

A Brief History of Health Impact Assessment

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SOPHIA HIA Practitioner Workshop
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National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and HIA

- NEPA purpose includes “to...stimulate the health and welfare of man”
- Applies to wide range of activities such as housing, land use, mining, and others
- Over 500 EIAs done per year under NEPA
- EIA and HIA can be integrated
- Most NEPA EIAs ignore health impacts, such as discussing change in air pollution level but not change in asthma rates

History of Health Impact Assessment - 1

1969	National Environmental Policy Act passes that included among its purposes to “promote efforts ... [to] stimulate the health and welfare of man”
1986	World Health Organization’s Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion recognizes that achieving health requires working across multiple sectors
1997	WHO Jakarta Declaration calls for the use of “equity-focused health impact assessments as an integral part of policy development”
1999	WHO releases the Gothenburg consensus paper on HIA
2001	San Francisco Department of Public Health publishes a paper on the health benefits of a living wage ordinance, the first HIA in the U.S. (Bhatia 2001)

History of Health Impact Assessment - 2

2004	First book on HIA published, primarily with European contributors (Kemmm 2004)
2004	CDC and RWJF held workshop to explore steps to advance HIA in the U.S. (Dannenberg 2006)
2006	University of California Berkeley teaches first graduate school course on HIA in U.S.
2008	First HIA of the Americas workshop held in Oakland CA
2008	North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group releases version 1 of practice standards for HIAs
2008	CDC documents first 27 HIAs conducted in the U.S. (Dannenberg 2008)

History of Health Impact Assessment - 3

2008	Washington state requires an HIA for State Route 520 bridge replacement, the first HIA required in the U.S.
2009	Health Impact Project initiated by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts
2009	Massachusetts Healthy Transportation Compact requires HIAs for transportation projects
2010	California Health in All Policies Task Force established with 22 state agencies and departments
2011	National Research Council publishes <i>Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment</i> to guide future of HIA in the U.S. (NRC 2011)

A Landmark Study to Encourage Use of HIA

National Research Council, Committee on Health Impact Assessment, 2011

“HIA is a particularly promising approach for integrating health implications into decision-making....”

IMPROVING
HEALTH
IN THE
UNITED STATES

The Role of
Health Impact Assessment

Committee on Health Impact Assessment
Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology
Division on Earth and Life Studies
National Research Council

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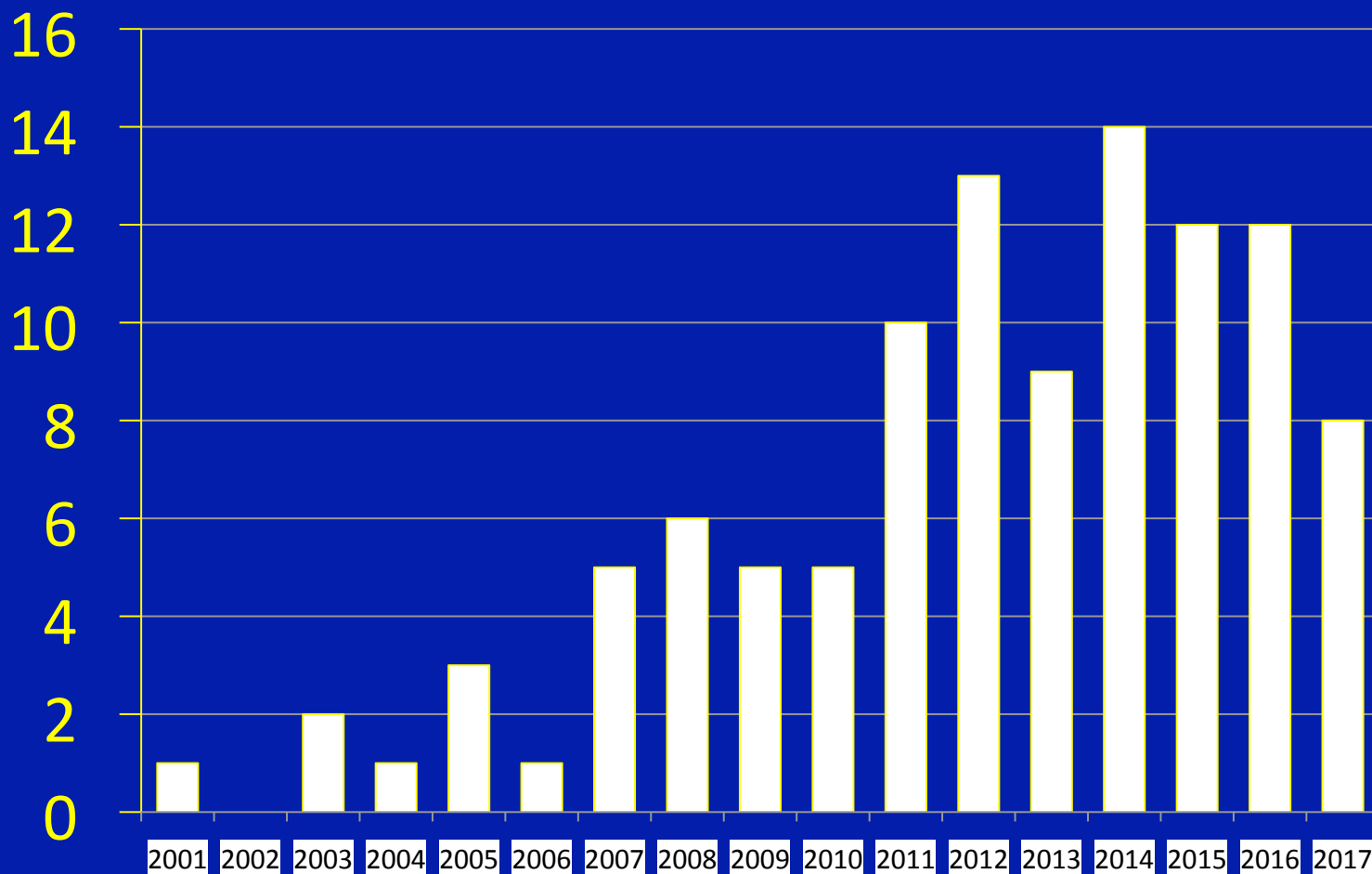
History of Health Impact Assessment - 4

2011	Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA) established
2012	First National HIA conference held in Washington DC, sponsored by RWJF
2014	First textbook on HIA in the U.S. published (Ross 2014)
2014	First sector-specific review of HIAs in the U.S. published (Dannenberg 2014)
2015	Evaluation of the impact of HIAs in the U.S. published (Bourcier 2015)
2016	First issue of <i>Chronicles of Health Impact Assessment</i> published
2017	Over 400 HIAs completed or in progress in the U.S.

HIA Sector-Specific Reviews

- Published or in press
 - Transportation, 73 HIAs, 2014
 - Criminal justice, 20 HIAs, 2017
 - Education, 20 HIAs, 2017
 - Food/nutrition/agriculture, 25 HIAs, 2017
- Manuscript in preparation
 - Energy and natural resources, 30 HIAs, 2017
 - Climate change policies, ~12 HIAs, 2017
- Gray literature reviews
 - Employment/labor, 27 HIAs, 2015
 - Housing, 40 HIAs, 2016
 - Planning, 134 HIAs, 2016

Number of articles about HIA with US authors, 2001-2017





- HIA of the Americas workshop began in 2008
- Genesis of SOPHIA occurred at the 2010 HIA of Americas workshop
- SOPHIA was established in 2011
- HIA of Americas became Practitioners Workshop and has been hosted by SOPHIA since 2014
- There are currently no other similar conferences on HIA
- SOPHIA works to advance the practice of HIA, and uses the Practitioner Workshop as a great opportunity to explore the future of HIA

Health in All Policies

- Recognizes health is impacted by policies in other sectors
- Strategies to improve health can also help objectives of other sectors by focusing on co-benefits and win-win strategies
- Tools include HIA, health impact review, health lens analysis, health-based checklists, health consultation to other sectors, multiagency councils

Future of HIA in the U.S.

- Opportunities

- Improving health equity and community engagement
- Building awareness among community organizations
- Incorporation into Health in All Policies approach
- Dissemination in specific sectors

- Challenges

- Funding
- Quantitative vs. qualitative analyses
- Anti-regulatory environment
- Capacity to conduct HIA

