Assessing the Health and Health Equity Impacts of Land Use and Transportation Policies in Los Angeles

Advancing Equity Through Housing and Transportation
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Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity

• Health sector makes a relatively small contribution to population health

• Healthy Equity is foundational to public health and is front and center at LA County DPH
  – Office of Health Equity
  – Community Prevention and Population Health Taskforce
  – Health Impact Evaluation Center (HIEC)
Health Impact Assessment (HIA) at DPH

• Assess the health and health equity impacts of policies outside of the traditional health sector

• Mixed method: Quantitative and Qualitative

• Engage community stakeholders as advisors, sources of qualitative data, and groundtruthers of quantitative data

• Maximum 6-month time frame

• Success measured by use
Examples of our Recent Work

Health and Public Safety Impacts of Sustaining a Women’s Jail Diversion Program in Los Angeles County
Rapid Health Impact Assessment
August 2015

Initiative Ordinance JJJ: Affordable and Transit-Oriented Housing Policies for the City of Los Angeles
Health Impact Assessment
October 2016

Measure H: Preventing and Reducing Homelessness In Los Angeles County
Health Impact Assessment
February 2017
New Tool for HIA in Los Angeles: ITHIM

- Integrated Transportation and Health Impact Model (ITHIM)
- Brought to California by Neil Maizlish at CDPH
- Used for planning and policy work at State level and 6 County Bay Area Region
- Calibrated for LA County and LA City by LA County DPH (Health Impact Evaluation Center)
Application of ITHIM to LA City Mobility Plan 2035

- Transportation element of LA City General Plan—Adopted in 2016
- Bicycle, vehicle, transit and pedestrian network enhancements
- Street design and connectivity enhancements plus much more
- Fehr and Peers conducted an environmental impact assessment of the Mobility Plan
  - Health impacts not considered
Application to LA City Mobility Plan 2035

- **Proof of Concept**—Not technically an HIA
- DPH will use the outputs of the EIR as inputs for ITHIM in order to estimate health impacts
- Three scenarios compared:
  - Future without Mobility Plan (based on EIR inputs)
  - Future with Mobility Plan (based on EIR inputs)
  - Future with Mobility Plan VMT reduction goals
Potential Future HIA using ITHIM

• Identify a pending policy issue
  – City or County level
  – Decision maker buy-in to HIA process
  – Equity implications
  – Potential to impact health
  – Decision not less that 6-months away

• Determine HIA Scope
  – Community engagement strategy
  – Qualitative data sources
  – Communications strategy
Contact Information

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