



# Health Impact Assessment and Health in All Policies

Tools to improve, promote and protect health and wellness

# Healthy People in Healthy Communities



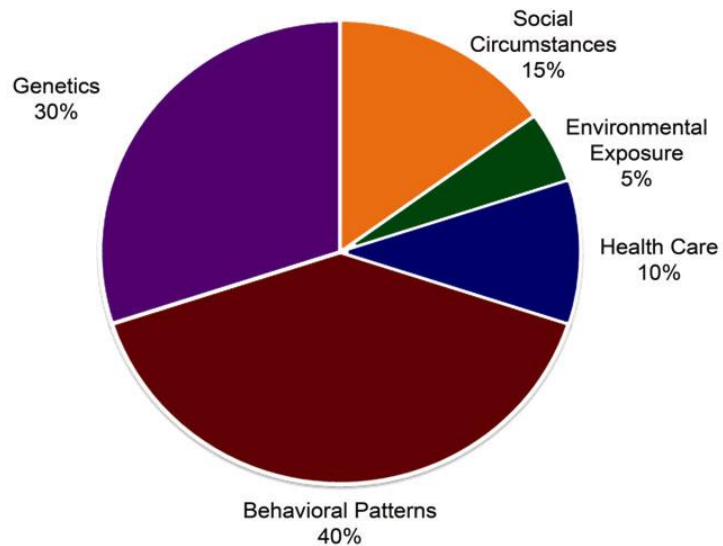
As Vermonters, we take great pride in our quality of life, strong communities, natural places and commitment to healthy living.

We share a common goal: to ensure that our state continues to be one of the healthiest and best places in the U.S. for all of us to live, work and play.

# Determinants of Health

## Factors influencing health status

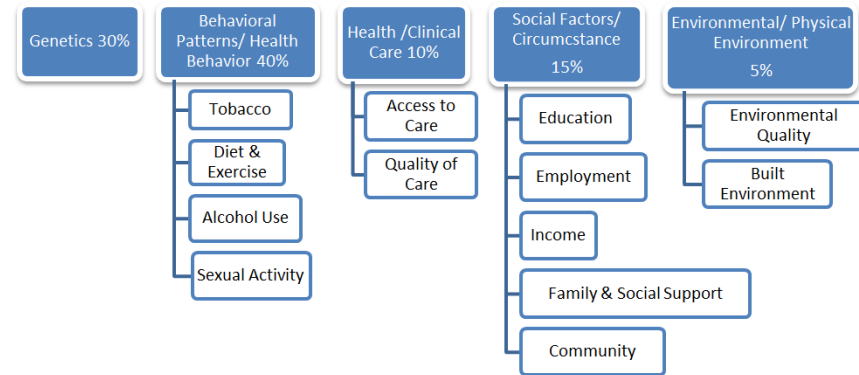
Figure 1. Proportional Contribution to Premature Death



Source: Schroeder, Steven. N Engl J Med 2007;357:1221-8

Adapted from: McGinnis JM, et.al. *The Case for More Active Policy Attention to Health Promotion*. Health Aff (Millwood) 2002;21(2):78-93.

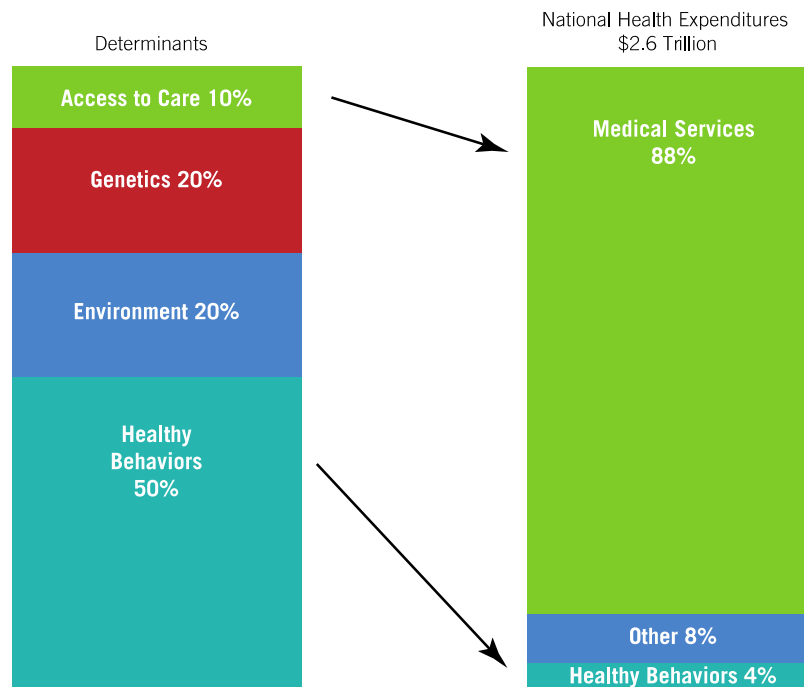
Figure 2. Factors Affecting Health Outcomes



Adapted to include genetics and McGinnis weighting of factors  
County Health Rankings <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/our-approach>

# MISMATCH

## Spending Mismatch: Health Care and Other Key Determinants of Health



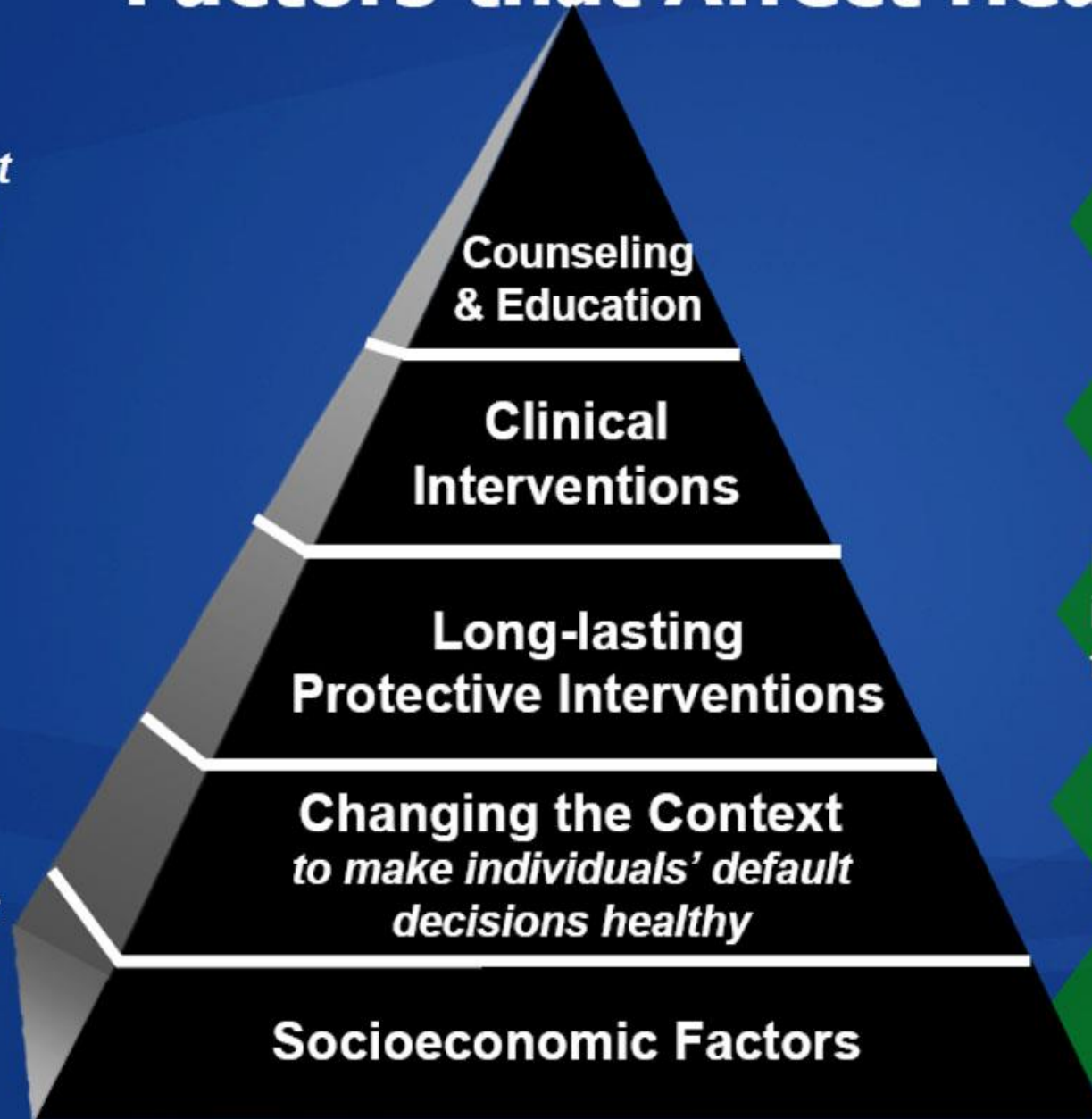
Source: NEHI. 2012.

# Factors that Affect Health

*Smallest Impact*



*Largest Impact*



## Examples

Condoms, eat healthy, be physically active

Rx for high blood pressure, high cholesterol

Immunizations, brief intervention, cessation treatment, colonoscopy

Fluoridation, 0g trans fat, iodization, smoke-free laws, tobacco tax

Poverty, education, housing, inequality

# A New Approach: Health in All Policies



“integrate health criteria into decision making across multiple sectors.”

“support cross sector activities to enhance access to high quality education, jobs, economic opportunity and opportunities for healthy living.”  
*National Prevention Strategy, 2012*

# How do we put this into practice?

1. Health in All Policies (HiAP)
2. Health Impact Assessments (HIA)
3. ...and lots of creative variants

# What is HiAP?

An approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health and health systems implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts, in order to improve population health and health equity.

*WHO Consultation and HiAP Framework, 2013*

<http://www.healthpromotion2013.org/health-promotion/health-in-all-policies>



# Current Activities in Vermont

## Health and Housing

- ▣ Support and Services at Home (SASH) Program

## Health and Agriculture & Food

- ▣ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) prescriptions for health

## Health and Transportation

- ▣ Complete Streets
- ▣ Safe Speeds

## Health and Land Use Planning

- ▣ Healthy Community Design
- ▣ ECOS sustainability project
- ▣ Act 250?

# Potential Partnerships

- ❑ Agency of Administration
- ❑ Agency of Agriculture
- ❑ Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- ❑ Agency of Education
- ❑ Agency of Human Services
- ❑ Agency of Natural Resources
- ❑ Agency of Transportation
- ❑ Natural Resources Board
- ❑ Public Service Department
- ❑ Public Service Board
- ❑ Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- ❑ Vermont Housing Finance Agency

# HIA: A Tool for Implementing HiAP

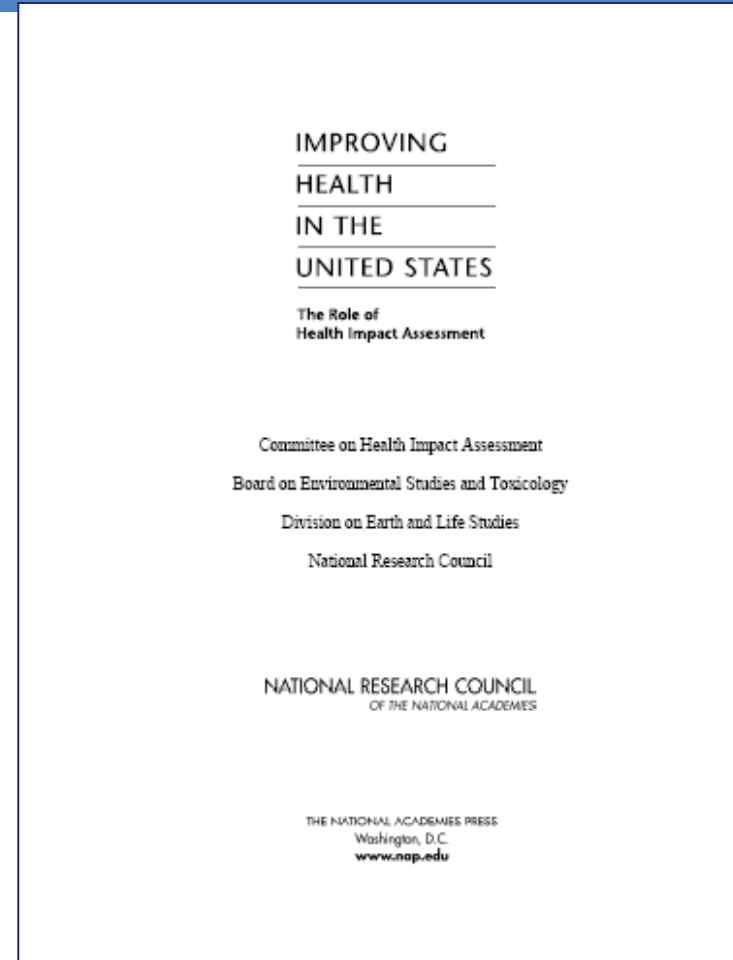
## Act 48 Sec. 11. HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING, REGULATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Charges the state with “recommending a plan to institute a public health impact assessment process to ensure appropriate consideration of the impacts on public health resulting from major policy or planning decisions made by municipalities, local entities, and state agencies.”

# Definition of Health Impact Assessment

“A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. Health impact assessment provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.”

*National Research Council, 2011*



[www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu)

# Essential Questions

- How will the proposed change impact health – positively or negatively?
- Are potential health benefits and risks distributed equitably?
- Are there ways in which the proposal can be modified to maximize beneficial impacts and minimize harmful ones?

# Distinguishing Features

- Initiated to inform a decision-making process, and conducted in advance – decision point
- Utilizes a systematic analytic process -- best data
- Solicits and utilizes input from stakeholders – community values
- Identifies appropriate recommendations, mitigations and/or design alternatives – improved decisions

# Steps of HIA

HIA Step	Description
Screening	Determines the need and value of an HIA
Scoping	Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and a work plan
Assessment	Provides: 1) a profile of existing health conditions 2) evaluation of potential health impacts
Recommendations	Provide strategies to manage identified 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

# HIA: United States

- Housing redevelopment
- Highway corridor redevelopment
- Pedestrian/bicycle trail development
- Highway bridge replacement
- Transit line
- Community transportation plan
- Local area and comprehensive plans
- After-school programs
- Living wage ordinance
- Paid sick leave policy
- Coal-fired power plant
- Low income home energy subsidies
- Oil and gas leasing policies



# HIA Example

## Jack London Gateway rapid HIA

- **Topic of HIA:** proposed housing development: 61 senior housing units near two major freeways and the Port of Oakland.

### Health Risks:

1. *Indoor air quality* from outdoor pollution sources (*NOT* a part of the required permit process) could harm residents
2. *Noise:* related to sleep disturbance, high blood pressure
3. *Pedestrian Safety* – identified dangerous road crossings



Source: Human Impact Partners,  
<http://www.humanimpact.org/component/downloads>

# Jack London Gateway rapid HIA

## Outcomes

1. **Air Quality** – developer implemented air filtration; changed windows facing freeway.
2. **Noise** – developer added a noise-buffered courtyard and entranceway away from the highway
3. **Safety** – recommendations for “traffic calming” measures (speed bumps, wider sidewalks with narrower lanes, safe cross walks) to allow residents walking access to nearby retail. Under consideration.



Source:

[http://humanimpact.org/JLG\\_case\\_study\\_draft.pdf](http://humanimpact.org/JLG_case_study_draft.pdf)

# Jack London Low-income Senior Housing:

*Now people live there...*

*The way that they designed this building, it's for your health. We can open up the air purifiers to get fresh air. I'm even on the side facing the freeway but the building is sound-proof, so you can barely hear the traffic. It's so peaceful. Before I lived here, I had to have shots for asthma and go to the hospital for oxygen to get my breathing down to the right level. Since I've lived here, I haven't had to do that once. **I love it.***

# Summary

- Vermont has a need to look beyond medical care
  - ▣ Focus on the contributors and key determinants of health
  - ▣ Address the spending “mismatch” for health and healthcare
  
- Vermont has a framework for HiAP
  - ▣ Engaging multi-agencies
  - ▣ Act 48
  - ▣ Municipal and Regional Planning (Chapter 117)
  
- Are there other options?
  - ▣ Healthcare reform? Potential changes in investments and priorities
  - ▣ Act 250



Source: <http://www.hazecam.net/camsite.aspx?site=burlington>

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