

Seeing the Unseen: An introduction to Health Equity Impact Assessment

Best Start Resource Centre Conference

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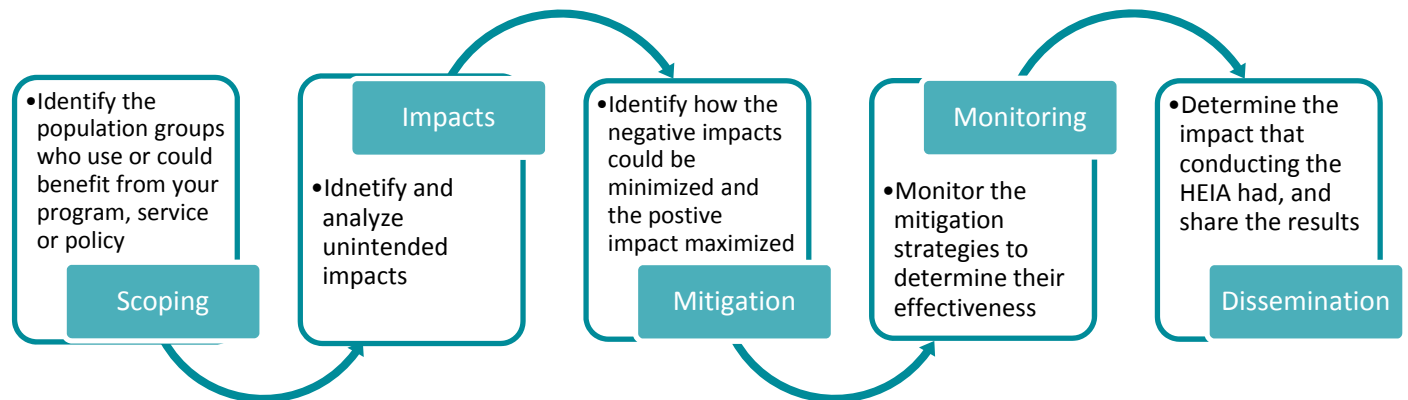
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Health Equity

Equity in health implies that everyone has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential (World Health Organizations). According to Margaret Whitehead, health inequities are “differences in the health outcomes of specific populations that are systemic, patterned, unfair, unjust, and actionable” as opposed to random differences, or differences caused by illness.

Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA)

HEIA is an assessment tool that can be used to identify unintended potential health impacts (both positive and negative) of a policy, program or initiative on vulnerable or marginalized groups within the general population. Recommendations can then be developed in order to maximize the positive and minimize the negative potential impacts. HEIA has five steps:



The tool was developed by Ontario’s Ministry of Health and Long Term Care with the North East, Toronto Central and Waterloo Wellington LHINS and updated by the Ministry with Public Health Ontario and many public health units.

Why conduct an HEIA?

- A way to make your health equity work more workable, and improve the impact of your programs/services on equity
- Conducting an HEIA provides an opportunity to bring health and equity to the conversation, even when it's not usually a priority
- Provides a way to consider the impacts of your programs/services on the most vulnerable groups in your community
- Provides an opportunity to build new or strengthen existing relationships with partners and stakeholders (including your community, vulnerable groups and clients)

How can I do an HEIA?

HEIA is a flexible assessment tool:

- A “desk-top” assessment can be done in a few days or weeks; a comprehensive assessment can be done over the course of several months
- It can be done internally (without consultants);
- you can use existing data and knowledge and/or use it as a way to generate new data or knowledge

Health Nexus offers customized training, consultation and advice

- Introductory workshops and webinars
- In-depth workshops
- Consultations and coaching support

Contact us for a free consultation! Visit http://en.healthnexus.ca/services/impact_assessment

Or contact Andrea directly at:

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Resources

The HEIA Tool from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/heia/tool.aspx>

The HEIA Community of Interest

https://knowledgex.camh.net/health_equity/Pages/HEIACol.aspx

HEAI @ a glance resource from HC Link

http://www.hclinkontario.ca/images/AT_A_GLANCE_HEIA_FINAL.pdf



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