



CDC 1305 Health Impact Assessments: Implementation Status of Recommendations Health Impact Assessment

Executive Summary

October 2017



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Introduction

Health Impact Assessment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arizona Department of Health Services supported health impact assessments (HIAs) in communities across Arizona with funding from a CDC 1305 grant. The funded projects were:

- [Active Transportation in Sierra Vista HIA](#)
- [Bullhead City Rotary Park HIA](#)
- [Hualapai Neighborhood Parks HIA](#)
- [Pinal Creek Trail HIA](#)
- Solomon Community Garden & Multi-use Trail HIA
- [Tucson South 12th Avenue Corridor Project HIA](#)
- [Yuma Community Garden Ordinance HIA](#)

Although the listed HIAs have all been completed, information has been lacking on the implementation status of the recommendations included in their final reports. Between August 25, 2017, and October 9, 2017, LeCroy & Milligan Associates interviewed contacts at the HIAs' lead agencies to obtain information about the current adoption and implementation status of the HIAs' recommendations. In some cases, the individuals we attempted to contact no longer worked at the agency, and in other instances we were referred to different people for the information we were seeking.

Few of the HIAs had a monitoring and evaluation plan in place or an HIA stakeholder who continued to officially champion specific recommendations. Additionally, only a small number of recommendations have been adopted by a government body, although in all cases, progress on implementing at least some recommendations has been made. In a few cases, such progress resulted from an HIA's recommendation that called for an action or policy that was the same as or similar to one being implemented by an agency or governing body as part of a strategic plan. For most of the HIAs, funding for implementation of the recommendations was the chief constraint.

The following section presents the findings of the review of the implementation status of the HIAs' recommendations.

Key Findings

Active Transportation in Sierra Vista HIA

The [Active Transportation in Sierra Vista Health Impact Assessment](#) was conducted to identify and make recommendations to maximize the potential beneficial health impacts from improved access to non-motorized transportation facilities in Sierra Vista through a variety of projects, plans, and policies. The HIA resulted in 21 recommendations related to the jurisdictions of Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca. As of October 2017, neither Sierra Vista nor Fort Huachuca had officially adopted any of the recommendations associated with the HIA into formal policy.

However, the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO), which was a partner in the HIA, has adopted all of the HIA's recommendations. Despite lack of adoption by the Sierra Vista City Council or decision-makers at Fort Huachuca, implementation has moved forward in both cases as part of other planning and infrastructure development processes. Multiple infrastructure improvement projects included in the HIA's recommendations have been completed or are in the planning stage in Sierra Vista without formal policy adoption. Lack of resources has been the main impediment to being able to implement the HIA's recommendations in Sierra Vista.

Implementation of HIA recommendations at Fort Huachuca has moved forward as part of the 20-year strategic plan, which was launched in February 2017. The HIA report and its recommendations were one of various documents reviewed for developing the strategic plan. According to the 20-year plan, when a road is resurfaced, bike lanes will be put in if the road does not already have them. When housing developments are built or redeveloped, there will be wider sidewalks and good wheelchair access ensured.

Bullhead City Rotary Park HIA

The [HIA](#) was conducted to provide an opportunity to engage key stakeholders and the community at large in planning for the improvement to various areas of Bullhead City's Rotary Park. Additionally it provided data-driven recommendations for the improvements that considered the value of community health. The City of Bullhead has used data from the HIA reports in a variety of grant applications that generated funds for implementation of the HIA recommendation that addressed the construction of new baseball, softball, and soccer fields. Other HIA recommendations that have been addressed as part of the infrastructure improvements include adding pedestrian crosswalks at appropriate locations in the park and installing distance markers on park paths.

Hualapai Neighborhood Parks HIA

The [HIA](#) examined the benefits of the construction of Hualapai Park and the enhancement of existing parks in Peach Springs, Arizona, in the Hualapai Tribal Community. This HIA is an outgrowth of the tribal police department's request to build a playground to replace the basketball courts that were torn down in central Peach Springs. Working with the Tribal Planning Department, a Parks Steering Committee designed a new playground. None of the HIA's recommendations have been officially adopted by the Tribal Council, but some have moved forward, in part, in the discussion or planning phases as a result of tribal projects and processes unrelated to the HIA.

Pinal Creek Trail HIA

The City of Globe and Gila County conducted the [HIA](#) to identify the potential health impacts of the creation of a multi-use trail along a portion of Pinal Creek that runs through the city of Globe. The information gathered was to be shared with local governmental agencies that had been considering the development of the trail. Implementation of the recommendations has been delayed due to lack of funding and limited community support.

Community interest in public health promotion is currently focused on developing an aquatics center. The local hospital, which participated in the HIA, is one of the few possible sources of funding for community initiatives, and has turned its attention to supporting the aquatics center project. A committee to champion the trail was formed and met regularly, but it has not had the involvement or direction needed to move forward with the tasks envisioned for it in the HIA recommendation.

Solomon Community Garden & Multi-use Trail HIA

The Graham County Health Department prepared the HIA for the Solomon School District #5 to determine the level of interest in a school/community garden and a walking and biking trail that would serve as community resources for improving health and well-being. The school district board had selected a district-owned vacant lot for the proposed garden. A portion of the HIA funding was utilized to construct a fence around the lot and purchase irrigation system supplies and fill soil material. The project has not progressed any further. At this time, there are no plans to implement other HIA recommendations such as constructing the trail or modifying the Graham County zoning ordinance governing community gardens.

Tucson South 12th Avenue Corridor Project HIA

As part of a commercial corridor project, the City of Tucson's Office of Integrated Planning worked with community partners to prepare plans and a bond application for proposed infrastructure improvements to South 12th Avenue. The bond proposal included infrastructure improvements that had the potential to enhance the health and safety of residents in the neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor. Pima County Health Department (PCHD) conducted an [HIA](#) to determine the current conditions on South 12th Avenue and evaluate how the proposed infrastructure improvements would impact the health of the residents. The bond election to fund the infrastructure improvements was not successful, unfortunately.

The HIA's recommendations have not been adopted by either the City of Tucson or Pima County. However, many activities related to the recommendations are being addressed by city initiatives. Tucson Planning and Redevelopment Services have begun planning for an infrastructure assessment of South 12th Avenue. The HIA report will be used as a resource to avoid duplication of previous efforts. A major goal of the assessment will be to determine how the roadway might be redesigned to better accommodate cars, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Additionally, the city is working on making Liberty Avenue, the street two blocks east of 12th Avenue, into a residential bicycle boulevard designed to prioritize bicycling and enhance conditions for walking. This will include the addition of a signaled crossing at South 12th Avenue and West Canada Street. The local transit agency implemented the recommendation regarding the construction of additional bus stop shelters.

Yuma Community Garden Ordinance HIA

The goal of the [HIA](#) was to inform Yuma County's Department of Development Services about the health impacts of a proposed community garden ordinance. The HIA focused on four health determinants: physical activity, diet and nutrition, social capital, and food security.

Since completion of the HIA, Yuma County and the City of Yuma have amended their zoning ordinances to allow community gardens. Both jurisdictions have initiated collaborative activities and community education programming consistent with HIA recommendations. However, there is no evidence of official adoption of the HIA recommendations by either the Yuma County Board of Supervisors or the Yuma City Council.

The Wellness Coordinator of the Healthy Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI) program at the Yuma County Public Health Services District has since spearheaded the formation of a new coalition in Yuma - Yuma H.E.A.L. (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Learning). The coalition's mission is to create, support, and provide resources for community gardens. The Yuma HEAL coalition has engaged community stakeholders that were involved in a pre-HIA coalition, partners who were involved in the Community Garden Ordinance HIA, and new partners. The coalition is currently working on getting 501(c)(3) status and are planning to implement their first community garden in a local food desert.