, or project, currently under consideration whose outcomes are likely to impact health?
 - Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) was determining the design for a parcel of land along a commuter rail line
- Does the decision-making process allow for input from an HIA?
 - Local residents, called The Friends, were already engaged in the decision-making process of CSNDC
 - CSNDC and The Friends were willing to participate in the HIA process



Basic Yes/No Screening Questions Continued

- Is health a part of the discussion? Would the HIA bring anything new?
 - Health was not explicitly part of the design for this parcel
- Can the HIA be completed within the timeline for the decision, and with the resources available?
 - Though timing and funding were tight, the HIA could be completed within these constraints



Additional Considerations

- What is the likelihood that the HIA findings and recommendations will receive consideration by decision-makers?
 - CSNDC and The Friends were and open to taking its results into consideration
- Are there other stakeholders who are willing and able to participate in the HIA?
 - Many interested partners around the city and state; formed an advisory committee



Additional Considerations

- Does this HIA have the potential to increase partnerships, visibility, and support for future HIAs and other Health in All Policies efforts in your region?
 - The HIA brought together new and old partners and, along with other HIAs happening simultaneously, helped increase visibility and capacity for the HIA process
- Is there the potential for different sub-groups within the community to be more adversely affected than others?
 - This HIA had the potential to adversely affect those people living in close proximity to the parcel of land
- Has a group or organization requested an HIA on a particular decision?
 - The CSNDC requested an HIA on the design of their site



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Scoping: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

To establish the scope of health effects that will be included in the HIA, the populations affected, the sources of data and the methods to be used

Minimum Elements

- Utilize a systematic analytic process to:
 - Comprehensively consider potential impacts on health outcomes as well as on social, environmental, and economic health determinants, and select potentially significant issues for impact analysis
 - Solicit and utilize input from stakeholders



Scoping Questions

- **Why** are we doing the HIA?
 - To incorporate health into the design of the CSNDC parcel
 - To build capacity for conducting HIAs
- **How** will the decision impact population health?
 - The site has the potential to impact the social, economic, and physical environment of people who use and live near the site
- **Who** will be impacted by the decision?
 - People who use the site
 - Residents who live nearby the site
 - CSNDC and The Friends

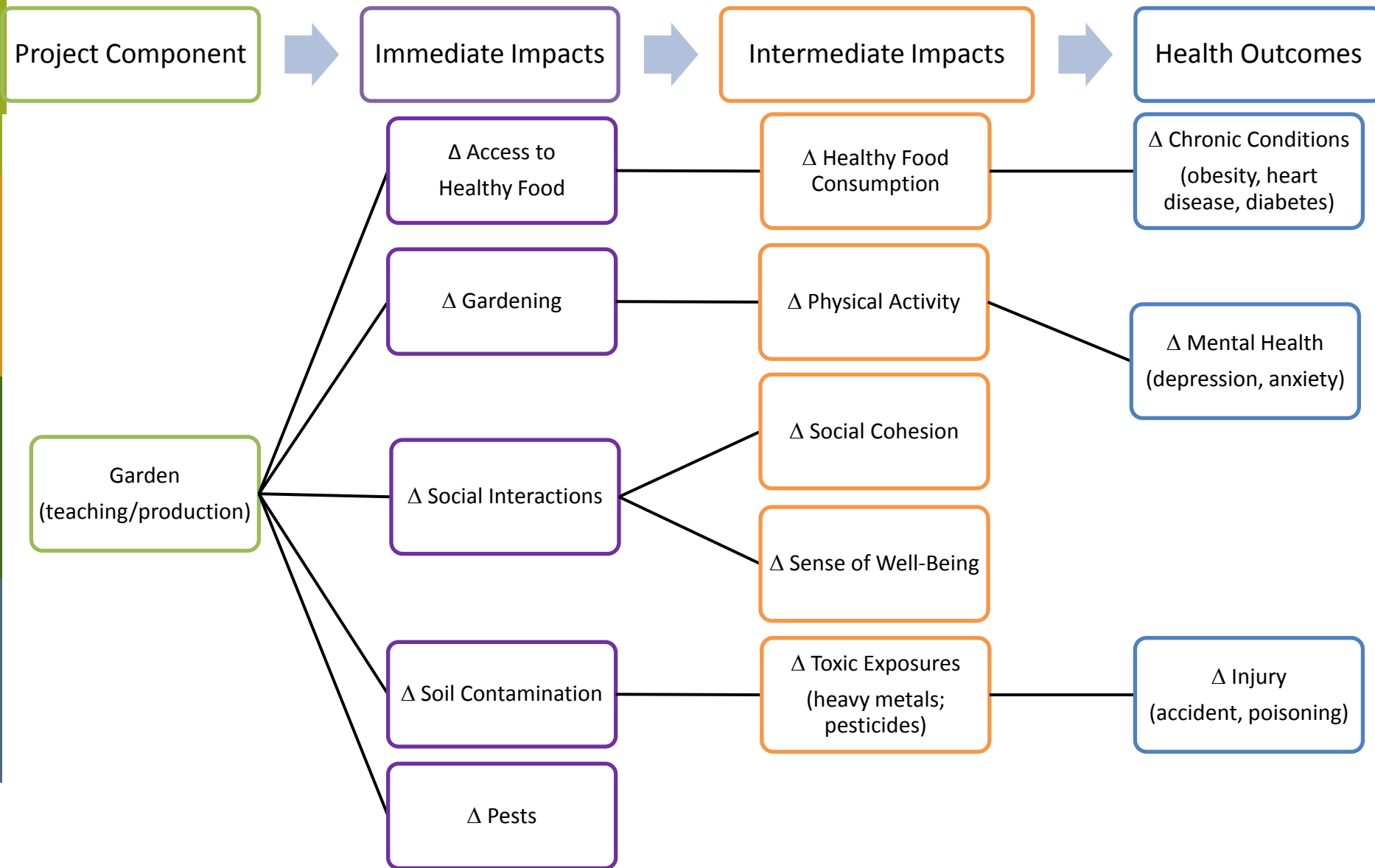


Scoping Questions

- **Who** will be involved in conducting the HIA?
 - HIA Team: HRiA, MDPH
 - Advisory Committee
 - CSNDC and The Friends
- **How** will we assess the health impacts?
 - Pathway diagrams were created to show the links between the project, the identified determinants of health, and health outcomes
 - Research questions were developed to frame the assessment, e.g. how will the site impact levels of mental health, such as depression and anxiety?
 - Methods- primary data from a resident survey, secondary data from existing sources, literature



Scoping: Codman Square HIA



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Assessment: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

- Describe the baseline health status, assess potential impacts, and assess the strength of evidence

Minimum Elements

- Utilize a systematic analytic process to:
 - Establish baseline conditions for health
 - Judge the direction, magnitude, likelihood, and distribution of potential impacts on human health or health determinants



Assessment: Codman Square HIA

Health Determinant	Direction	Likelihood	Distribution	Strength of Evidence
Physical Activity	+	Likely	Participants	High
Healthy Food Access	+	Likely	Participants , Their Families/Networks, Wider Community	High
Exposure to Soil Toxins	-	Possible	All Participants, Especially Children	High



Assessment: Resources and Tools

Our Healthy Massachusetts

www.ourhealthymass.org

Massachusetts Environmental Health Tracking

<http://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/>

Our Healthy Massachusetts

EXPLORE DATA

Most Recent | A-Z | Z-A | View by: [Map] [Table] [List]

Your selections

CATEGORIES

All Categories

Arts & Culture (0)

Civic Vitality & Governance (0)

Demographics (17)

Economy (4)

Education (6)

Environment & Energy (3)

Geographic Boundaries (5)

Housing (11)

Land Use & Zoning (0)

Public Health (9)

Public Safety (0)

Adult Obesity, 2011 (Municipal)

from admin, 4 months ago

Reports percent of adults categorized as obese. Source: Small area estimates provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011

MBTA Stations

from admin, 4 months ago

Represents the five subway, streetcar and bus line stations in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's rapid transit rail network and station/stops. The five "T" lines - Blue, Green, Orange, Red and Silver. Source: MassDOT

Protected Open Space with Public Access

from admin, 4 months ago

Source: MassGIS

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities: Long

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
BEH
Bureau of Environmental Health

Home
Welcome
Tutorial
MA EPHS Program
National EPHS Program
Health Data
Environmental Data
By Location
Metadata
Glossary
Links
Secure Data Gateway
Contact Us

Pediatric Asthma

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children. It is an illness that affects the respiratory tract and airways that carry oxygen into and out of the lungs. During an asthma attack, these airways constrict, resulting in wheezing and difficulty breathing. Asthma can affect people of all ages, however it often starts in childhood and is more common in children than adults. Causes of asthma are unknown, however episodes of asthma (asthma attacks) can be triggered by certain environmental pollutants such as air pollution, mold, pets and pet dander, and dust mites. A number of studies have reported links between exposure to air pollution and asthma. Reducing exposure to these pollutants can help prevent symptoms.

In Massachusetts, the rate of pediatric asthma is higher than the national average. Beginning in 2002 and continuing through the present, the MCPH has tracked the occurrence of pediatric asthma through school health records in students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

For additional information, please read the [FAQ](#).

Getting Information About Pediatric Asthma in Your Community

The links on the right toolbar provide access to reports on the prevalence of pediatric asthma in your community. To protect privacy, no information is shown that could identify an individual child.

When reviewing and interpreting pediatric asthma data, it is important to take into consideration the following:

- The data available for pediatric asthma are limited to students in grades K-8.
- A variety of factors can impact asthma rates (e.g., socioeconomic factors). Therefore, when comparing rates across geographic areas, information such as access to medical care must also be considered.
- Prevalence is not age-adjusted. When comparing prevalence estimates across communities, keep in mind that some of the observed differences in prevalence estimates may be due to differences in the age distribution of students in each community.

The number and prevalence of children with asthma can be viewed by selecting from the choices on the right toolbar. For each year of data available, pediatric asthma prevalence estimates are grouped by gender and are compared to statewide prevalence to determine if they are statistically significantly higher, lower, or the same as the statewide pediatric asthma prevalence. In some instances, schools or communities may not be available when selecting data. This is due to the fact that MCPH does not have data available for that school or community in the year selected.

Access Pediatric Asthma Information in Your Community

Access the following measures for pediatric asthma in your community, by school, and statewide on the

Did You Know?

In the 2007/2008 school year, almost 77,000 children in grades K-8 (10.9%) had asthma.

Pediatric Asthma

• Data
• Related Links

Tables/Charts/Maps

Pediatric Asthma Prevalence in Communities (State and Map)

Pediatric Asthma Prevalence in Public and Private Schools

Pediatric Asthma Prevalence in Communities (Table)



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Recommendations: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

- Suggest alternatives that could be implemented to improve health or actions that could be taken to manage health effects

Minimum Elements

- Identify appropriate recommendations, mitigations and/or design alternatives to protect and promote health



Recommendations: Codman Square HIA

Health Determinant	Promote/Mitigate	Recommendation
Healthy Food Access	Promote	Neighborhood survey Local food retailer distribution
Soil Contamination	Mitigate	Soil mitigation techniques
Injuries	Mitigate	Safe Gardening Techniques ADA requirements
Pests	Mitigate	Rotation, barrier, & row cover Organic/safer pesticides



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Reporting: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

- Present findings and recommendations to decision makers and stakeholders

Minimum Elements

- Include transparent, publicly-accessible documentation of the process, methods, findings, sponsors, funding sources, participants and their respective roles.





Health Resources in Action

Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

Health Resources in Action (HRIA) is a national non-profit public health and medical research organization, located in Boston, whose mission is to help people live healthier lives and build healthy communities through policy, research, prevention and health promotion.



OASIS ON BALLOU:

Health Impact Assessment Report

September 28, 2012

FUNDED BY:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health through the Centers for Disease Control's Healthy Community Design Initiative (Health Impact Assessment to Foster Healthy Community Design Cooperative Agreement) via the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission

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Monitoring and Evaluation: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

- Monitor the implementation of HIA recommendations. Evaluation can be of process, impact or outcomes.

Minimum Elements

- Propose a monitoring plan for tracking the decision's implementation on health impacts/ determinants of concern.



Monitoring and Evaluation: Codman Square HIA

Monitoring:

- How did this HIA influence the decision making of the CSDNC?
- What aspects of the recommendations were included in CSNDC's proposal to the City of Boston for the procurement of land and development of Oasis on Ballou?

Evaluation:

- Routine surveying of neighborhood residents
 - How many residents utilize the site?
 - Have gardening and cooking skills/knowledge changed in the neighborhood?
 - Has fruit and vegetable (healthy food) access changed in the neighborhood?
- Partners who regularly collect data - BPHC, MAPC



OTHER EXAMPLES OF HIA



HIA Ex: Jack London Gateway Development

Authors: Human Impact Partners & SFDPH

Decision: Plan for 61 new senior housing units close to 2 freeways & Port of Oakland

Impacts: Air quality; noise; safety; retail access

Recommendations: Noise-insulating windows; pedestrian protection medians; traffic calming measures; air quality monitoring; installation of ventilation systems; and many others

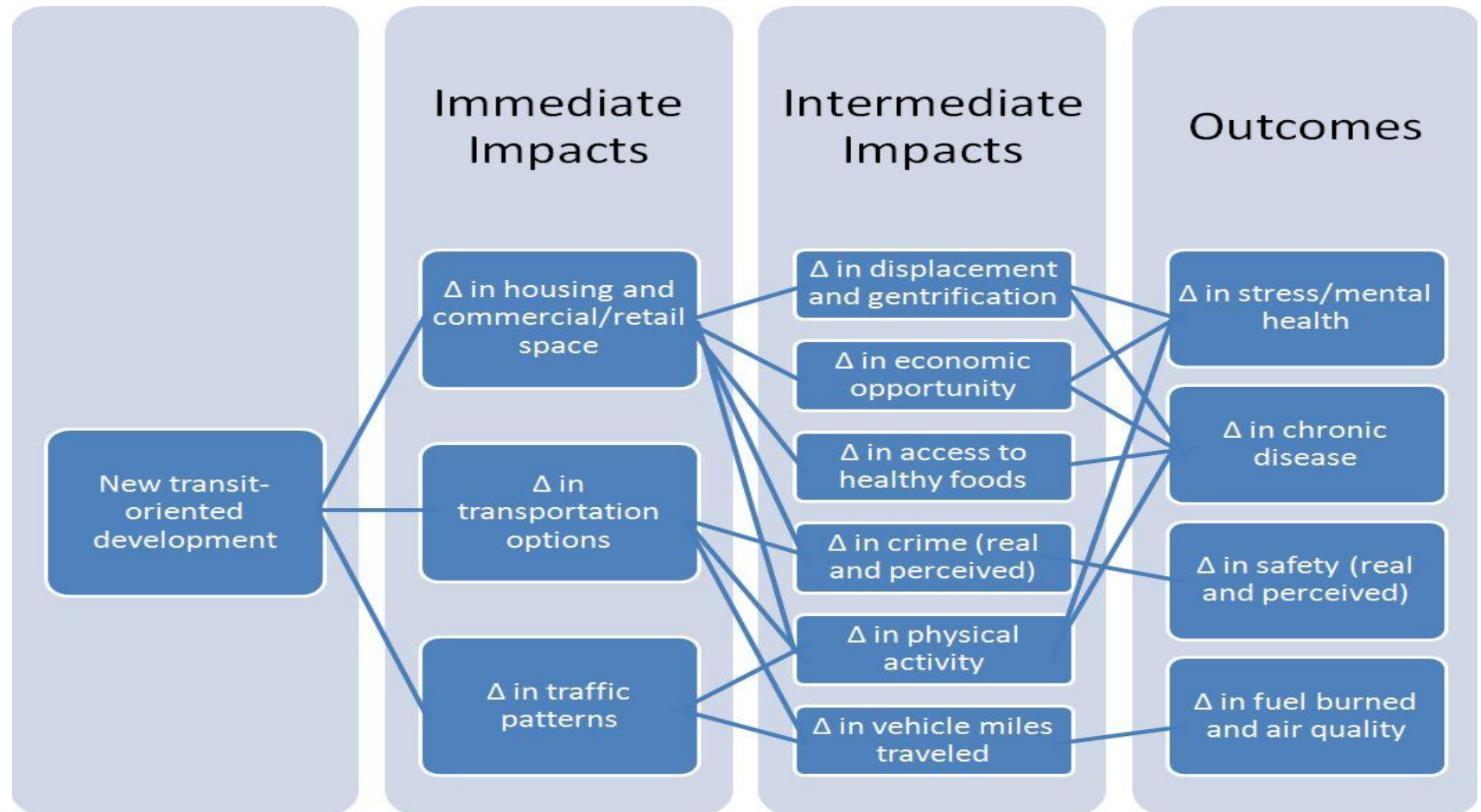


Outcomes:

- Many recommendations adopted
- Additional HIA projects were funded
- Healthy Development Checklist adopted by the development committee



HIA Example: Roxbury/HNEF Health Impact Assessment



Additional Examples of HIA

- **MA Rental Voucher Program: Child Health Impact Assessment**
 - Found that proposed changes in eligibility would result in dis-enrollment and increased housing instability
 - Which, in turn, leads to higher education cost for vulnerable children (\$6,700 – special education; \$6,800 – repeating a grade)
- **MA Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
 - Found that proposed cuts would lead to use of unsafe heating alternatives and an increase in child ER visits
 - Which, in turn, would lead to increased Medicaid reimbursements and higher costs to state in long run

Other MA HIA

Speed Limit HIA

Quequechan River Rail Trail HIA

Grounding McGrath HIA

Fitchburg & Worcester HIAs (in process)



The Benefits of HIA

Involves a broad-range of impacted people

- Community capacity building/empowerment

It's an effective tool for meaningful cross-sector collaboration

- Relationships/trust is built among partners through HIA process
- Increases likelihood of routine consideration of health

There is a strong business case for HIA

- Corporate social responsibility – address community concerns early in the planning process
- Lower business costs – can actually help speed approval of a project/decision
- Know your “Health ROI” – HIA as a form of risk management

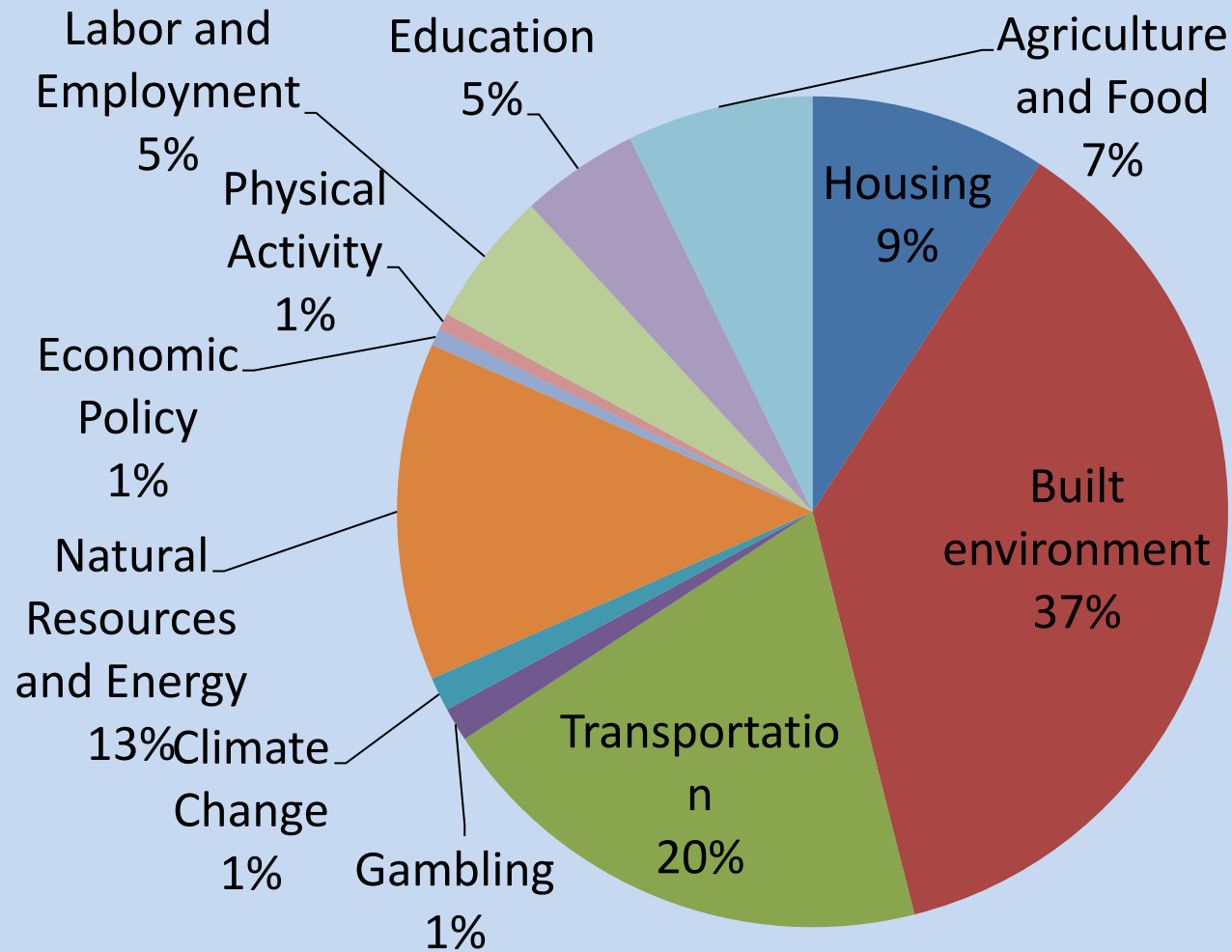


Who Does HIA?

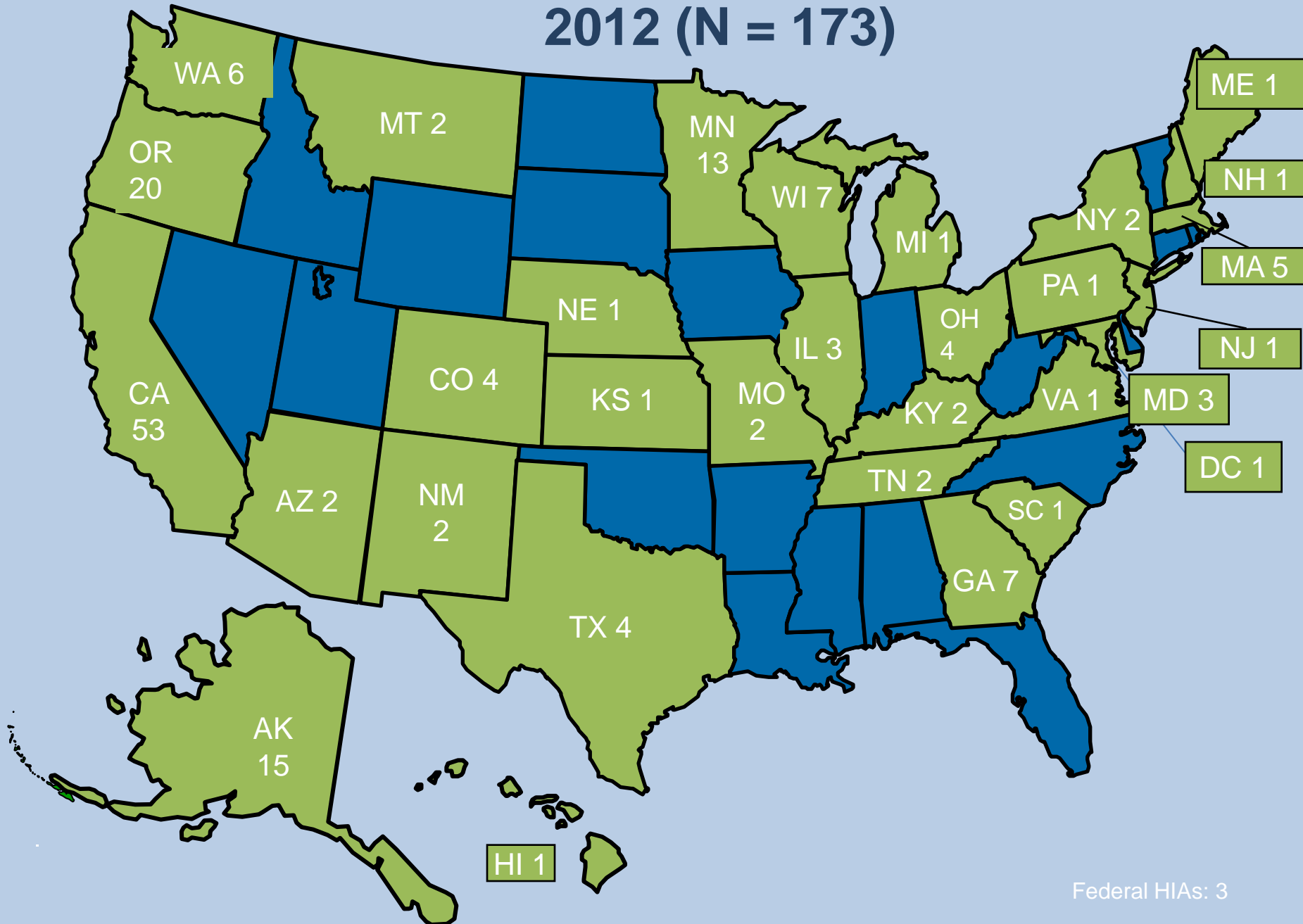
- Non-profit organizations
- Community Development Corporations
- Community groups affected by a decision
- Local and State government agencies
 - Public Health, Environmental Health, Planning Departments
- Universities & research institutions
- Industry/business community



HIA by Sector



Completed HIA and In Progress HIAs 2012 (N = 173)



Federal HIAs: 3

Key Points About HIA (Continued)

- There may be “Health in All Policies” . . .
 - But it doesn’t mean that HIA is right for every policy decision
- HIA is meant to be just one of many tools in the tool box
- Screening is one of the most important steps
- Take time to do proper screening



Community Investment Tax Credit Program

HIA Goals:

- Inform MA Department of Housing and Community Development on the impact of funding opportunities for CDCs through the CITC grant program.
- Examine the connections between community development activities and health
- Identify health metrics to be measured and evaluated



CITC Program: Opportunities for Engagement

- Scoping Sessions
 - Metrowest: Wednesday, 7/10 @ 2PM
 - Boston: Monday, 7/22 @ 9:30AM
 - Western MA: Wednesday, 7/24 @ 9:30AM

Audience: Community Development Corporations, local health departments, Community Support Organizations, residents



Questions?



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