HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT: AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR EXTENSION HEALTH OUTREACH

Deborah H. John, Associate Professor
Marion Ceraso, Associate Professor of Practice
Roberta Riportella, Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement
Jenny Rudolph, Associate Professor of Practice
Objectives

• Explore steps of an Extension-catalyzed Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

• Activate discussion on HIA as a tool for Extension practitioners to positively and equitably impact rural health outcomes
Responding to polls...

- Check channel set to 41

Responding to polls:
- Use buttons to choose the correct response
- When multiple correct choices are selected, press enter to complete response
Health Impact Assessment (HIA) evaluates possible health consequences of a policy, plan or project.

A. True
B. False
Health Impact Assessment (HIA)...

- Evaluates possible health consequences of policy, plan or project
- Informs decision makers on alternatives and improvements of a proposed project to promote and improve health and well-being across sectors

Collins 2009; Early-Alberts et al. 2015
HIA is a structured but flexible process...

**INPUTS**
- Systematic process
- Data and analysis
- Input from stakeholders

**OUTPUTS**
- Potential effects on health
- Distribution within a population

**CONCLUSIONS**
- Mitigations and recommendations
What are the benefits of a successful Health Impact Assessment? (select any/all that apply)

A. Raise awareness about health in other sectors 25%
B. Emphasize the distribution of health effects in subpopulations 25%
C. Encourage collaboration with partners in other fields 25%
D. Generate robust community involvement 25%
What are the benefits of Extension engaging in Health Impact Assessment?
Engaging the Community in an Intermediate HIA

~6 month process:

✓ literature review
✓ secondary data analysis
✓ primary data collection and research
✓ workshop engaging community stakeholders
Rainier, Oregon
15 year history of intersection concerns

Veterans Way and U.S. Route 30
Rainier, Oregon Case Study

• Potential health and safety impacts of proposed stoplight and signaled crosswalk

"Jogger crossing Highway 30 to get to Rainier City Park... where's the crosswalk?"

U.S. Route 30 & Veterans Way
The six steps in the HIA process include...

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Recommendations
- Reporting
- Monitoring and Evaluation

...stakeholder engagement is a key element
Screening answers the question whether HIA needed and/or useful, and considers whether (select any/all that apply)

- A. Decision affects health
- B. Process can be completed in time
- C. Adds value to decision-making
- D. Adequate resources
Screening determined...

- Affected health and safety
  - pedestrians and bicyclists
- Completed in time
  - for STIP grant application
- Added value
  - local HIA capacity
  - decision-making informed by data and community input
- Resources were available
  - Extension partnerships in place and mobilized
In addition to developing a plan for completing the HIA, scoping determines

A. Health impacts to evaluate
B. Depth and methods of analyses
C. Populations affected
D. All of the above
E. A & B only
Scoping involved...

- OHA training included HIA Core Team, Columbia County advisory committee
  - 3 city administrators for towns on U.S. Route 30
  - county transportation planner
- Targeting project and decision-makers
  - Rainier city council & city administrator
  - ODOT
Assessment does NOT use which information source below to judge the magnitude and direction of potential health impacts?

A. Existing literature
B. Existing data
C. Fiction and hearsay
D. Local experience
E. Cross-sector expertise

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Assessment described...

- Geographic boundaries for HIA as the Rainier SD
- Vulnerable populations and potential health inequities
- Residents perceptions related to U.S. Route 30
- Decision-makers readiness to address U.S. Route 30 health and safety
During the recommendation phase, changes are made to the proposed policy or project.

A. True
B. False
Recommendations *suggests* changes that...

...minimize health risks and maximize health benefits

**Recommendations for Rainier...**

1. Install a stop light and signaled crosswalk
2. Slowing traffic speeds
   - Traffic-calming landscaping
   - Radar speed indicator signs
Monitoring

• Evaluates:
  • Success of HIA
  • Impacts of project or policy

Reporting

• Prepares final report
• Communicates recommendations