

ÁTTEKINTÉSEK

What is Health Impact Assessment and Healthy Public Policy: A Narrative Review of Definitions and Approaches

Egészségügyi Hatásvizsgálat és Egészséges Közpolitika: Narratív áttekintés a meghatározásokról és megközelítésekről

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2023 májusában a MEJ szerkesztősége pályázatot írt ki az egészség- és társadalomtudományok területén tanuló tehetséges és motivált hallgatók számára. A pályázat célja a tudományos pályára készülő hallgatók számára a publikációs tevékenységgel kapcsolatos ismeret- és tapasztalatszerzés lehetőségének biztosítása. A pályázatra a hallgatók PhD dolgozataikat, mesterszakos szakdolgozataikat vagy TDK munkák kivonatait nyújthatták be publikálására 2023. szeptember 30-ig.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Despite advancements in various fields due to globalization and technology, societal health and quality of life have not proportionally improved. Health inequalities, and unjust disparities in health within and between communities, have garnered attention as preventable challenges. The influence of non-health-related policies and decisions on public health has been overlooked for an extended period. The concept of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has emerged to address this issue. HIA aims to inform decision-making processes, promote health, and reduce health disparities. Healthy Public Policy (HPP), which integrates health and equality considerations across policy sectors, further contributes to improved overall health outcomes. This study investigates the interplay between HIA and HPP. The focus is on elucidating the evolving dynamics between these two concepts and scrutinizing the increasing efficacy of the popular HIA.

METHODS: Peer-reviewed, English-language articles reporting on health impact assessment that were published between 1990 and 2021 were looked for on PubMed, Science Direct, and JSTOR. Health impact assessment with either public

policy or health promotion was used for the search. To find further studies, reference lists of papers were examined. A subset of studies was chosen for analysis.

RESULTS: Studies support that the interplay between HIA and HPP is a potent force that shapes the landscape of public health. Their collaboration amplifies the impact of each and transforms policies into vehicles of positive change. Recommendations include aiming for healthier communities, reducing health inequalities, and a sustainable future by synergistically evaluating health impacts and creating policies that prioritize well-being. However, concerns have been raised about the potential for HIA to expand into non-health areas, leading to discussions about renaming it to a more inclusive term such as "general policy assessment", although no concrete steps have been taken. It has been mentioned that the complexity of HIA can lead to difficulties in certain contexts and makes it difficult for it to become widespread and that it needs to be improved. Making it simpler, more flexible, and applicable to different conditions is among the suggestions.

CONCLUSION: HIA emerges as an indispensable and potent tool for cultivating HPP. Its application should extend to diverse domains, necessitating the identification and resolution of obstacles that may impede its effectiveness.

Absztrakt

HÁTTÉR: Annak ellenére, hogy a globalizáció és a technológia fejlődése számos területen előrelépést eredményezett, ez nem járt együtt a társadalom egészségének és életminőségének javulásával. Az egészség-egyenlőtlenségek – a közösségeken belül és között – megelőzhető kihívásokként kerültek a figyelem középpontjába. A nem egészségügyi döntések és szakpolitikák hatását a népesség egészségére hosszú ideig figyelmen kívül hagyták. Az egészséghatás-elemzés ("Health Impact Assessment;" HIA) koncepciója ezen probléma kezelésének eszköze lehet. Az HIA célja a döntéshozatali folyamatok informálása, az egészség előmozdítása és az egészség-egyenlőtlenségek csökkentése. Az "Egészséges Közpolitika" (Healthy Public Policy; HPP) képes lehet javítani az általános egészségmutatókat, mivel egészségügyi és egyenlőségi szempontokat integrál a különböző szakpolitikai területek döntéshozatalába. E tanulmány a HIA és HPP közötti kapcsolat vizsgálatára összpontosít. A hangsúly azon van, hogy tisztázza ennek a két fogalomnak az egyre változó dinamikáját, és hogy megvizsgálja a népszerű HIA hatékonyságát.

MÓDSZEREK: A szerzők az 1990 és 2021 között megjelent, angol nyelvű cikkeket keresték meg a PubMed, a Science Direct és a JSTOR adatbázisokban, amelyek a HIA és a vagy a HPP és az egészség előmozdításának témáját dolgozták fel. A további tanulmányok megtalálása érdekében a cikkek hivatkozási listáit is átnézték. Az elemzéshez a kiemelkedő színvonalú cikkeket választották ki.

EREDMÉNYEK: A tanulmányok alátámasztják, hogy az HIA és az HPP közötti kölcsönhatás erőteljes tényező, amely hatással van a népesség egészségére. Együttes alkalmazásuk felerősíti egymás hatását és pozitív változások eszközeivé alakítja a szakpolitikákat. Az ajánlások között szerepel az egészségesebb közösségek kialakítása, az egészség-egyenlőtlenségek csökkentése és egy fenntartható jövő elérése, ahol az egészségi hatásokat szinergikusan értékelik, továbbá olyan

szakpolitikákat alkotnak, amelyek előmozdítják a jóllétet. Felmerült azonban a HIA esetleges nem egészségügyi területekre való kiterjesztésével kapcsolatban, hogy inkluzívabb elnevezést lenne célszerű használni, például az "általános szakpolitikai értékelés" kifejezést, bár ezzel kapcsolatban konkrét lépések nem történtek. Szóba került az is, hogy az HIA komplexitása nehézségeket okozhat bizonyos kontextusokban, és nehezítheti elterjedését, emiatt azt fejleszteni szükséges. Az egyszerűsítés, a rugalmasság és az alkalmazhatóság különböző helyzetekben való biztosítása volt az egyik javaslat.

KÖVETKEZTETÉS: Az HIA elengedhetetlen és hatékony eszközként jelenik meg az HPP kialakításához. Alkalmazását különböző területekre érdemes kiterjeszteni, és ehhez a hatékonyságát gátoló akadályok azonosítása és megszüntetése szükséges.

INTRODUCTION

Recent years, technological advancements have led to significant changes and progress in the field of health, marked by innovative diagnostic and treatment methods, and an overall improvement in the quality of health services. However, these advancements have not uniformly elevated the health status of societies. While some segments of the population experience extended life expectancies and enhanced well-being, others continue to suffer from "preventable" diseases or endure life-altering conditions and chronic illnesses. This divergence underscores the fact that health is more intricate than the provision of medical services alone. Socioeconomic conditions, a key social determinant of health, wield a profound influence on overall well-being. It is crucial to recognize that "being healthy" or "being sick" is not merely an individual's circumstance but a societal concern necessitating community-level measures and solutions.

Contrary to the assumption that wealthier societies are inherently healthier, evidence suggests that "equality" within societies correlates more strongly with health. Health inequalities manifest as avoidable and unjust variations in health outcomes among individuals and societal groups, often due to economic, political, cultural, or other social factors. These disparities in health stem from the environments in which people are born, raised,

work, and age, as well as their health-related behaviors. These living and dying conditions are shaped by complex political, social, and economic systems. Historically, the influence of governmental policies on population health has been overlooked or underestimated within traditional policy analysis and assessment approaches (Frankish et al., 2001). Public health, intrinsically linked to all policy decisions and choices, is inherently political and can only progress by systematically assessing policy impacts.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA), a tool that gained prominence in the late 1990s and gained widespread acceptance, offers a practical means to evaluate the potential health repercussions of policies, programs, or projects on populations, particularly vulnerable or marginalized groups. Its primary objective is to furnish recommendations that safeguard health and mitigate health inequalities during the decision-making process (CDC, 2017). HIA, applicable across diverse industries such as transportation, housing, economy, and law, holds substantial significance due to its ability to evaluate seemingly unrelated sectors with potential health implications.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines HIA as "a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a

population, and the distribution of those effects within the population". The HIA process typically consists of several stages, including screening, scoping, appraisal, reporting, and monitoring. While variations in the number of stages exist across sources, the fundamental components of HIA remain consistent, ensuring its robustness across different methods (WHO, 2021).

The screening stage is the initial step of HIA, identifying policies, programs, or projects that necessitate an assessment. This stage considers potential implications on health determinants, outcomes, and demographic groups. It leads to three decisions: whether HIA is required, unnecessary due to prior knowledge, or not needed due to minimal effects (WHO, 2021).

Subsequently, the scoping stage involves planning the HIA and identifying relevant health risks and benefits. This phase conveys key stakeholders through a steering committee, establishing terms of reference for the assessment. Methodical preparation is crucial to ensure comprehensive and unbiased evidence presentation (WHO, 2021).

In the appraisal stage, data and evidence are collected, and processed, and health impacts are estimated. These estimations enable the formulation of recommendations for enhancing positive health outcomes while minimizing negative impacts (WHO, 2021).

The reporting stage entails summarizing scope, priorities, stakeholder perspectives, evidence, conclusions, and recommendations. Clear and concise reporting ensures effective communication of HIA findings (WHO, 2021).

Finally, the monitoring stage evaluates the HIA process and its efficacy. Monitoring whether HIA influenced decision-making and subsequent proposals is essential, ensuring alignment with intended outcomes and implementation of recommendations (WHO, 2021). Notably, HIA's popularity can be attributed to its focus on addressing health inequalities, thus posi-

tioning it as a pivotal instrument and guide for formulating healthy public policies. Health in All Policies (HIA), as articulated by the WHO glossary, seeks to "improve the conditions under which people live," and emphasizes the integration of public health considerations within broader policy frameworks (P. J. Harris et al., 2012; Scott-Samuel, 1996).

A robust HIA framework ensures equitable access to health services, prioritizes disease prevention and health promotion alongside treatment modalities, incorporates public health implications into decision-making, and prioritizes the well-being of disadvantaged groups. However, Kemm underscores that these efforts remain incomplete without accurate prediction of policy-induced health consequences (Kemm, 2001). Hebert proposes that HIAs enrich decision-making processes by spotlighting potential health impacts, collaborating with affected communities to disseminate health information, and offering recommendations for plan enhancement (Hebert et al., 2012).

METHODOLOGY

The phrases ("healthy public policy" OR "public health" OR "health promotion") AND "health impact assessment" were used in PubMed, Science Direct, and JSTOR search for peer-reviewed, English-language literature published between 1990 and 2021. The rationale behind these search terms was to capture studies that, although potentially health-related, might also intersect with non-health policy sectors, where the health impact assessment (HIA) approach could be applied. While the initial search may include health-related policies, we intended to explore how the HIA approach is used in a broader policy context. From the references in these papers, we found further studies. Each article was critically reviewed by the author and included as appropriate based on reporting primary data, validity of the

methods used, clarity of the results, and reliance on tools to measure the effects of health impact assessment. A subset of papers that we considered to be the most

important and enlightening were included. Overall, this narrative review forms the basis for our research and the subsequent development of this work.

RESULTS

Figure 1. Flow chart of our research results.

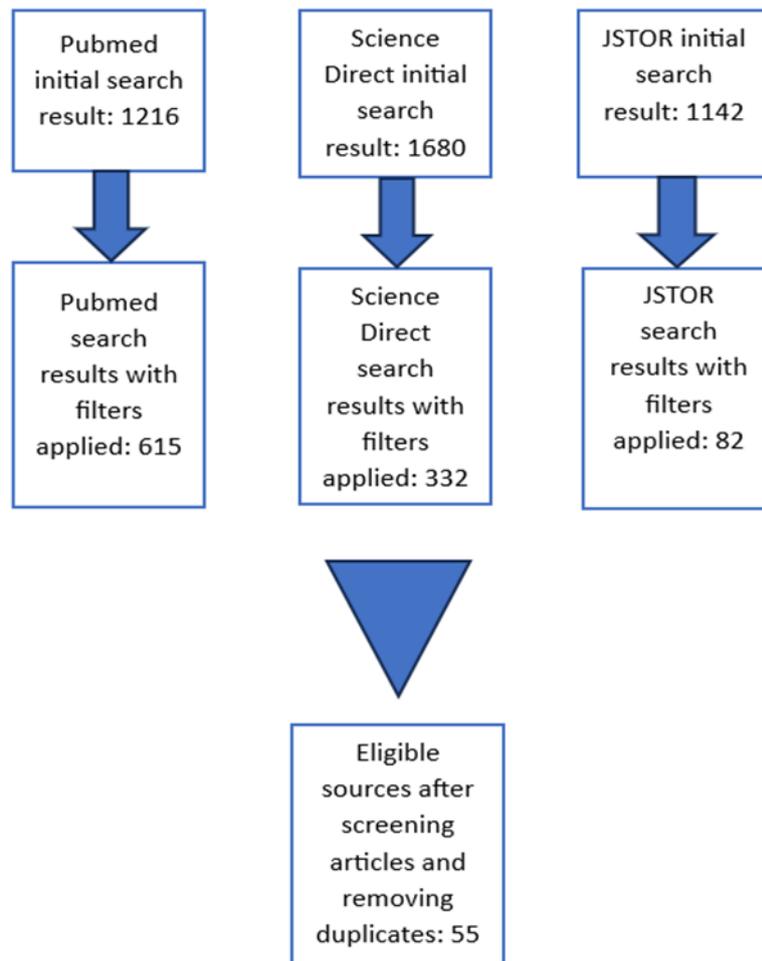


Figure 1 shows the first research results without article language and publication date filters and the results after applying filters. Afterward, the publications were scanned and selected according to their titles and contents, and after the dupli-

cates were removed, we obtained 55 suitable publications. After these were examined one by one, publications whose content quality was found to be appropriate were included in the narrative review. The selected articles are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Subset of articles selected for narrative review.

Title	Subject matter	Authors
A fault analysis for health impact assessment: Procurement, competence, expectations, and jurisdictions	Analyzes failures in the health impact assessment process of five different international projects.	(Birley, 2007)
The state of the art of impact assessment in 2012	Examines the current state of various impact assessment tools, their challenges, opportunities, and evolution.	(Bond & Pope, 2012)
Healthy Places–Health impact assessment (HIA)	Provides an overview of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as a tool to help communities, decision-makers, and practitioners improve public health through community design.	(CDC, 2017)
Use of Health Impact Assessment in the U.S: 27 Case Studies, 1999–2007	The growing use of health impact assessment (HIA) methods in the United States, with a focus on the period from 1999 to 2007.	(Dannenberg et al., 2008)
Making effective links to decision-making: Key challenges for Health Impact Assessment	Explores the effectiveness of health impact assessments (HIA) in Wales, with a focus on their impact on decision-making and the broader benefits for participants and communities.	(Elliott & Francis, 2005)
Health impact assessment as a tool for health promotion and population health	Discusses the roots of Healthy Public Policy (HPP) and its expansion beyond policies to include processes, emphasizing the need for well-defined objectives and monitoring mechanisms for the effective use of HIA tools.	(Frankish et al., 2001)
Strategic environmental assessment: The state-of-the-art	Overview of the evolution, application, and effectiveness of strategic environmental assessment.	(Fundingsland Tetlow & Hanusch, 2012)
Health Impact Assessment: Necessary but Not Sufficient for Healthy Public Policy	The importance of considering social, economic, and environmental factors when addressing public health, and the role of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) within a broader strategy of Healthy Public Policy.	(Gottlieb et al., 2012)
The effectiveness of health impact assessment in influencing decision-making in Australia and New Zealand 2005–2009	Demonstrates the effectiveness of HIA in influencing decision-making and implementation of proposals in Australia and New Zealand, with a focus on the period from 2005 to 2009.	(Haigh et al., 2013)
The essential elements of health impact assessment and healthy public policy: a qualitative study of practitioner perspectives	Aims to provide clarity on the relationship between HIA and HPP, offering a foundation for practitioners and researchers to better understand and apply these concepts in the context of public health policy and practice.	(P. J. Harris et al., 2012)
The fit between health impact assessment and public policy: Practice meets theory	Investigates the relationship between Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and public policy by applying public policy theory to HIA practitioner experiences.	(P. Harris et al., 2014)
The Impact and Effectiveness of Health Impact Assessment: A conceptual framework	Aims to provide a structured approach to evaluate the effectiveness of the HIA. It addresses the challenges faced by HIA, the need for evidence of its impact, and proposes a framework to assess its effectiveness in a variety of contexts.	(Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2013)

Achieving Health for All: A Framework for Health Promotion	Examining the concept of health promotion as a holistic and proactive approach to address health challenges in Canada.	(Health Canada, 2001)
Health impact assessment: A comparison of 45 local, national, and international guidelines	Provides a comparison of HIA guidelines from around the world and across different geographic regions, aims to identify commonalities and differences within these guidelines, and discusses the feasibility of consensus guidelines for HIA.	(Hebert et al., 2012)
Building health impact assessment capacity as a lever for healthy public policy in urban planning	Examines the development of capacity-building theory and strategies related to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in the context of urban planning, particularly in New South Wales (NSW), Australia.	(Hughes & Kemp, 2007)
Health impact assessment: A tool for healthy public policy	Discusses the need for policies to consider their health consequences, the challenges in predicting health impacts resulting from policies, and how HIA can be utilized to meet these requirements.	(Kemm, 2001)
The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion Policy Health Impact Assessment for the European Union	Adopted in 1986 during the First International Conference on Health Promotion in Ottawa, outlines key principles and strategies for achieving health for all.	(LIFE, 2018)
Glossary: Healthy public policy	Discusses the concept of "healthy public policy" and related policy constructs for understanding and shaping public policies, with a focus on achieving healthier living conditions and societal well-being.	(Milio, 2001)
Health Policy in Britain	Provides insights into the politics and dynamics of health policy in the UK.	(Mulley, 2006)
Criteria for use in the evaluation of health impact assessments	Discusses the evaluation of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) and suggests criteria for assessing their effectiveness in three main domains: prediction, participation, and informing decision-makers.	(Parry & Kemm, 2005)
Health Impact Assessment Guidance: A Manual	This guidance serves as a comprehensive resource for conducting HIAs, taking into account the close relationship between the environment and public health, and it addresses a wide range of contemporary health challenges.	(Pyper, R. et al., 2021)
Health impact assessment	Discusses the importance of health impact assessment (HIA) and its role in assessing the potential health impacts of public policies and projects.	(Scott-Samuel, 1996)
Implementing and Institutionalizing Health Impact Assessment in Europe	Aims to contribute to a healthier future by advocating for the integration of health considerations into policymaking processes, promoting intersectoral cooperation, and highlighting the role of tools like Health Impact Assessment in achieving these goals.	(Wismar et al., 2006)

Variations in Health Impact Assessment

Several types of HIA exist, each tailored to specific contexts and timeframes. Desk-based HIA provides an overview of potential health impacts within 2–6 weeks. Rapid HIA offers detailed information over about 12 weeks, while Comprehensive HIA conducts an in-depth assessment over approximately 6 months (Mekel et al., 2004).

According to the Health Impact Assessment Guidance from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, prospective HIA occurs during early policy stages, concurrent HIA coincides with implementation, and retrospective HIA examines established policies (Pyper, R. et al., 2021). The popularity of HIA has grown globally, with guidelines established at various government levels and across nations.

Healthy Public Policy

A healthy public policy has a clear focus on health and equity in all aspects of the policy. With the help of these policies, all citizens should be able to live easier and physically and mentally healthier lives. The concept of Healthy Public Policy (HPP) has deep historical roots, with its development closely tied to the recognition that policies can have significant impacts on public health and interrelated outcomes. This equilibrium was poignantly expressed in a remark made by an aristocrat in pre-revolutionary France, who observed that 'It's in our interest to feed them, but dangerous to fatten them' (Milio, 2001).

Early signs of the concept of policies affecting health can be traced to British Poverty Laws and the inaugural health charter of 1847, which laid the foundation for understanding the relationship between policies and health outcomes (Milio, 2001). Moreover, contemporary frameworks such as the World Health Organization's (WHO) Ottawa Charter for Health

Promotion, established in 1986, emphasize the importance of creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills, reorienting health services, and building healthy public policies. The Ottawa Charter highlights the essential role of health promotion in addressing the social determinants of health (SDH) and advancing equity, aligning with the broader goals of HPP (WHO, 2023a).

In addition to the Ottawa Charter, the WHO's Social Determinants of Health (SDH) framework recognizes the profound impact of social, economic, and environmental factors on health outcomes. The SDH framework underscores the need for policies that address these determinants and reduce health inequalities (WHO, 2023b).

The Health in All Policies approach, rooted in the principles of HPP, encourages government departments to consider health implications in their decision-making processes, acknowledging that multiple sectors and policies influence health. This approach fosters collaboration and alignment across various policy domains to enhance public health outcomes and equity (PAHO & WHO, 2014)

The roots of HPP can also be attributed to the work of the Canadian public health physician Trevor Hancock, who advocated for policies explicitly designed to consider health, equity, and accountability (Frankish et al., 2001). His contributions reflect the ongoing global efforts to integrate health into various policy domains and underscore the importance of HPP as a multifaceted framework for improving population health and achieving health equity. Today, public health is intricately woven into diverse factors beyond healthcare, from environments to education, nutrition, and energy use. Public policies shape these conditions, requiring dynamic strategies aligned with health

goals. The Epp study (1986) emphasizes coordination across sectors, from finance and employment to education and housing, prioritizing health (Health Canada, 2001).

HPP isn't confined to policies but extends to processes. This aligns with the WHO's view, acknowledging health's interplay with socio-economic contexts (Frankish et al., 2001).

HPP enhances secure livelihoods, suitable living, education, and community services. Milio (2001) notes its impact on housing, nutrition, education, transportation, and community well-being. Yet, policy complexities demand nuanced approaches, as actions affect diverse groups. A tax hike on sugary foods could curb obesity but harm specific segments through job loss. This underlines the need for holistic decision-making.

Incorporating health in public policies demands a comprehensive approach. Inclusive decision-making garners support for policies fostering healthy environments. This aligns with the "healthy public process," ensuring equity (Frankish et al., 2001).

HIA, proposed by Kemm, bridges policy, and health outcomes, gauging impact pathways. It identifies health consequences and highlights community sectors affected, offering insight into health inequities (Kemm, 2001).

In conclusion, HPP's evolution underscores the need for comprehensive decision-making involving diverse perspectives. This aligns with the WHO's vision and HIA's value, of navigating policy formulation for equitable health outcomes. As society advances, the quest for collective well-being persists.

Influencing the Policy Process: A Health Impact Approach

The policy-making process must be well understood for health promoters to have an impact on policy and for the HIA to influence the policy-making process. Policy, which has many definitions, is defined by Ham as "A policy ... consists of a web of decisions and actions that allocate ... values" and by this definition, he emphasizes that policies are established by a web of actions and decisions, and not a single act, and that a decision without action is not equivalent with a policy (Mulley, 2006). Therefore, it may be wrong to view the policy process as a series of decisions and actions taken to achieve a specific goal. This process often proceeds gradually and as minor adjustments to existing policies due to changing circumstances and objectives. According to Kemm, these changes are restricted to what is thought possible based on value judgments and rigorous talks with stakeholders. In policy-making, both rational-deductive and incremental features can be detected. Both rational-deductive and gradual techniques can benefit from Health Impact Assessment (Kemm, 2001).

Although WHO recommends incorporating health impact assessment into the policy process early, it is unclear at what stage the HIA should be implemented, as the policy-making process is gradual and complex. The HIA needs to be aligned with this process. It should be flexible and gradual, focusing on the relative benefits and harms, such as the policy it tries to influence, by avoiding unrealistic and sharp methods and purposes. Kemm thinks that the ideal option is for the policy advocate to have the HIA and complete it without assistance unless it is a very important and complex situation (Kemm,

2001). To be able to affect and contribute to the policymaking process, policymakers' concepts must be understood. Evaluations and intervention strategies should be made in accordance with the policy timeframe, and all of this should be done by the policy style.

Effectiveness of HIA

The effectiveness of HIA in terms of being able to effect policies has come under scrutiny despite its growing adoption. Several case studies have demonstrated HIA's impact on influencing outcomes (Dannenberg et al., 2008; Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2013), revealing that HIA's consequences extend beyond individual decisions (Haigh et al., 2013).

However, perceiving HIA merely as a tool for identifying health impacts and offering advice would be an oversimplification. HIA's efficacy lies in its ability to raise stakeholders' awareness of health issues, question past and future decisions, enhance communication, and promote a conscious approach to actions affecting society (Bond & Pope, 2012; Elliott & Francis, 2005; Fundingsland Tetlow & Hanusch, 2012; Haigh et al., 2013).

The effectiveness of HIA has been assessed through multiple conceptual frameworks. Parry and Kemm's framework identifies three evaluation categories: prediction, participation (including stakeholders), and informing decision-makers (Parry & Kemm, 2005). Birley's fault analysis approach pinpoints factors contributing to HIA success or failure (Birley, 2007). Wismar's paradigm categorizes HIA effectiveness into direct, broad, opportunistic, or neutral outcomes (Wismar et al., 2006). Harris-Roxas and Harris's model integrates context, process, and impact domains, recognizing the broader effects of HIA (Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2013).

The implications of HIA span short and long terms. Short-term effects include informing and altering decisions, evaluating health determinants' inclusion, projecting short-term outcomes, and informing affected individuals about impact and actions. Long-term effects encompass improved collaborations, enhanced health determinant understanding, technical proficiency, and recognition of HIA's role in evidence gathering (Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2013)

Gottlieb, Fielding, and Braveman emphasize HIA as a pivotal element in effective implementation strategies for HPP. However, they underscore that a broader approach is essential, involving cross-sectoral governance, financial agreements, and regulatory frameworks (Gottlieb et al., 2012).

Timing is crucial for HIA's positive impact. Harris, Sainsbury, and Kemp emphasize the importance of determining when to conduct the evaluation – during draft policy stages or early plan development. Factors like preconditions, primary goals, and formal agreements influence HIA's trajectory, demanding flexible scheduling (P. Harris et al., 2014). Attention to these factors optimizes resource and time utilization.

DISCUSSION

Harris, Sainsbury, and Kemp underscore the significance of integrating HIA into the policy development stage, particularly within influential strategic policy documents that guide procedural policymaking (P. Harris et al., 2014). For HIA to wield substantial influence, it should be positioned as a tool within HPP initiatives, receiving support from higher levels of government. Robust technical evaluations are essential to effectively evaluate and anticipate the

public health and equitable implications of substantial policy challenges. Strategic implementation of HIA, considering operational constraints and aligning with participants' principles, goals, and learning, as well as institutional norms, processes, and responsibilities, is key to shaping impactful policy changes.

Hughes and Kemp suggest that different capacities for HIA should be cultivated across micro, mid, and macro levels of organizations to enhance health-related aspects. This approach aligns with the principles of HPP and aids in comprehending the diverse levels of capacity required for successful implementation (Hughes & Kemp, 2007).

Gottlieb, Fielding, and Braveman propose a targeted approach to HIA utilization, focusing on policy and planning settings where the procedure can yield optimal benefits. This includes contexts with ample data availability, the potential for health impact analysis to influence policy or program decisions, and a willingness among policymakers to consider prospective HIA recommendations or mitigation strategies (Gottlieb et al., 2012).

Frankish et al., (2001) advocate for the establishment of monitoring and surveillance systems to assess progress toward goals and provide a foundation of trend data for evaluating health effects. They emphasize that the integration of HIA into routine program and policy actions necessitates the incorporation of HIA tools through well-defined objectives and monitoring mechanisms.

These recommendations collectively underscore the necessity of HIA's strategic incorporation within policy development,

capacity-building at various organizational levels, targeted utilization in receptive policy and planning contexts, and the establishment of monitoring systems to facilitate the ongoing assessment of health impacts (Gottlieb et al., 2012; P. Harris et al., 2014; Hughes & Kemp, 2007).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the HIA is a versatile tool that plays a pivotal role in policy development across various sectors. Its structured approach, encompassing screening, scoping, appraisal, reporting, and monitoring, ensures a comprehensive evaluation of health impacts. HIA's significance extends to influencing HPP, addressing health inequalities, and promoting evidence-based decision-making.

The effectiveness of HIA is evident through its ability to inform decisions, alter policies, and foster collaboration. However, its impact goes beyond immediate outcomes, contributing to a broader understanding of health determinants and sustainable policy development. For HIA to reach its full potential, its integration into the policy process and careful consideration of context and stakeholders are essential.

As the global community strives for improved public health outcomes, HIA remains critical for achieving health equity and well-being. Its ability to bridge the gap between policy development and health considerations ensures a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to decision-making, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more equitable society.

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