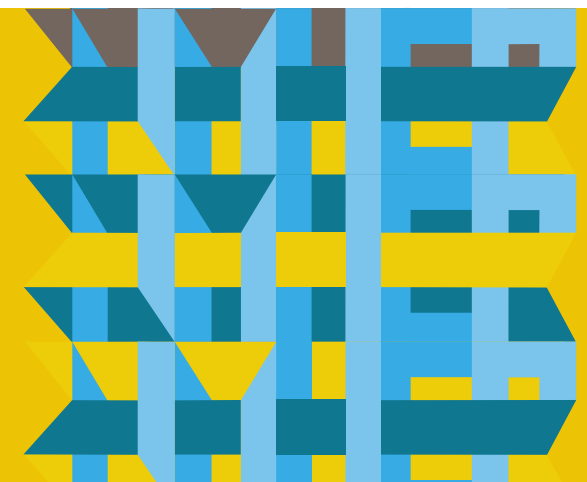# Welcome
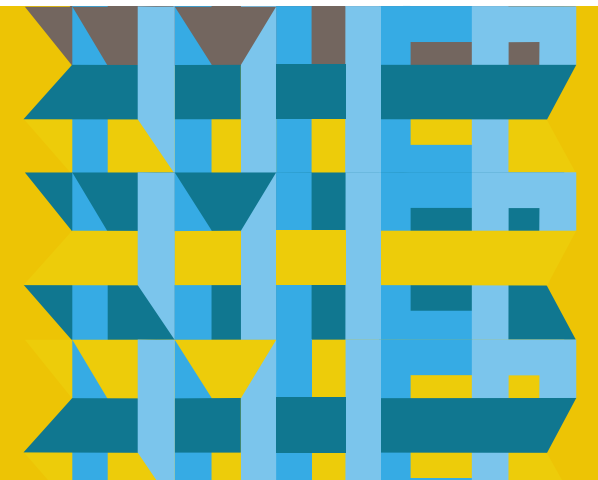
Health Impact Assessment Training

What do you most love about New Mexico?

New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, an initiative at the Santa Fe Community Foundation founded in 2012

Shared Knowledge: Every NM should have the opportunity to lead a healthy life and have a say in decisions that impact their communities and lives.

Purpose: Train groups on how to make a more compelling case to decision makers on issues they care about that affect their health.

Tool: We provide financial resources, training and coaching to support communities to complete Health Impact Assessments.

Strategy: We support community leaders to be their own champions and ensure residents have a real voice and seat at the table.
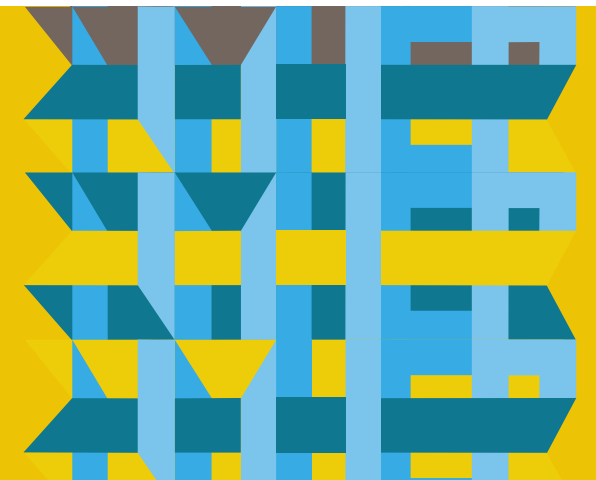
Different HIA Projects

Thirteen different HIAs have been completed in New Mexico with HEP's support. Three new HIAs are currently taking place. Topics include examining the health impacts of:

Uranium mining

Construction of a pipeline

Food policy

Park and trail development

Housing development (gentrification/ displacement)

Comprehensive plan updates
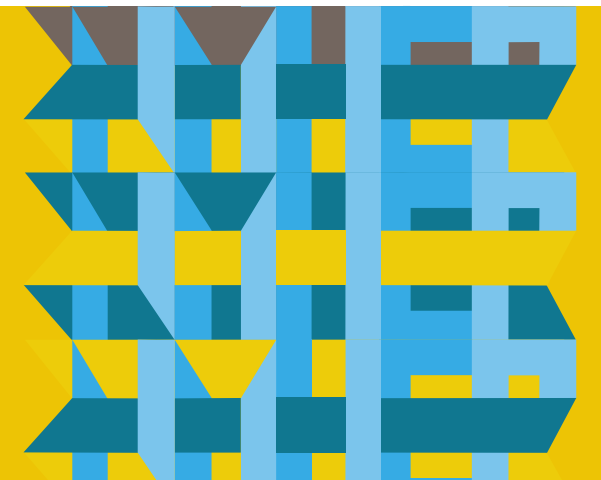
Reintegration for people who have been incarcerated

Municipal funding distribution

Wage theft

Indian Health Services budget

Amendments to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

Roadway expansion
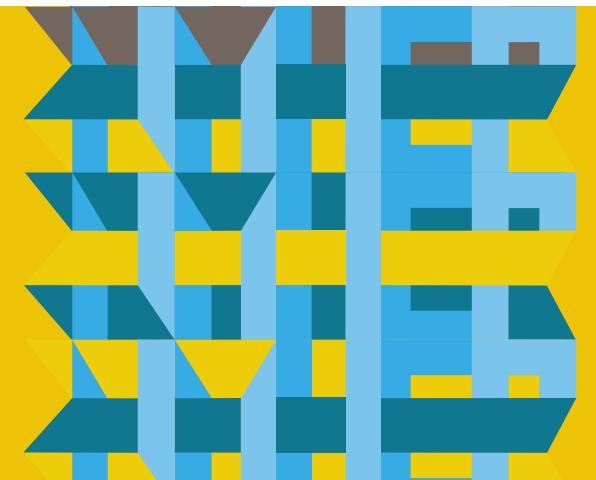
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Sign up to be a HEP member and/or for our newsletter at www.nmhep.org

Follow us on www.facebook.com/NMHEP

Please view HIA reports at http://nmhep.org/resources/hia-reports/

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Objectives of this Training

- Describe the purpose of HIA and the importance of community participation.

- Introduce the new HIA project in San Juan County.

- Outline each step in the HIA process.

- Provide opportunities for participants to gain hands-on practices for the HIA steps.

- Create space for participants to strengthen their relationships with each other and deepen their understanding of HIA.

- Determine next steps.
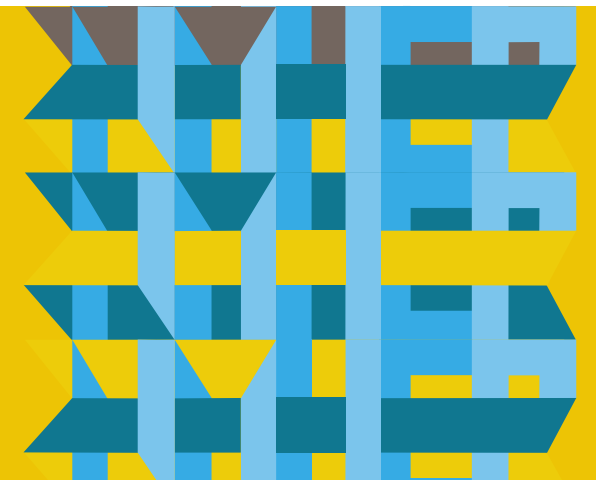
Today's Program

8:30 – Coffee and Registration

9:00 – Welcome, Opening, and Introductions

9:45 – HIA and Community Participation

10:30 – Screening (selection) / New HIA in San Juan County

11:15 – Brief Break

11:25 – Scoping (reach)

12:30 – Lunch

1:15 – Assessment (analysis): Current Conditions

2:00 – Recommendations

2:45 – Brief Break

2:55 - Reporting: Communications Plan and Clear Description of the Issue

3:40 - Evaluation and Monitoring

3:45 - What's next?

3:55 - Closing
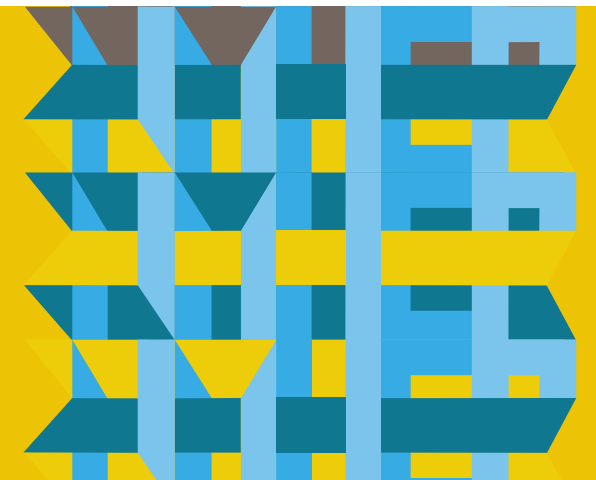
Health Impact Assessment

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

World Health Organization

Many indigenous cultures extend the concept of health to include physical, mental, emotion, and spiritual dimensions, and define healthy living as being in harmony with the spirit world, with their community and with the land.

PHOTO: LIZ WEST VIA FLICKR

RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

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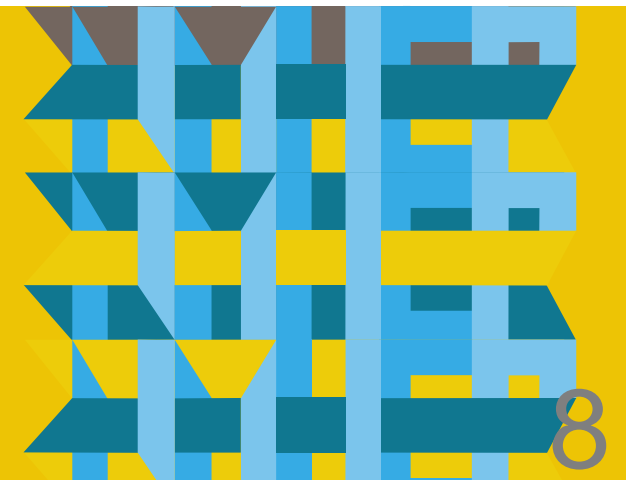
Why Bring Health Into Decision Making?

A health lens can provide information previously not considered.

A health frame can be persuasive.

Health is a shared experience.

Health is an indicator of quality of life.

People are surprised and concerned by health inequities.
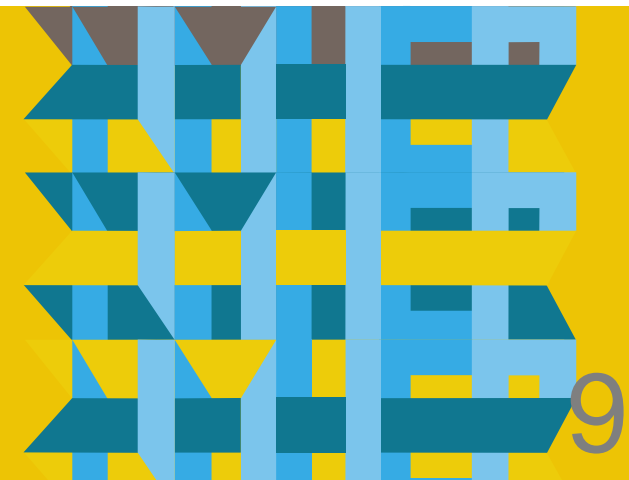
HIA Definition

Health Impact Assessment is a systematic process that:

- Determines the potential effects of a **<u>proposed</u>** policy or plan on the health of a population

- Utilizes the voices of community partners

- Uses a variety of data sources and analytic methods

- Determines the distribution of those effects on specific populations

- Provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects

National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011

HIA Purpose

Through the HIA report and communications

Judge health effects of a proposed policy or plan

Highlight health inequities

Provide recommendations

Raise awareness among decision makers and the public

Make health impacts more explicit

Through the HIA process

Recognize lived experiences of community members

Engage & build community power and leadership

Build relationships, alliances and collaborations

Gather the best information available

Improve transparency in decision making

Principles and Values of HIA

HIA Principle	An HIA should . . .
Democracy	Involve and engage the public, and inform and influence decision-makers
Equity	Consider how, where and to whom the health issues affect; pay attention to vulnerable groups; and recommend ways in which to better the decisions
Sustainable Development	Judge short- and long-term impacts of a proposal
Ethical Use of Evidence	Use evidence to judge impacts and inform recommendations
Comprehensive Approach to Health	Be guided by the important determinants of health

HIA Steps

HIA Step	Description
Screening (selection)	Determines the need and screens the issues
Scoping (reach)	After screening the group determines 2-3 health issues, identifies research questions, and creates a workplan
Assessment (analysis)	Provides: 1) a profile of existing health conditions 2) evaluation of potential health impacts
Recommendations	Provide strategies to manage adverse health impacts and maximize benefits to health
Reporting	Includes: 1) development of the HIA report 2) communication of findings & recommendations
Evaluation & Monitoring	Tracks and evaluates: 1) the process of conducting the HIA 2) impacts on decision-making processes and implementation of the decision 3) impacts of the decision on health outcomes

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HIA Addresses the Determinants of Health

How does the proposed project, plan, policy

affect

lead to

health outcomes

recommendations

Community Participation

A diverse group of community members should be guide the HIA process

The people involved in conducting HIA should be assigned roles that best match their skills and capacity

Resources should be allocated to ensure that community members meaningfully participate in the process

Commitment and Empowerment of the Community

IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum
Developed by the International Association for Public Participation

EMPOWER
COLLABORATE
INVOLVE
CONSULT
INFORM

Increasing Level of Public Impact

Inform   Consult   Involve   Collaborate   Empower

Community Participation

Inform	Community is informed about HIA process.
Consult	HIA team solicits feedback from the community.
Involve	HIA team offers opportunities for and gets feedback from community.
Collaborate	Decision-making is shared between HIA team and community.
Empower	Community has final HIA decision-making authority.

Work Plan

WHAT	WHO / NAMES OF ORGS AND INDIVIDUALS
Coordination / Project Management	
Community Engagement	
Research	
Writing the Report	
Communications	
Oversight/leadership • Steering Committee • Community advisory committee • Technical advisory committee	

Common Critiques of HIA

What do the critics say about HIA?

What are some of the barriers and solutions to implementing a HIA practice?

How do we use HIA as part of our work in community organizing?

What the Critics Say

Criticism	Response
HIA is costly	Not as costly as treatment of health impacts in the long run HIA is also less costly than many other types of required assessments
HIA is time-consuming and will slow decision-making processes	Conducting an HIA early will bring issues to the front of the decision-making process, potentially speeding approval processes and preventing costly litigation
HIA will stop economic development	The role of HIA is to identify mitigations and recommendations, not to say "don't do that"
HIA is not scientific	Role of HIA is to pull together disparate pieces of available evidence to make a comprehensive statement about likely impacts

Barriers and Solutions

| Barrier	Probable Solution
There is no money for HIA	Use funding sources creatively Need an important ally Need examples from other places where HIA has been done
Board of Supervisors will be upset by public health department's HIA work	The main duty of the public health agency is to protect the public health Staff do not have to take sides, but can look at the evidence and data Some issues are not considered as "political" (e.g., tobacco and breastfeeding)
Not enough evidence to demonstrate health impacts	There is specific evidence, diverse and focused in the literature about public health especially in relationship with the environment Role of HIA is to make a holistic declaration about health and inequities Areas where there is a lack of any available evidence to predict impacts should be highlighted in the HIA

HIA Results in New Mexico!

Learning and strengthening of leadership abilities

New alliances and relationships among diverse groups

Community recommendations being adopted by decision makers

Common vocabulary for action and learning
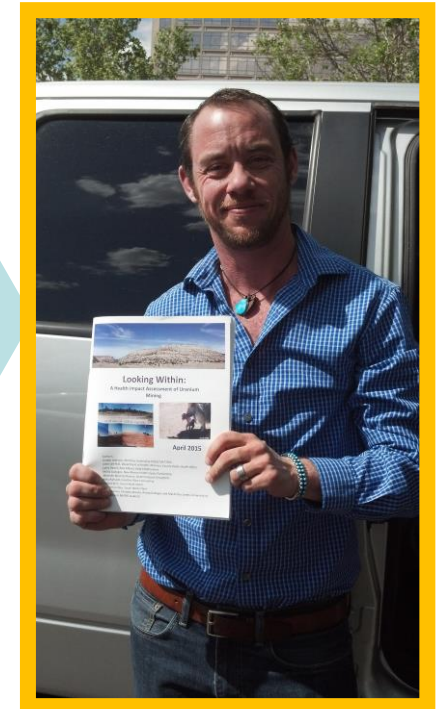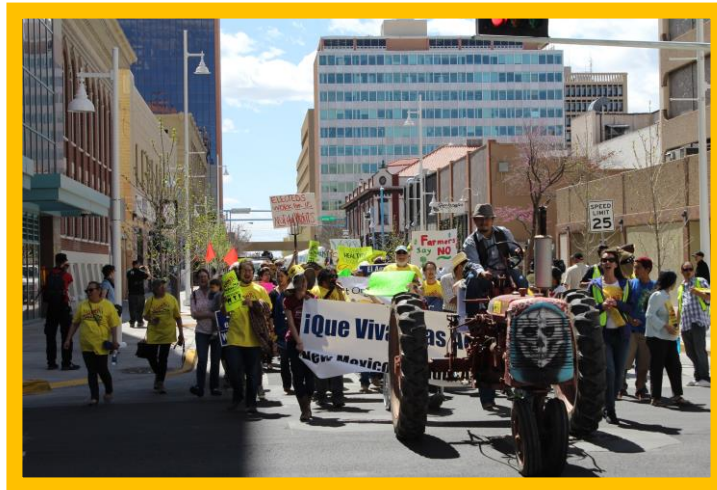
HIA Step 1: Screening (selection)

Objective

To decide whether a HIA is feasible, timely, and would add value to the decision-making process.

Example HIA Project: The Health Impacts of Language Access in Refugee and Immigrant Communities

Connections to Health: The HIA will assess the connection between what increased language access for refugees and immigrants would mean for access to : 1) safe schools, 2) quality employment, and 3) transportation options.

San Juan County Community Study

Discussion and Presentation

What is the policy topic that you chose?

What 2-3 health determinants are you focusing on?

Who are your key partners?

What communities are most impacted by the policy? How will you engage community members throughout the process?

Where do you want to do your HIA?

HIA Step 2: Scoping (reach)

Objective

To create a plan for conducting a HIA that defines priority issues, research questions and methods.

Creating an HIA Scope (reach) and Action Plan

- ❑ Develop a project timeline and work plan

- ❑ Develop a plan for community participation

- ❑ Determine HIA goals, health determinants, and develop a 1 page community study

- ❑ Identify vulnerable populations

- ❑ Identify geographic boundaries

- ❑ Confirm health determinants and identify health outcomes

- ❑ Generate research questions

- ❑ Identify data sources and methods

- ❑ Consider how HIA will be promoted

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Common HIA Goals

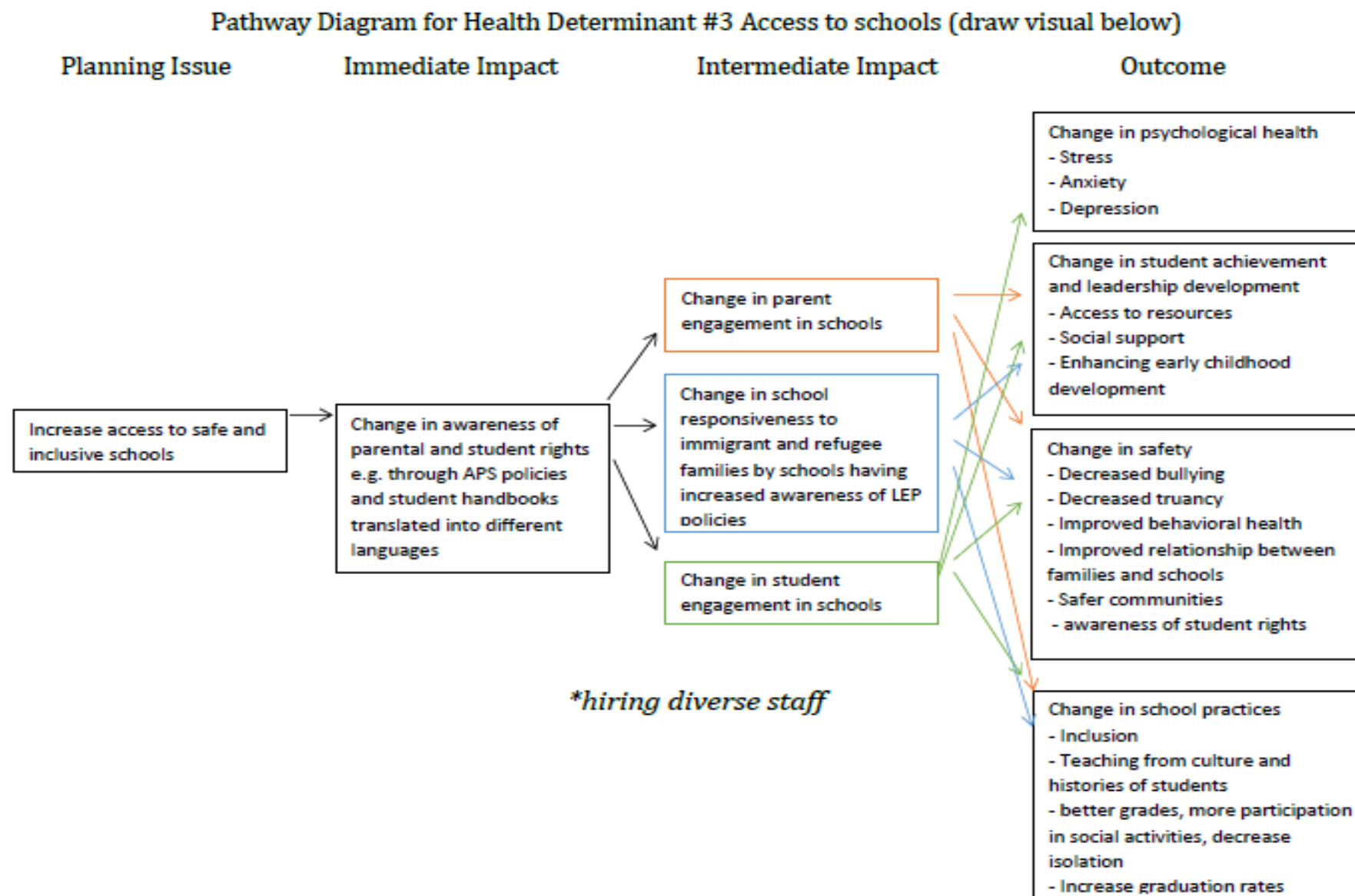Encourage better decision making by elected officials

Include health in the decision-making process

Involve diverse stakeholders, including community members

Build the capacity of stakeholders to use HIA

HIA Project	Goals
Global 505	1) Build beloved community between immigrant families and refugee families in Albuquerque. 2) Create community accessible data that can support increasing access to schools, transportation, and jobs. 3) Connect language to health outcomes.

Sample Graphic (Pathway Diagram) for HIA Report

Pathway Diagram for Health Determinant #3 Access to schools (draw visual below)

| Planning Issue | Immediate Impact | Intermediate Impact | Outcome |

Planning Issue: Increase access to safe and inclusive schools

Immediate Impact: Change in awareness of parental and student rights e.g. through APS policies and student handbooks translated into different languages

Intermediate Impact:
- Change in parent engagement in schools
- Change in school responsiveness to immigrant and refugee families by schools having increased awareness of LEP policies
- Change in student engagement in schools

hiring diverse staff

Outcome:

Change in psychological health
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression

Change in student achievement and leadership development
- Access to resources
- Social support
- Enhancing early childhood development

Change in safety
- Decreased bullying
- Decreased truancy
- Improved behavioral health
- Improved relationship between families and schools
- Safer communities
- awareness of student rights

Change in school practices
- Inclusion
- Teaching from culture and histories of students
- better grades, more participation in social activities, decrease isolation
- Increase graduation rates

Developing Graphics (pathway diagrams)

- Break into groups of 5-6 with people from your HIA team.
- Identify one health determinant you would like to focus on.
- Using the sticky notes, newsprint, and markers, visually represent one of your pathway diagrams by showing the impacts you think the determinant will have on health.
- Each group will present on their graphic, explaining the connections, and receive feedback from their peers.

Health Determinant: Access to Safe Schools

Existing Conditions Research Question	Impact Research Question
What types of language access trainings currently exist for teachers and administrators? What is the current status of students' health?	How would having language access trainings for teachers improve health outcomes for all students?
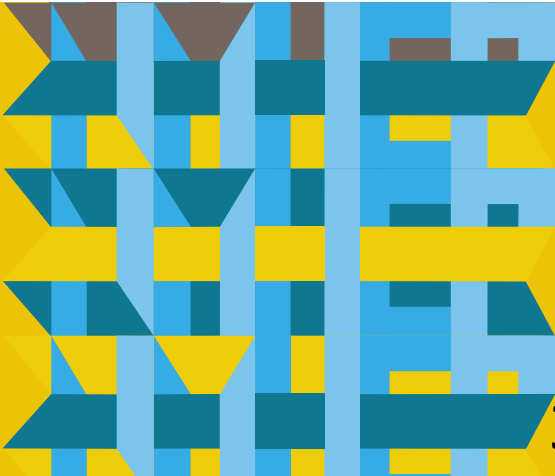
Creating Research Questions

- Use the graphic you developed with your group, identify 1 existing conditions research question and 1 impact research question related to your health determinant.
- Each group will share their research questions with the larger group for feedback.

Step 3: Assessment (analysis)

Objective

To provide existing conditions data and an evaluation of potential health impacts.

Assessment (analysis) Process

❑   Conduct and write up a report.

❑   Create and share the survey.

❑   Analyze survey results.

❑   Describe methods for greater community participation.

Assessment - Major Components

1. Existing conditions

   Research current conditions (by income, race, gender, age and place when possible)

   Identify populations that may be vulnerable to impacts of the proposal

   Describe factors that may affect health

2. Evaluate potential health impacts

   Describe how the health of the community could be impacted by the proposed decision
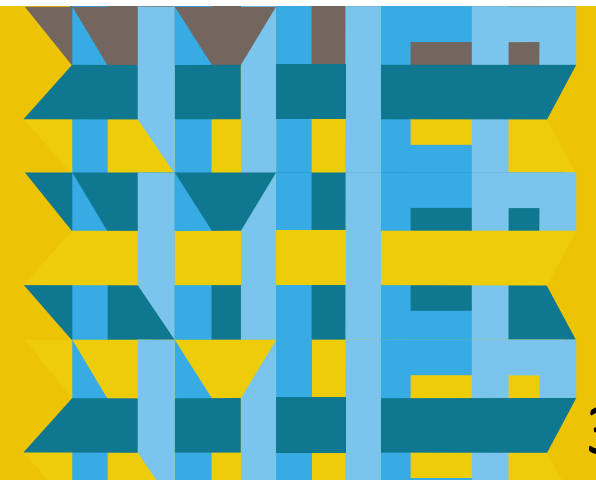
Existing Conditions Data

Step 1:   Gather data.

Sources include:

- Community expertise (community conversations, photo voice, focus groups, face-to-face interviews, surveys)

- Demographic, health, social, economic, and planning statistics

- Regulatory criteria, standards and benchmarks

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Community Expertise

Knowledge or perceptions about conditions, vulnerabilities, and day-to-day experiences of those potentially impacted by a decision

Residents

Neighborhood organizations

Workers

Medical practitioners

Public officials

Health agencies

"Thirty years ago I was in jail and when I got out I never drank again because they had a treatment program in there at that time and they need to bring that back to help many that are faced with these issues."

- Interviewee, San Miguel County HIA
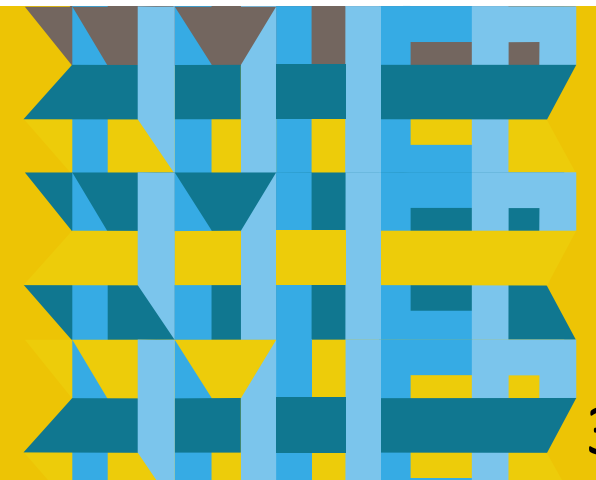
Example of Places Where You Can Find Information

- ✓ United States Census Bureau, American Fact Finder

- ✓ Population data on demographics, social and economic characteristics, at state, county, city, zip code, census tract

- ✓ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

- ✓ Health survey tracking health conditions and risk behaviors in U.S.

- ✓ Public Agencies

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Research

Academic research

Community research

Traffic Noise and Cardiovascular Disease: Epidemiological Review and Synthesis

Wolfgang Babisch

Effect of exposure to traffic on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age: a cohort study

Those earning $15,000 /yr are 3x more likely to die prematurely that those earning $70,000

Children living within 500 ft of a busy freeway have reduced lung capacity

Children who live closer to their school are more likely to walk to school than those who live further away
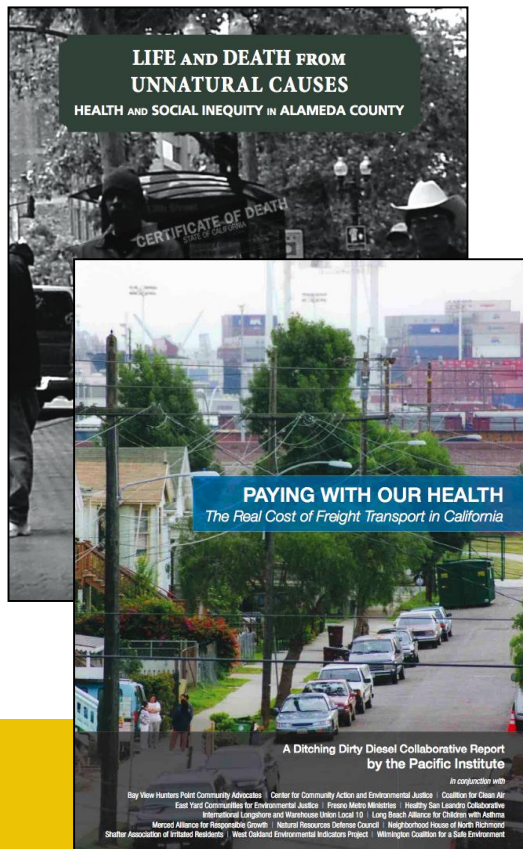
Comparing Current Data to Future Projections

Healthy People 2020

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

City or County General Plans

Local Ordinances or benchmarks that set goals for health

EPA regulatory standards

Example: "According to the U.S. EPA, some areas near the mines in McKinley County exhibit 800 picocuries per gram of radiation, while 2.24 picocuries per gram of radiation is considered safe"

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Presenting Existing Conditions Data

Maps are a useful tool

for displaying data

- Identify the relationship between places, people, and environmental conditions

- Show differences in the intensity of hazards

Southern Colonia Residents within .25 Mile Walking Distance of Private/County Parks
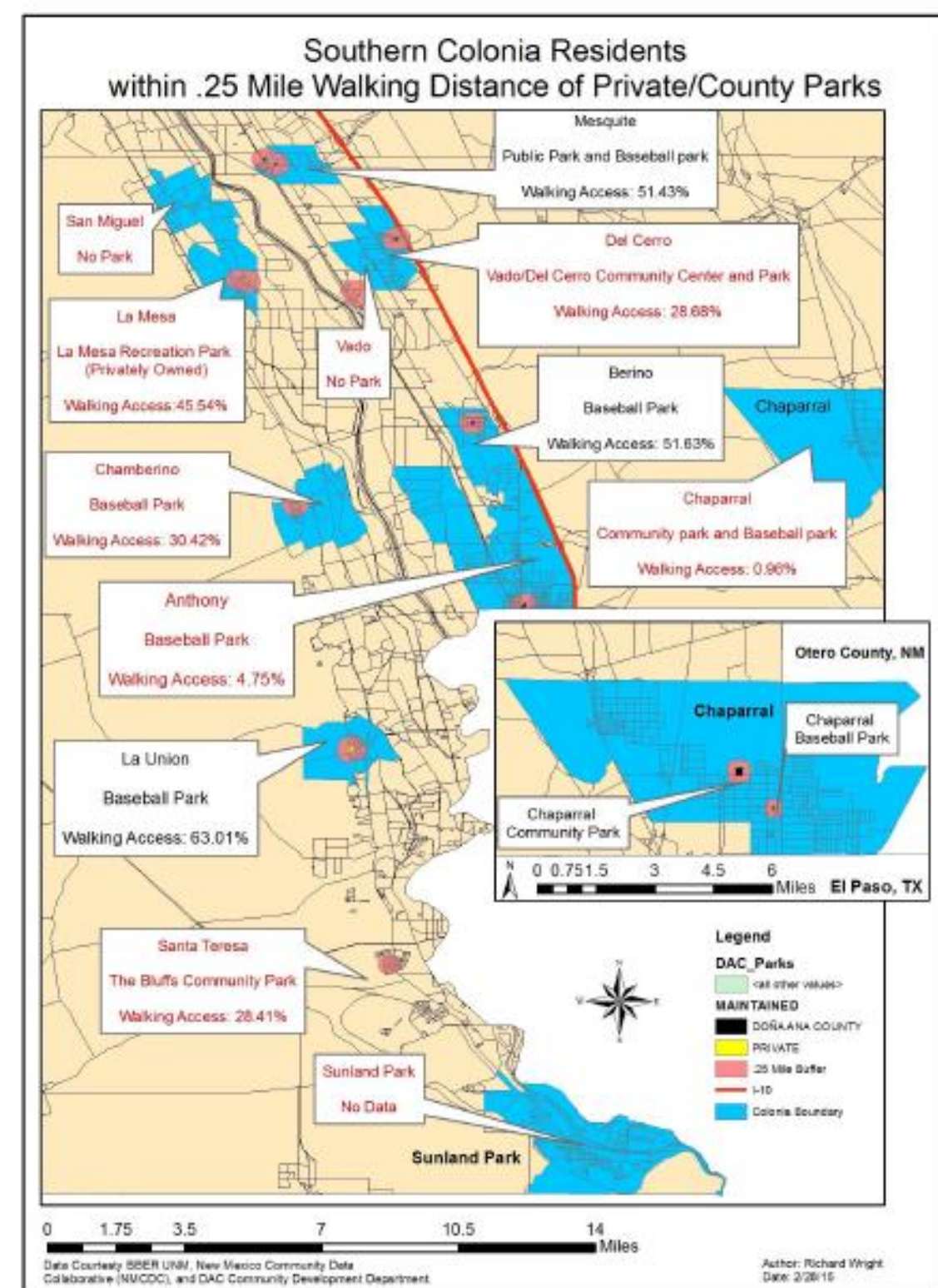
Gathering Data from Multiple Sources

Method	Findings
Known information	Increasing the number of multi-use trails in a community potentially increases transit options such as cycling and walking (Elvik, 2009)
Newly collected data	Nearly 50% of county residents do not live within walking distance of a park or multi-use trail
Focus group findings	Existing walking trails in Vado and Anthony are popular with people of all ages, but residents expressed frustration that they could not easily get to them without a car.
Existing regulatory standard	Adults are advised to participate in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2008)

Doña Ana County HIA

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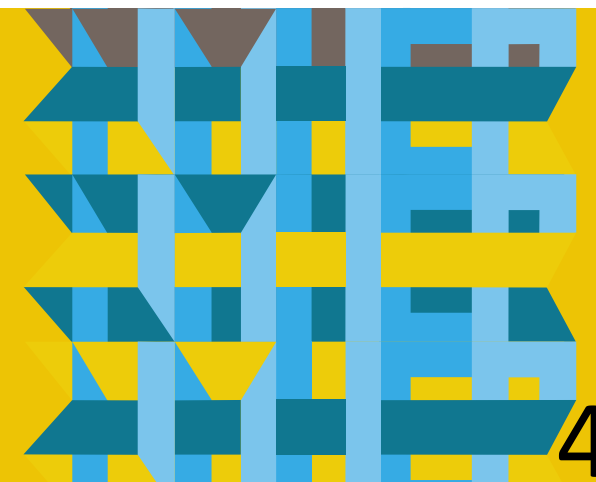
Small Group Discussions

What creative data collection methods will you use to collect data?

How will you engage community members in the process?

Objective

To provide recommendations to mitigate negative and maximize positive health impacts.

Examples of HIA

HIA Project	Recommendation
Uranium mining moratorium	McKinley County Commissioners should: Pass the proposed moratorium. Provide funding to maintain county roads and infrastructure from Red Water Pond Road to Black Tree Mesa.
Doña Ana County	Adopt agreements with school districts to enable residents to access recreational facilities after school hours.
CO2 Pipeline	The County Commission and Planning and Zoning Board should designate utility corridors for infrastructure development. The process should take into consideration broad community input, existing patterns of land use, historical and cultural impacts, economic impacts, quality and way of life, fragile ecosystems and resources, health and safety. Existing industrial corridors should be prioritized.

Recommendations: Other Considerations

Recommendations are developed throughout the HIA process

Recommendations may be considered during scoping, refined as impacts are characterized in assessment, and made final during the recommendations phase

Proposed recommendations should be shared with, discussed amongst and prioritized by HIA stakeholders

Decision-makers must translate health-based recommendations into actionable measures (e.g. modifying legislation, drafting regulations, etc.), therefore, communication between the HIA team and decision-makers can help to generate recommendations that are feasible and

appropriate

Group Activity

Part 1:

Consider 2-3 potential recommendations that may be developed as part of your community HIA study.

Use the worksheet in your binder to help craft these recommendations.

Part II:

Identify 2 participants to act as decision makers.

Each table selects one person to present 1 of the recommendations to the decision makers.

Decision makers ask follow up questions and confer and provide feedback.

Objective

To develop the HIA report and communicate findings and recommendations.

Transparency in HIA Reporting

Allows findings to be reviewed and improved

Informs affected communities of possible health impacts

Informs agencies of potential changes in demand for services (e.g. emergency response)

Educate those responsible of the impacts they have caused

Allows people to take voluntary actions to avoid risk

HIA Report Formats

Formal report

Letter to proponents & decision-makers

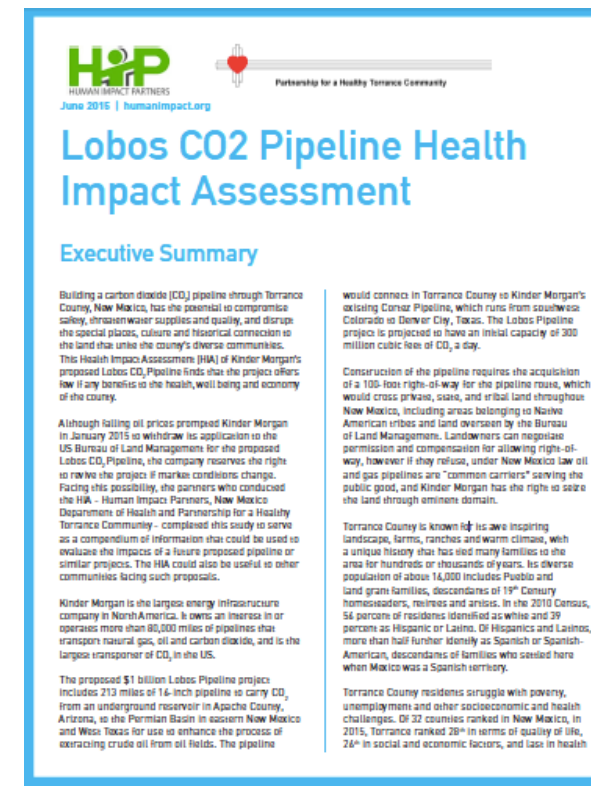Comment letter on draft EIAs

Public testimony

Presentation

Fact sheet / newsletter / infographics

Peer-reviewed publication

Website

Film – San Miguel HIA on the Reintegration Center

Radio Program – McKinley Worker Justice Coalition HIA on Wage Theft

Lobos CO2 Pipeline Health Impact Assessment
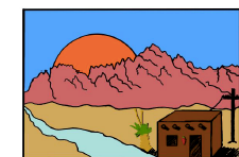

Looking Within:
A Health Impact Assessment of Uranium Mining

Parks and Multi-Use Trails in The Doña Ana County Comprehensive Plan:

A Health Impact Assessment

May 2015

Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Team
Jenna Kendall, Health Impact Assessment Coordinator
Richard Wright, Health Impact Assessment Mapping Specialist

Communicating Findings: Examples

Uranium mining moratorium HIA

HIA submitted to County Commissioners, Legislative Indian Affairs Interim Committee, and the Navajo Nation Health and Education Committee.

HIA could be used as a model for others impacted by uranium mining.

Doña Ana County HIA

Presented to other community organizations in Del Cerro and La Union.

Shared at National HIA conference in Washington D.C.

Shared with students doing research related to HIAs in the County

CO_2 pipeline HIA

HIA was presented by local residents to county commissioners, planning and zoning board.

Findings covered in local media and an environmental blog.

Presentation of process and findings at National HIA Meeting.

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Develop a Communications Plan:

Establish communication goals

Determine your audience (s)

Identify methods to be used

Clearly explain the issue

Create your message

Frame the Issues

Consider how framing for the following health issues have shifted:

ISSUES SHIFTED	INDIVIDUAL FRAME: PEOPLE USED TO TALK ABOUT...	ENVIRONMENTAL FRAME: NOW PEOPLE TALK ABOUT...
Tobacco	Smokers	Tobacco
Alcohol	Alcoholics	Alcohol problems
Traffic Crashes	Dangerous Drivers ("the nut behind the wheel")	Auto and road safety

Berkeley Media Studies Group – Media Advocacy Training. More at http://www.bmsg.org/about/media-advocacy-training

Framing is one important factor that shapes how health and equity issues can be discussed in relation to a pending decision, and is important to consider in the communication of HIA findings

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Group Activity

1. Select one organization type that your message will be coming from (i.e. university, agency, etc.)

2. Discuss your frame, and write a message that you want to communicate about your HIA findings

3. Choose a spokesperson at your table to be interviewed by one of our reporters (i.e., your audience)

Step 6: Evaluation

Objective

To evaluate:

1) the process of conducting the HIA
2) impacts on the decision-making process and implementation of the decision
3) impacts of the decision on health outcomes

Step 6: Monitoring

Objective

To track progress on whether or not the HIA recommendations are implemented.

Looking to the Future

What are the next steps for your HIA?

Are there community members that should be engaged in the process that have not been?

Conclusion and Acknowledgements