

Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Beyond Evidence: Health Impact Assessment

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Health, HIA and spatial planning



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Role of planning

- **Planning is focused on physical development, but the goals of planning are essentially social**
- **Planning influences health and well-being**
- **The social goal of health can be a fundamental justification for, and purpose of, planning**



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Context

There are two main models of health:

- 1. Medical or biomedical**
- 2. Social or socio-economic**
 - Latter part of 20th century, medical or biomedical model of health predominated in planning process**
 - In 21st century, shift to include social or socio-economic model**



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What is health?

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.”

Constitution of WHO, 1946



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Why use HIA during the planning process?

To enable the planning process:

- **to support health and well-being through health protection and health improvement**
- **to address inequalities in health**



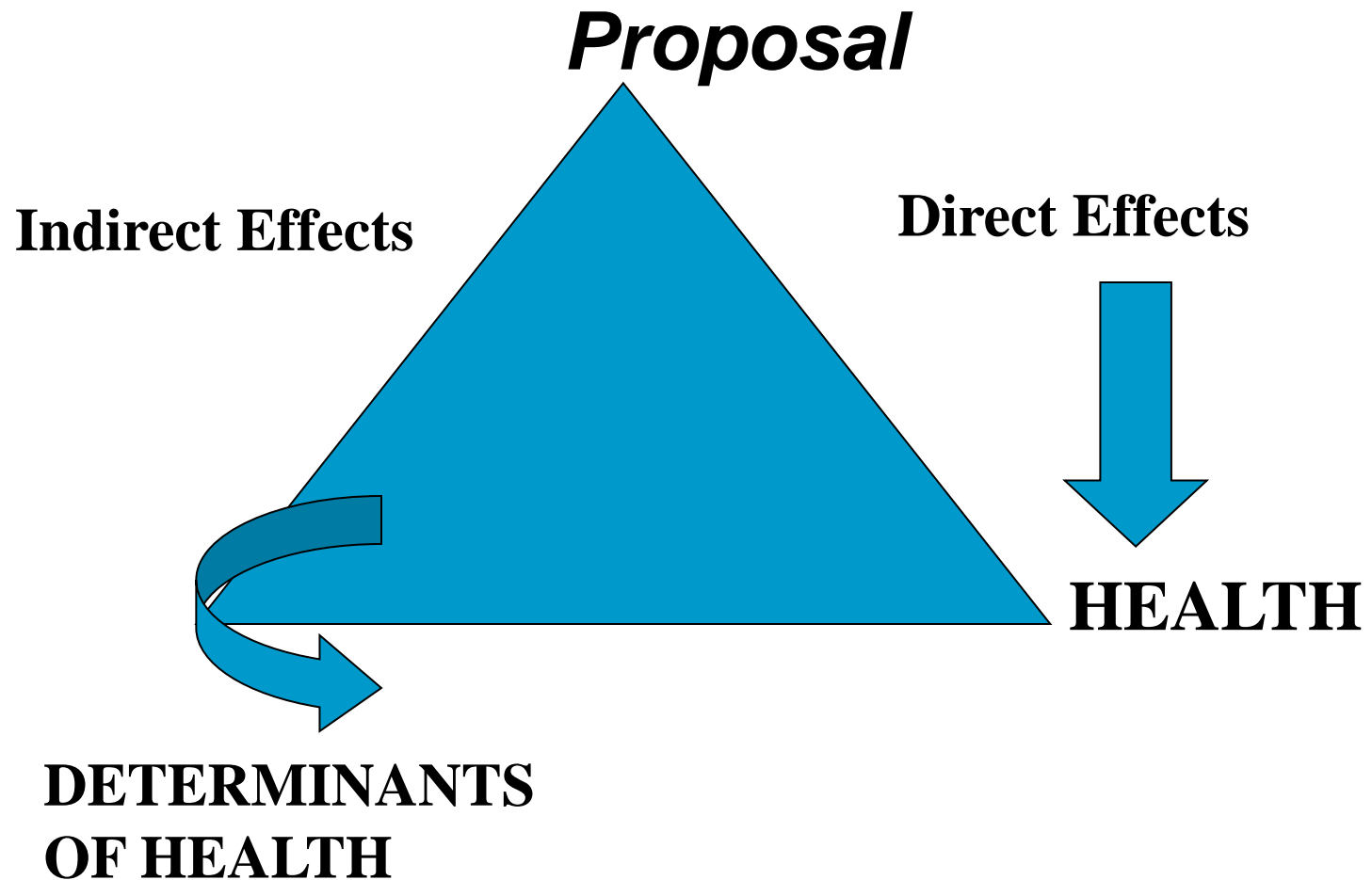
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Definition of HIA

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”

WHO Gothenburg Consensus Paper, 1999

Framework for investigating potential impacts on health & well-being in HIA

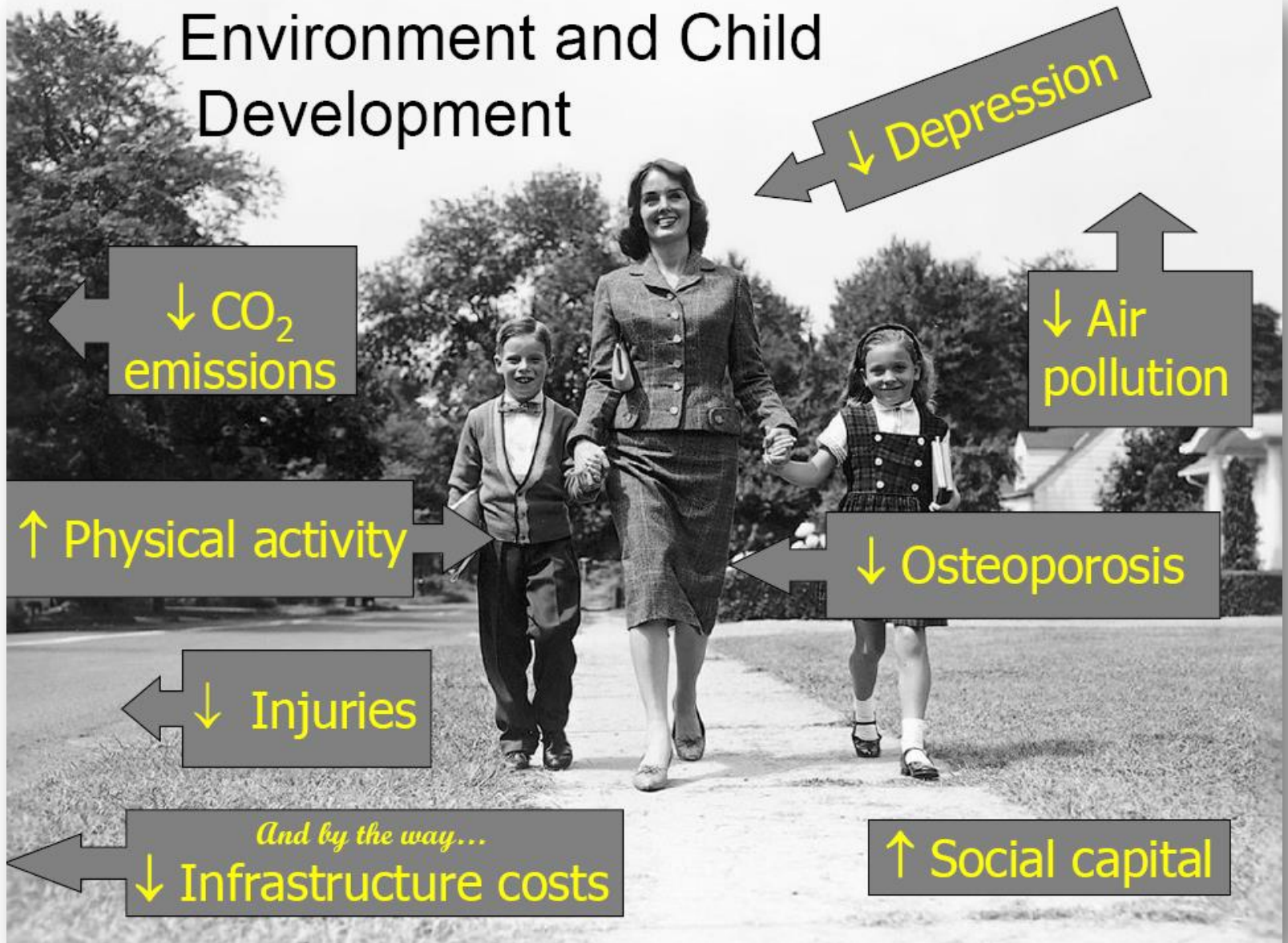




Determinants of health

- **Personal and lifestyle factors**
- **Social**
- **Economic**
- **Environmental**
- **Access to facilities, amenities and services**

Environment and Child Development





HIA and the Planning Process

Support for decision-makers from HIA

- **Evidence-based information on an issue of concern to the public**
- **Focusing resources on health improvement rather than expenditure on the remediation of health and other problems**

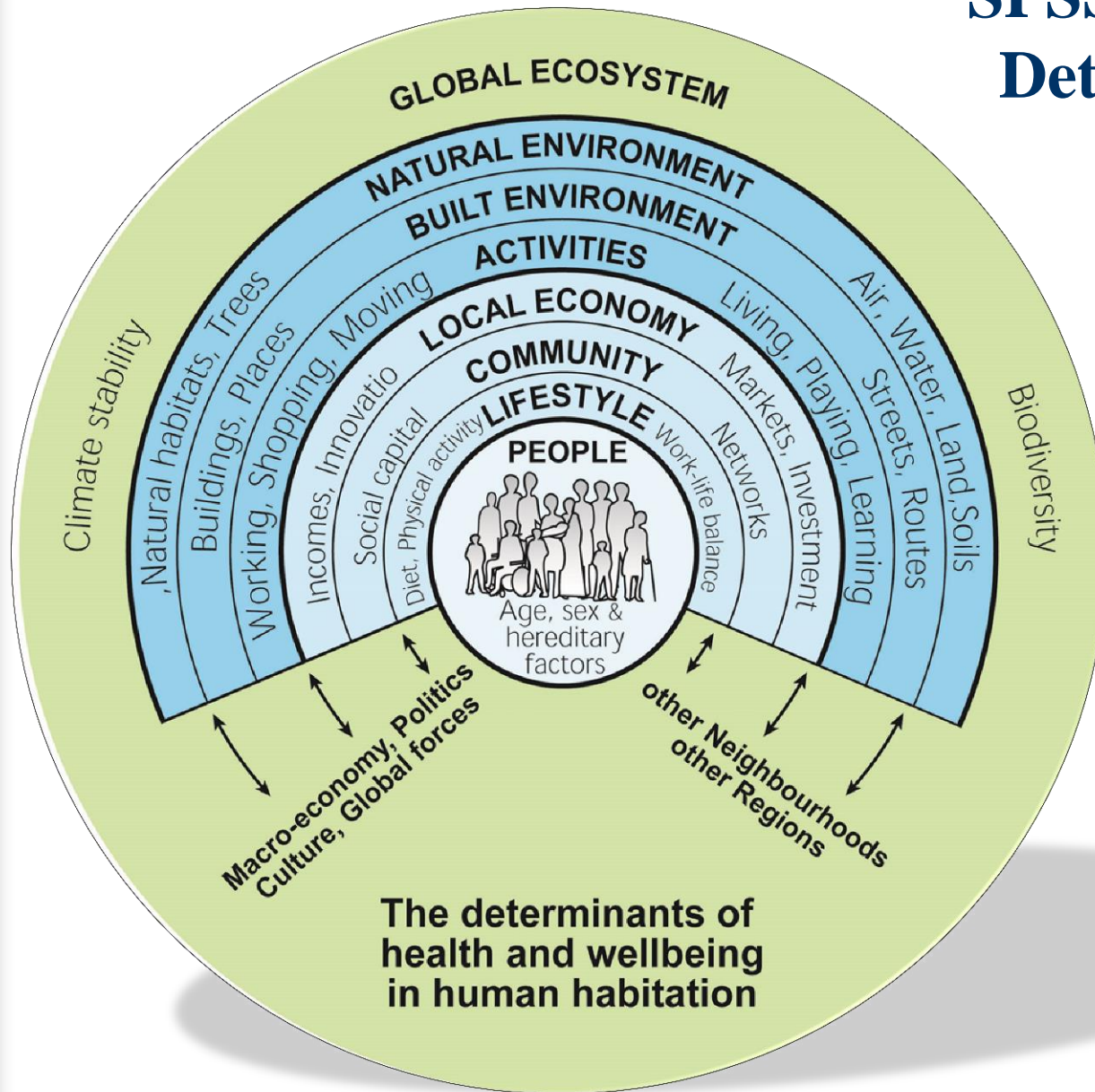


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SPSS in Northern Ireland

- **Five Core Planning Principles, the first of which is: “Improving Health and Wellbeing” (paragraph 4.2)**
- **“The planning process has an active role to play in supporting the Executive’s key priority of improving health and well-being.” (paragraph 4.3)**
- **Uses WHO definition of health (paragraph 4.3)**

SPSS Diagram 1: Determinants of health and well-being in our neigh- bourhoods



From Hugh Barton and Marcus Grant, University of the West of England



Determinants of health - SPSS

“However, the above mentioned considerations are not exhaustive and planning authorities will be best placed to identify and consider, in consultation with stakeholders, all relevant environment and amenity considerations for their areas.”

Paragraph 4.12



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“Planning authorities may engage with relevant bodies and agencies with health remits in order to understand and take account of health issues and the needs of local communities where appropriate. This may include consideration of potential health and health equity impacts, expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.”

Paragraph 4.6



Values for HIA

- **Sustainability – work towards sustainable development or sustainable communities**
- **Equity**
- **Ethical use of evidence**
- **Democracy – people’s democratic right to participate in open and transparent decision-making processes**



Characteristics of HIA

- **Multidisciplinary**
- **Intersectoral**
- **Range of different methods**
- **Use of quantitative and qualitative evidence**
- **Focus on health inequalities**
- **Participatory**

Classic process of HIA

5 stages	6 stages
Screening	Screening
Scoping	Scoping
Appraisal, including reporting	Appraisal
	Reporting
Supporting decision-makers	Supporting decision-makers
Monitoring & evaluation	Monitoring & evaluation

Classic process of HIA

Stage of HIA	Key questions to answer
Screening	Conduct HIA on this proposal or not?
Scoping	Boundaries for the HIA? Management arrangements? Overall governance and accountability arrangements?
Appraisal	Effects on health for the whole population and vulnerable groups? How achieve health gain through health protection, health improvement and reducing health inequalities?
Reporting	How present information about health impacts and suggestions to address impacts, ethically and in way useful to and usable by decision-makers?
Supporting decision-makers	How support decision-makers understand the HIA results in relation to other information about the proposal?
Monitoring and evaluation	<u>Process evaluation</u> : HIA process go well? Could it be improved? <u>Effectiveness evaluation</u> : Effect of HIA on proposal? <u>Outcome evaluation</u> : Effect of amended proposal on health?



HIA and the Planning Process

What can HIA bring to the planning process?

- **Information about the potential effects on health and well-being of planning policy, guidance and proposals**
- **Suggestions about how to maximise the health benefits and minimise the harms to health and well-being through various stages of the planning process**



HIA and the Planning Process

What does the health sector need to do?

- **Make commitment to participate in planning process**
- **Become conversant with planning process**
- **Identify appropriate and effective ways of working with planners to input into the planning process**
- **Allocate resources to working with planners and other partners to achieve health gain from spatial planning**



HIA and the Planning Process

What do planners need to do?

- **Widen understanding of the determinants of health, and the potential for planning to affect health**
- **Identify the stages in the planning process where input from the health sector adds value**
- **Actively involve the health sector in spatial planning**