

HEIA

Health Equity Impact Assessment

The Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) tool, developed by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), helps to reduce disparities between population groups.

WHAT?



HEIA is a decision support tool used to identify and address potential unintended health impacts (positive or negative) of a policy, program, or initiative on vulnerable or marginalized populations.

WHY?



Addressing unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalized groups can improve health equity and reduce avoidable differences in health between population groups.

WHO?



HEIA can be used by any organization within and outside the health care system whose work may impact health outcomes.

WHEN?



HEIA is best conducted as early as possible, but can be introduced at any point in the development and planning process.

HOW?



A HEIA template, a workbook with step-by-step instructions and three supplements are available to guide users through the five step HEIA process.

The five steps of HEIA

1: SCOPING

Identify vulnerable or marginalized populations affected by a policy, program, or initiative.

2: POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Use available evidence to assess the unintended impacts of the policy, program, or initiative on the health of these populations.

3: MITIGATION

Determine strategies to maximize positive impacts and minimize or eliminate negative impacts on these populations.

4: MONITORING

Identify ways to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the mitigation strategies.

5: DISSEMINATION

Establish ways to share results and recommendations to address equity.

Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) Community of Interest



About the HEIA Col

The HEIA Col is an online community for knowledge exchange and collaborative knowledge creation about the HEIA tool. The Col supports the implementation of the HEIA tool across Ontario, encourages sharing of the results of HEIA application and builds evidence on the effectiveness of HEIA. The HEIA Col is intended for planners, service providers, policymakers and researchers with an interest in and commitment to health equity, and particularly the HEIA and other equity-driven planning tools. Champion organizations help lead the activities, direct the work and provide resources to Col members.

Our Goals

The overarching goal of the Col is to support the application of the HEIA tool to reduce inequities in access, quality and outcomes of health and related services in Ontario. Specifically, the Col aims to:



Promote and support the use of HEIA as a tool for equity-based planning in Ontario.



Facilitate knowledge exchange about HEIA in order to build HEIA capacity among a broad range of stakeholders.



Generate and share evidence on the effectiveness of HEIA.



Be a HEIA resource for interested stakeholders.

To join the Col and participate, visit www.porticonetwork.ca/web/heia

For questions and comments, contact healthequity@camh.ca

HEIA Champions

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Health Nexus

The Wellesley Institute

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario

Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Peel Newcomer Strategy Group

Centre for Urban Health Solutions (formerly CRICH)

Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHA) - Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) Joint Health Equity Workgroup

Health Quality Ontario (HQO)

Central West LHIN

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO)