

CHIA

Chronicles of Health
Impact Assessment

Improving community health through health impact assessments

November 2018

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY OF PRACTITIONERS OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Growth in the field has shown us that there is certainly a place for HIAs in shaping the built environment and providing input to land use and zoning decisions. However, there is still a need to better understand the information needs of practitioners across sectors. This issue provides two diverse reads: an HIA that examined increasing active transportation through community connectivity; and the unmet information needs and challenges that practitioners face in accessing and using data.

Many risk factors for chronic diseases can be traced to how communities have been built, including their connectivity patterns, transportation and active living options, access to goods and services, and site plans. In this issue, study authors explore how continuing modifications to the built environment provide opportunities, over time, to institute policies and practices that support the provision of more activity-conducive environments, thereby improving the community's physical and mental health.

A key consideration in the future of HIAs is how to more readily share, across sectors, information needed for HIA research, as well as information contained in HIAs already produced. In another article, study authors explore the information needs of practitioners, recognizing it as essential to maximizing the use of existing and future HIAs.

The Chronicles of Health Impact Assessment provides a valuable resource for highlighting successes and challenges in the field, and sharing novel and innovative methods to advance health and equity. We hope the ideas and recommendations provided through this issue continue to inspire both well-established, as well as fresh approaches to HIA practice.

Prasanthi Persad and Kerry Wyss
Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment



IUPUI

**RICHARD M. FAIRBANKS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

THE SOCIETY OF
PRACTITIONERS OF
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SOPHIA