



Healthy Neighborhoods for a Healthy Detroit: Health Impact Assessment

D-HIA Partners:

- ◇ Data Driven Detroit
- ◇ Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
- ◇ Detroit Neighborhood Partnership East – Warren/Conner Development Coalition
- ◇ Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- ◇ Green Door Initiative
- ◇ Institute for Population Health
- ◇ University of Michigan School of Public Health
- ◇ University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program
- ◇ Ben Cave Associates

Healthy Neighborhoods for a Healthy Detroit (D-HIA) is a community-academic partnership conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that will look at how the Detroit Future City (DFC) strategic framework may affect the health of people living in Detroit, and will also recommend ways to protect health. **Specifically, the D-HIA will highlight health in decisions regarding how city services and infrastructure are maintained.**

The DFC is a guide for short- and long-term decision-making in Detroit related to economic growth, land use, neighborhoods, and city systems and infrastructure. A key strategy of the DFC is to redistribute city service and infrastructure investments—such as street lighting, waste , roads, and blight reduction—toward more populated parts of the city.

The D-HIA will look closely at the plan’s potential impact on **health outcomes such as heart disease, violence, and asthma** through changes in neighborhood stability, social support, housing, environmental conditions, and safety, particularly for the **nearly 90,000 people living in high vacancy areas.**

For example, greater investments in areas that are more populated may stabilize neighborhoods and improve safety. However, reduced investment in less populated neighborhoods may create further social and environmental health risks for people who live there.

The D-HIA will work with a broad range of groups to strengthen relationships between residents, city planners, and academic institutions, and to build capacity for including health in future decision-making for Detroit. **The HIA will recommend strategies to protect and improve the health of the people of Detroit.**



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The Steps of HIA

1. SCREENING

↓ Determine whether an HIA is needed and likely to be useful.

2. SCOPING

↓ In consultation with stakeholders, develop a plan for the HIA, including the identification of potential health risks and benefits.

3. ASSESSMENT

↓ Describe the baseline health of affected communities and assess the potential impacts of the decision.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

↓ Develop practical solutions that can be implemented within the political, economic or technical limitations of the project or policy being assessed.

5. REPORTING

↓ Disseminate the findings to decision makers, affected communities and other stakeholders.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitor the changes in health or health risk factors and evaluate the efficacy of the measures that are implemented and the HIA process as a whole.

The HIA process encourages public input at each step.

What is a Health Impact Assessment?

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is an approach used to inform decision-makers about the potential health impacts of a specific policy or plan. HIA uses research to uncover the health impacts that a specific policy or plan will have on different populations, and recommends changes to ensure that the policy contributes to healthy communities. For more information about HIA visit: www.healthimpactproject.org.

D-HIA aims to address the following questions:

- ◇ How would implementation of city services/infrastructure realignment affect the **stability** of high vacancy neighborhoods and the health of people who live there?
- ◇ How would the proposed changes in city services/ infrastructure affect the **safety** of high vacancy neighborhoods?
- ◇ What would be the health impact of **relocation** on those who move out of high vacancy neighborhoods due to the changes?
- ◇ How would the proposed reduction of services affect residents' exposure to **environmental conditions**?

D-HIA is an affiliated partnership of the Detroit Urban Research Center (Detroit URC), and collaborates with the DFC community engagement process and ongoing neighborhood-based planning efforts. A broader Network includes government, community, and academic members.

For more information or to become involved with the D-HIA network contact:

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