



Study Guide: HIA Applications

Issues and Questions

At this point in the semester, you have been introduced to HIA as a way to analyze community development from a health perspective. You have also engaged in workshops intended to give you a quick overview of what HIAs entail and have begun work to conduct your own HIA for a designated client. This week we look at examples of successful HIAs and begin to explore alternative assessment strategies.

This week's discussion will begin with **Ross et al.'s Chapter 3 HIA in the USA**. **Ross et al.** provide an overview of various assessment models and suggest that HIA holds a unique place among these. We then turn to examples of successful HIAs and alternative assessments. *Development without Displacement*, produced by **Causa Justa**, adds a health perspective to efforts to halt gentrification in Oakland and San Francisco, CA. This is not an HIA. *Development without Displacement* presents an alternative assessment method. The report provides an interesting historical overview of community development in the Bay Area, along with an analysis of public health's role in the displacement fueled by urban renewal projects in the 1960s. **Causa Justa** calls for public health to play a new and central role in the fight for policies that halt gentrification in low-income communities of color.

Lastly, as part of this week's readings, you were asked to visit the **Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA)** model HIA website. **SOPHIA** consists of a network of practitioners helping advance HIA. The organization's website provides a number of resources including best practice guides and several examples of successful HIA reports. Looking at model HIA reports can help those that are new to HIA learn effective ways to analyze and present data. That said HIA is an evolving tool that continues to improve as new HIAs are conducted.

Questions

1. According to Ross et al., what are the shortcomings of Environmental Impact Assessment? What has emerged to fill this gap? Besides HIA, what other health impact assessments exist? How do they differ from HIA? Lastly, what is HIA's unique contribution to impact assessment?
2. Why does Causa Justa argue that gentrification is a health concern? How does gentrification embody inequality in our society? What are the impacts at the individual level? What are the impacts at the societal level?
3. What are some of the policies Causa Justa suggests for combating gentrification?
4. SOPHIA's model website presents various examples of successful HIAs. What, if any, HIAs did you find compelling? Did you find any practices that may be helpful in informing your own HIA?



Key Terms

Environmental Impact Assessment

Gentrification

Impact Assessments

Health Assessments

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