

HEALTHY CITIES AND URBAN GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

Background working paper

WHO European Healthy Cities Health Impact Assessment Subnetwork

Internet resources for health impact assessment

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Introduction

The WHO European Healthy Cities Health Impact Assessment Subnetwork produced this list of Internet resources for health impact assessment (HIA). Gathering information and evidence on the potential effects on health is one of the major components of HIA. This resource provides links to numerous evidence-based web sites that have various research reports and reviews relating to the wider determinants of health interventions and their appropriateness and effectiveness.

At the international and European Union (EU) levels, several directives support the consideration of health within a sustainable development approach. The following provides an overview that supports HIA.

• Together for health: a strategic approach for the EU 2008–2013 (2007) is the health strategy of the EU. Adopted in October 2007, the strategy supports HIA and other core themes of the work of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in Phase IV, including healthy ageing.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

• The Aalborg Commitment has been adopted by European local governments and outlines a vision of cities and towns that are inclusive, prosperous, creative and sustainable and provide a good quality of life for all citizens and enable their participation in all aspects of urban life.

http://www.aalborgplus10.dk/media/aalborgcommitmentsinenglish.doc

• Renewed EU Strategy for Sustainable Development. Council of the European Union, 2006.

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10117.en06.pdf

• Mulholland C, von Schirnding Y. Making health central to sustainable development. Planning the health agenda for the World Summit on Sustainable

Development: Report of a WHO meeting hosted by the Government of Norway, Oslo, Norway, 29 November – 1 December 2001. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/HSD_Plaq_02.5_def1.pdf

This paper is divided into four sections: (1) web sites for HIA case studies, (2) web sites for evidence-based information, (3) literature reviews on specific subject areas and (4) links to other types of impact assessment.

Web sites for HIA case studies

This section is divided to show web sites containing HIA case studies at the international and European levels. Due to differences in web site content, there is some crossover between web sites containing evidence and those containing case studies. Web sites at which few completed HIA reports are available are identified by subject area. Web sites containing many HIA case studies on various subjects have not been individually listed but are easily accessible using a search engine.

Web sites for evidence-based information

Evidence-based information includes systematic reviews, unsystematic reviews and published literature. Due to the number and range of studies contained in these sites, no detailed subject areas have been given, but each is easily accessed using a search engine. This will determine what studies are available in the required subject areas and whether any studies are available.

Literature reviews on specific subject areas

This section provides links to literature reviews conducted by a range of organizations. This information will assist organizations in searching for literature reviews in specific subject areas.

Links to other types of impact assessment

This section provides links to web sites for other types of impact assessment.

Web sites for HIA case studies

This section provides information on HIA methods and completed HIAs in various subject areas. Some links show a list of all HIAs available on the web site, but this is not always possible because some web sites host a range of case studies. Throughout this section, various web sites provide lists of tools for HIA. Where appropriate, these have been marked with an asterisk (*).

International

Australia

*Health Impact Assessment Unit – Deakin University

This site provides information on the Health Impact Assessment Research Unit of Deakin University, which works as a conduit for organizations and individuals interested in HIA by providing: resources, support, training, advice and tools. It provides a large number of reports, peer-review publications and books on HIA.

http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/hia/index.php

*New South Wales HIA connect

The site provides a capacity-building facility for HIA practitioners. It also provides a link to several completed case studies.

http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au

Queensland Government

This site provides information on HIAs that will be conducted on the Narangba Industrial Estate.

http://www.health.qld.gov.au/narangbahia/hia/default.asp

Canada

Health Canada

This web site provides a link to *The Canadian handbook on health impact assessment* (2006). This handbook provides information on HIA basics, approaches and decision-making and the multidisciplinary team. The last volume provides information relating to health effects by industry, covering such areas as energy, transport, water and air quality. The site also provides information on environmental impact assessment.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/eval/index_e.html

National Institute Quebec

This site offers a list of links and useful documents assessing the impact of public policy on health.

http://politiquespubliques.inspq.qc.ca/en/evalutaion.html

New Zealand

*New Zealand public health

This link provides a guide to HIA in New Zealand. *Public Health Advisory Committee*. A guide to health impact assessment: a policy tool for New Zealand. 2004.

http://publichealth.massey.ac.nz/Symposia04PPT_files/Guide%20to%20HIA.pdf

United States of America

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This site provides information on HIA work being carried out across the United States. Links are provided to the University of California at Los Angeles and the San Francisco Department of Public Health, which have completed several HIAs.

http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Association of County & City Health Officials has compiled a list of web sites relating to HIA as a source to support conducting HIAs. This includes toolkits, research and examples from a range of organizations.

http://www.naccho.org/topics/hpdp/land_use_planning/LUP_HealthImpactAssessment.cfm

World Health Organization

*World Health Organization

This site provides information on:

- the background to HIA
- tools and methods for conducting HIA
- the evidence used in HIA
- how HIA contributes to policy-making
- examples of HIA.

http://www.who.int/hia/en

*WHO Regional Office for Europe

The health impact assessment methods and strategies programme provides information on methods and tools for HIA and advice to Member States by building capacity for integrated impact assessment. The site aims to increase the profile of health within other sectors' agenda by contributing evidence on the expected health benefits and risks.

Case studies include the following subject areas: transport-related air pollution; environmental health performance reviews for countries in central and eastern Europe; impact of waste treatment on human health; HIA of the food, agriculture and nutrition policies of Slovenia; and the health effects and social cost of mopeds.

http://www.euro.who.int/healthimpact

Europe

*England – International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT)

IMPACT is a multiagency partnership formed to help further the research, study and practice of HIA. This site provides information on HIA publications and reports, methods and HIA training courses. Reports published by IMPACT available on the site include case studies on: antisocial behaviour; alcohol; employment; air pollution and transport. There is also an easily accessible search facility to search by subject.

http://www.ihia.org.uk

*England – London Health Observatory (LHO)

The LHO web site provides information on HIA methods and completed HIAs. The web site also provides links to the London Health Commission and HIAs completed on the London mayoral strategies in the following subject areas: culture; municipal waste; transport; noise; air quality; biodiversity; economic development; children and young people; and energy.

http://www.lho.org.uk/HIA/AboutHIA.aspx

Finland – STAKES (National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health)

This link provides an overview of the application of HIA and human impact assessment in Finland. Information can be found on its application, case examples and publications and links relating to human impact assessment.

http://info.stakes.fi/iva/EN/index.htm

*Ireland – Institute of Public Health in Ireland

This link demonstrates HIAs completed across the island of Ireland. Case studies available include: transport; children with disabilities; housing; water; air quality and employment.

http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/completedhias

Netherlands – Health Impact Assessment Database

This web site offers information on HIA reports, tools and guidelines and background papers and offers links to other web sites containing information on HIA and completed HIAs.

https://webcollect.rivm.nl/hiadatabase

*Northern Ireland – Belfast Healthy Cities

This site contains HIA case studies completed by Belfast Healthy Cities. Completed case studies include the following subject areas: water; air quality; city master plans and development site proposals.

http://www.belfasthealthycities.com/default.asp?pageid=18

Scotland – Scottish Health Impact Assessment Network

This link provides information on the Scottish Health Impact Assessment network. Local initiatives and HIA case studies are provided on transport and housing. Information is also provided on HIA and strategic environmental assessment.

http://www.healthscotland.com/resources/networks/shian.aspx

Scotland - NHS Lothian

This site demonstrates HIAs carried out both on strategy and in area-based settings. HIA reports are available on the following subject areas: housing; transport; homelessness; diabetes; domestic abuse and violence; mental health; physical activity; improving care; breastfeeding; sexual health; new town proposals; and urban design.

http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/hia/hia_05.html

Sweden - National Institute of Public Health

A knowledge-based centre for public health that monitors and evaluates Sweden's public health policy. The link below contains *A guide to health impact assessments: focusing on*

social and environmental sustainability (2005).

http://www.fhi.se/templates/Page____6723.aspx

Switzerland – a Swiss HIA platform (in French)

This web site provides basic information on HIA, useful links and a quick profile of HIA activities in Geneva, Jura and Ticino. It also allows readers to download the reports of

www.impactsante.ch

HIA case studies.

*United Kingdom – HIA Gateway

The HIA Gateway provides access to HIA-related information resources, sources of evidence and networks to assist people participating in the HIA approach. Many HIA case studies are available under the resources section, and it is probably the most comprehensive web site containing HIA case studies in the United Kingdom.

http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HIA

*Wales – Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit

Included in this site is information on HIA in Wales, news and recent developments and completed case studies. Many reports on subject areas are available on the site under the section on completed HIAs.

http://www.whiasu.cardiff.ac.uk

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Evaluating HIA

Numerous evaluations have reviewed HIA in relation to the process, costs and benefits and overall effectiveness. Please note that some of the publications listed cost money to obtain.

Health Development Agency, 2002: Taylor L, Quigley R. *Health impact assessment: a review of reviews*.

http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/whoweare/aboutthehda/hdapublications/health_impact_assessment_a_review_of_reviews.jsp

http://www.who.int/hia/evidence/en/hia_review.pdf

London Health Commission, 2003: Evaluation of the health impact assessments on the draft Mayoral strategies.

http://www.londonshealth.gov.uk/pdf/hiaeval_sum.pdf

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 2007: Wismar M et al., ed. *The effectiveness of health impact assessment; scope and limitation of supporting decision-making in Europe*.

http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20071016_1

York Health Economics Consortium for the Department of Health, 2006: *Cost-benefit analysis of health impact assessment*.

 $\frac{http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyA}{ndGuidance/DH_063021}$

Web sites for evidence-based information

This section provides web sites that host various types of evidence-based information required for HIA. A range of information is available on the WHO web sites, and this is a good starting-point for those embarking on collecting information and evidence. The other web sites listed provide links to a range of evidence-related sites on various subjects.

World Health Organization

Health Evidence Network

The Health Evidence Network gives rapid access to reliable health information and evidence. The site is easy accessible and provides a search facility to access relevant articles by subject area.

http://www.euro.who.int/HEN

Health Matrix Network

This site provides statistical country reports in such areas as mortality, morbidity and inequity in health.

http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/tools/en

WHO Regional Office for Europe

This site provides a link page to several programmes and projects, such as housing and health; noise and health; and violence and injury prevention. Information is available by subject area in alphabetical order.

http://www.euro.who.int/programmesprojects

General sources of information on health effects

The following web sites contain information relating to specific subject areas and health. This list is not exhaustive, and contacting an academic library to request guidance from a librarian on identifying a good search engine in the relevant area would be useful. The following list may be used as a starting-point.

British Medical Journal

This site provides access to BMJ Journals Online. Easy to access and gives a clear explanation on how to search by subject.

http://www.bmjjournals.com

Campbell Collaboration

This web site provides a series of systematic reviews of studies and interventions and is easy to access by subject.

http://www.campbellcollaboration.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is one of the components of the Department of Health and Human Services in the United States. This site provides links and evidence on various health and safety topics and is very easy to use by subject area.

http://www.cdc.gov

Cochrane Collaboration

This web site hosts the Cochrane Library, which contains regular updated evidence-based health care databases. The site translates into Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. This site is easy to access, and searching for a subject provides brief or full easy-to-read results.

http://www.cochrane.org/index.htm

Copac

Copac provides free access to the merged online catalogues of 24 major university research libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the British Library, the National

Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales. This site has the facility to send articles to an e-mail address.

http://copac.ac.uk

Eurostat

This web site provides EU information on population and social conditions and specific topics, including transport and the environment. The web site is available in English, French and German.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

A range of research programmes that consider several social policy and practice areas, including poverty and disadvantage, child poverty and income levels.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/research-and-policy

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (University of York), National Institute for Health Research

This web site provides summaries of reviews on the effectiveness of interventions to improve health and tackle ill health.

http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence provides national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health and produces guidance in public health, health technologies and clinical practice.

http://www.nice.org.uk

National Library for Health, NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

The National Library for Health aims to be the best health library and information service in the world. The information on this site is easy to obtain and is available for searching by subject area.

http://www.library.nhs.uk/about

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD is one of the world's largest publishers in economics and public policy. The Statistics Portal (http://www.oecd.org/statistics) provides access free of charge to some OECD databases on education, labour, energy and development. Extracts are available from all other databases, classified by topic in a wide range of areas, including education, transport, development and health.

http://www.oecd.org/home/0,3305,en_2649_201185_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

PubMed

PubMed is a service of the United States National Library of Medicine that includes over 16 million citations from Medline. This site is easy accessible, and articles can be found by subject area. It also provides links to other sites.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?DB=pubmed

Sources of information for population profiles

Association of Public Health Observatories

The Association of Public Health Observatories represents a network of public health observatories working across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. This web site is fully interoperable with the public health observatory web sites and provides a forum for disseminating good practice, sharing methods, coordinating action and providing a focus for links with national organizations.

http://www.apho.org.uk

Baltic Profile

The Baltic Profile is a collection of stories of health in cities around the Baltic region.

The Baltic Profile serves cities in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and information can be searched by city.

http://www.marebalticum.org/bp

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

This site provides information on health profiles for European countries and useful links to local sources of information.

http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/ctryinfo/ctryinfo

Eurostat

This web site provides the EU with a high-quality statistical information service. Statistics are available for general issues, population and social conditions. The web site is available in English, French and German.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu

HEPRO Forum

The HEPRO project focuses on health and social well-being in the Baltic Sea region. This web site provides links to the health status of the eight member countries involved in the project.

http://www.heproforum.net/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1

Literature reviews on specific subjects

This section provides links to literature reviews developed in specific subject areas. The literature reviews listed have been produced as part of a HIA or to provide a guide for those embarking on HIA in a specific area. This section specifically focuses on urban planning, housing and transport to encourage links to the other WHO European Healthy Cities subnetworks on subject areas in focus in Phase IV, including healthy urban planning and physical activity.

Healthy urban planning

Belfast Healthy Cities

Health impacts of regeneration (Planning for Healthier People, Issue 1).

http://www.belfasthealthycities.com/admin/editor/assets/issue%201.pdf

Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment

The Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment web site provides research reports in areas such as the built environment, public spaces and environmental issues.

http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=41

Environment and Planning

This web site provides links to several journals and reviews connected to aspects of space and spatial plans, the environment and nature.

http://www.envplan.com/index.html?query=/ep/epc/abstracts/c20/c02r.htmlcurtis

General planning-related resources – Cave Associates

Cave B, Molyneux P, Coutts A. *Healthy sustainable communities: what works?* Wellingborough, Milton Keynes and South Midlands Health and Social Care Group, 2004.

http://www.bcahealth.co.uk/docs/download/what_works.pdf

Cave B et al. *HIA guide to regeneration*. Volume II. *Selected evidence base*. London, East London and the City Health Action Zone, 2001.

http://www.bcahealth.co.uk/docs/download/east_lon_guide_vol_2.pdf

Cave B. *Rapid review of health evidence for the draft London Plan*. London, Greater London Authority, 2002.

http://www.bcahealth.co.uk/docs/download/sds_health_review.pdf

Institute of Public Health in Ireland

Lavin T et al. *Health impacts of the built environment: a review*. Dublin, Institute of Public Health in Ireland, 2006.

http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaresources

WHO Regional Office for Europe: Barton H, Tsourou C. *Healthy urban planning*. London, Spon, 2000.

This publication outlines a wealth of information relating to healthy urban planning. The link provides further details on ordering this publication.

http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSources/Publications/Catalogue/20010917_13

WHO – Air quality guidelines – global update 2005. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2005.

http://www.euro.who.int/air/activities/20050624_2

WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Planning

University of the West of England, Bristol.

http://www.built-environment.uwe.ac.uk/research/who

Housing

Thomson H, Petticrew M, Morrison D. *Housing improvement and health gain: a summary and systematic review*. Glasgow, MRC Social & Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, 2002.

This link provides a literature review on housing improvement and health gain.

http://www.nice.org.uk/media/hiadocs/52_housing_improvement_health_gain.pdf

WHO - Housing and Health in Europe

This web site provides links to the WHO programme on housing and health and provides a wealth of information and links.

http://www.euro.who.int/Housing

Transport

England – Transport and Health Study Group

Provides research and information on the links between transport and health.

http://www.stockport.nhs.uk/thsg

Scotland - Health Scotland

Health impact assessment of transport initiatives: a guide. Edinburgh, Health Scotland, 2007.

Literature review outlining the links between transport and health.

http://www.seedwiki.com/accounts/vohra_salim_24251/Transport%20HIAs%20036 86_NHS%20HIA%20Guide.pdf

Ireland - Institute of Public Health in Ireland

Kavanagh P, Doyle C, Metcalfe O. *Health impacts of transport: a review*. Dublin, Institute of Public Health in Ireland, 2005.

http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaresources

Sweden - National Institute of Public Health

Alenius K. Consideration of health impacts in environmental impact assessments for roads. Stockholm, National Institute of Public Health, Sweden, 2004.

http://www.fhi.se/upload/PDF/2004/English/consider.pdf

WHO – health effects and risks of transport systems (HEARTS)

This easily accessible site provides information relating to various aspects of transport and land-use policies. Information is provided on quantifying selected health effects associated with air pollution, noise and lethal and non-lethal injuries.

http://www.euro.who.int/hearts

WHO

Dora C, Phillips M, eds. *Transport, environment and health*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2000.

This publication provides scientific evidence on the main effects of transport on human health and the environment.

http://www.euro.who.int/document/e72015.pdf

General

London Health Commission

As part of all HIAs conducted on the London mayoral strategies, literature reviews are available in the following subject areas:

- air quality
- biodiversity
- culture
- economic development
- noise
- transport
- spatial development
- waste management.

http://www.lho.org.uk/HIA/AboutHIA.aspx

WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome

The Centre focuses on developing evidence-based strategies and provides links to several environmental sources of evidence.

http://www.euro.who.int/ecehrome

WHO – European Office for Investment for Health and Development, Venice

This web site provides evidence-based information relating to the social and economic determinants of health in the WHO European Region.

http://www.euro.who.int/ihd

Links to other types of impact assessment

This section provides links to other types of impact assessment. Several types of impact assessment are available, but this does not intend to be a comprehensive list due to the number and variability at the country level. Not all types of impact assessment are mandatory, but strategic environmental assessment and environment impact assessment are mandatory in the EU and governed by legislation. The types of impact assessment that are mandatory and non-mandatory vary between countries. The following list provides links to:

- environmental impact assessment
- integrated impact assessment
- strategic environmental assessment
- sustainability appraisal.

European Union - environmental assessment

This web site provides the legal context, guidance and research and links to information on strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia

European Union – integrated impact assessment

European Commission information on integrated impact assessment.

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation/impact_en.htm

European Union-funded project – sustainability appraisal

Advanced tools for sustainability assessment.

http://ivm5.ivm.vu.nl/sat

European Union-funded project - sustainability impact assessment

These links provide information, tools and case studies on sustainability impact assessment.

http://www.sia-acp.org/gcc/uk/index02.php

http://www.sia-acp.org/acp/uk/index.php

International Association for Impact Assessment

The International Association for Impact Assessment brings together researchers, practitioners and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world and involves people from many disciplines and professions.

http://www.iaia.org/modx

Strategic Environmental Assessment Information Service

This web site provides information on strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal.

http://www.sea-info.net