XI HIA International Conference

“HIA across Ireland: a ten year tale”

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Granada, Spain

Owen Metcalfe, FFPH

www.publichealth.ie
Institute of Public Health

Working for better health across the island of Ireland through:

• Strengthening public health capacity
• Providing /interpreting information for public health
• Advising on policy

Supporting action to address health inequalities
The 21st century policy approach

- Interconnected forms of government
- New partnerships

Citizens participation

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS  EQUITY  SUSTAINABILITY

Kickbusch 2010
A Health Lens

Whole of Government Approach

Policy Development

Shared Goals

Outcomes

Adopting a Health Lens
The case for Health Impact Assessment

“Having accepted that the determinants (of health and health inequalities) lie in many different sectors, there is obviously a need to look at policies in all sectors, assessing their likely impact on health, and especially on the health of the most vulnerable groups in society, and to coordinate policies accordingly”.

Margaret Whitehead 1990
“The consensus across all sectors and disciplines was that knowledge of HIA is limited to a few at the centre of policy making, partnership and service development. It has not substantially penetrated any sector or group, including the health departments and services. HIA is not yet established in the policy ‘mindset’ in the way that it is in Britain”
IPH Addressed this Deficit

- Bi-lateral meetings with government departments
- Awareness raising seminars
- Newsletter
- Website and email network
- HIA forum
- HIA network group
- HIA resources and publications
- Conferences
- Comprehensive training
- Conducting HIA
HIA Resources and Publications

- Active Travel – Healthy Lives 2011
- HIA Review – Gambling 2010
- HIA Review – Active transport 2010
- HIA - Guidance 2009
- HIA Review – Education 2008
- HIA Review – Built Environment 2006
- HIA Review – Employment 2005
- HIA Review – Transport 2005
- HIA – Practical Guidance 2003
- HIA – Baseline report 2001
- HIA – Introductory paper 2001
Healthy Public Policy – Is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone?
## HIAs conducted/ underway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIA</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
<th>Republic of Ireland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number conducted</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number initiated by government mechanisms</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number initiated by local champions</td>
<td>13</td>
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Knowledge of HIA is no longer limited to a few people at the centre of policy making, partnership and service development, and it has certainly established itself at least as a concept across other sectors as well as throughout the public health sector. HIA has made significant inroads towards attaining status that it has acquired elsewhere and this is largely as a result of IPH work.
HIA Review Conclusions 2009

IPH has had a substantial impact on:

- Developing appropriate tools and guidelines
- Promoting the use of these
- Providing appropriate training
- Providing follow up support
- Providing networking opportunities
- Raising awareness of HIA
- Conducting HIA
HIA Review Conclusions 2009

Difficulties with implementation:

- Legislation
- Appropriate tools
- Availability of resources
- Capacity to undertake HIA
- Role and responsibility issues
- Complexity of process
- Length of time
- Political will
- Congested impact assessment landscape
Institute of Public Health in Ireland

owen.metcalfe@publichealth.ie

www.publichealth.ie/hia