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HiAP Preparedness Guide

A Guide to Taking a Health in All Policies Approach to Public Health Preparedness

Public health preparedness requires cross-sector collaboration and coordination to protect community health and safety. This guide provides a framework to improve the depth and effectiveness of collaboration at all stages of preparedness, as well as examples of how to implement the framework and how preparedness activities map to the Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework so that any preparedness practitioner can integrate a HiAP approach into their practice.

This guide contains an introduction to HiAP and is organized using the four phases of the disaster management cycle. Each section begins with a description of the disaster cycle activities that take place and the partners that may provide support during each phase, as well as a chart that maps the activities to the seven HiAP strategies. Each section also describes how one or more HiAP tool(s) can be applied in that phase.

HiAP & Preparedness

According to the World Health Organization, HiAP is “an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity.” Public health is impacted by policies, plans, programs, and projects across private, public, and community-based organizations. Healthcare providers and public health officials alone do not have the tools, knowledge, or capacity to address the root causes of all health and equity challenges, so collaboration with other sectors is essential. Many health departments already employ these strategies in their day-to-day operations, though they may not use the term “Health in All Policies.”

Public health officials can use the HiAP framework detailed in this guide to create a multi-sector approach to disaster preparedness. While disasters have large-scale impacts on community health, safety, and wellbeing, they can also be inflection points to examine policies and practices, develop and deepen partnerships, engage the community around public health issues, and collect and use public health data to forge a healthier community.

Each of the seven HiAP strategies can be integrated into disaster preparedness activities. The graphic below shows how each strategy corresponds to a phase of the disaster management cycle.

Seven Health in All Policy (HiAP) Strategies

HiAP Framework for the Disaster Management Cycle

The Disaster Management Cycle emerged to describe how society and government can reduce the impacts of disasters. The model aims to guide disaster management before, during, and after a disaster. During the four phases of the disaster cycle, the model

Mitigation Phase

The mitigation (or pre-disaster) phase aims to prevent or minimize the impacts of future disasters through planning. This is also known as disaster risk reduction. This phase involves activities such as assessing building codes and policies, hazard mapping, identifying vulnerable populations and locations, and addressing buildings in a floodplain. Many of the activities in this mitigation phase map directly to HiAP strategies.

In the mitigation phase, community needs assessments are vital to identify gaps in capacity. Addressing deficiencies in a jurisdiction's disaster management plan begins with recognizing physical assets, skills, and capacities. Standardized training for conducting needs assessments can improve the dissemination of accurate information. HiAP strategies that can be employed in the needs assessment process include using health data to inform mitigation efforts, creating diverse coalitions, and including health in urban planning processes like building code enforcement.

Sample Mitigation Activity

Identify and engage key stakeholders

Create a mitigation plan

Conduct a community needs assessment

Identify and address gaps in capacity

HiAP Strategy

Case Study – Synchronize

Preparedness Phase

The preparedness phase requires planning, outreach, training, and community education, as well as identifying resources and expertise that can be mobilized during a disaster. Additional activities include drills, tabletop exercises, full-scale maneuvers, and creating contact lists. Partner engagement in the preparedness phase is vital and requires reaching diverse stakeholders (such as community-based organizations) and ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

Building relationships and incorporating support systems for vulnerable populations during the preparedness phase can reduce unnecessary illness and death. Efforts to create and measure inclusion are essential to secure equitable access to resources, treatment, and support during the response and recovery phases of the disaster management cycle.

To support the needs of the community and promote inclusion, this phase also requires a cadre of highly trained community volunteers in addition to medical and emergency professional staff. The table below shows sample

Preparedness Activity HiAP Strategies

Case Study – Develop and Form Cross-Sector Collaborations

Florida Department of Health in Volusia County

Florida has taken a multi-sector approach to preparedness with the Public Health Infrastructure Project

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Response Phase

The response phase begins immediately after a disaster takes place and consists of actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage. This involves distributing resources, including personnel, supplies, and equipment, as well as removing any ongoing or existing hazards. A needs assessment is likely conducted to evaluate the needs of the impacted community.

During this phase, emergency managers begin to implement search and rescue plans, while first responders assess damage, collect information, and coordinate communication among agencies to position resources and aid.

Disaster management officials should compile information and data collected during the disaster so it can be communicated to the public. It should be part of comprehensive data storage that is shared with others to avoid the need to repeat information.

HiAP strategies can be employed in response planning, communication, and coordination.

Response Activity HiAP Strategies

Sample Response Activity

Communicate evacuation plans to residents →

Measure efficiency of outreach efforts →

Assess community health status during the disaster →

Communicate with residents about the restoration of utilities →

HiAP Strategy

Synchronize communication and messaging

Integrate research, evaluation, and data systems

Integrate research, evaluation, and data systems

Synchronize communication and messaging

Recovery Phase

Recovery, unlike the other phases of the cycle, often does not have a clear end point. Rebuilding efforts often occur in tandem with regular operations. In the case of a natural disaster, recovery could take anywhere from months to years, depending on the extent of the damage. For chemical or nuclear disasters, the end is less clear and can span generations, as is the case with the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Recovery takes place in several sub-phases, from the immediate response that involves ensuring survival and restoring essential services, to caring for the medium-term human impacts, and, finally, to community rebuilding and betterment. These sub-phases overlap and may be longer or shorter for different groups of people. HiAP strategies can be employed in each of these sub-phases to enhance recovery and ensure that needs are met and that benefits are distributed equitably.

Sample Recovery Activity

Issue public health advisories

Create recovery plan

Distribute information on economic development assistance

Assess after-action reports to improve performance and inform policy change

HiAP Strategy

Synchronize communication and messaging

Develop and form cross-sector collaborations

Synchronize communication and messaging

Integrate research, evaluation, and data systems

Case Study – Develop and Form Cross-Sector Collaboration

HiAP Partners

GOVERNMENT

Organization/Sector/Industry	Examples of Assistance Provided
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	

FINANCIAL

Organization/Sector/Industry	Examples of Assistance Provided
Business and Banking	Loans for rebuilding and support
Economic development/small business assistance	Bridge loans and assistance for small businesses

EDUCATION

Organization/Sector/Industry	Examples of Assistance Provided
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Organization/Sector/Industry	Examples of Assistance Provided
Landlord associations	Shelter for emergency workers and displaced residents
Childcare providers	Emergency childcare for displaced families
Food banks	Emergency food and water supplies long-term
Community advocates	



EXPERTS & SPECIALISTS

Organization/Sector/Industry	Examples of Assistance Provided
Engineers and infrastructure specialist	Assess the safety of buildings or bridges
Nuclear, radiological, chemical, or biological disaster specialist	Guidance on how to respond and what steps the community needs to take
Land use specialist	Guidance on land use regulations, entitlements, land development, open space, and residential zoning
Land reuse specialist	Inform the use and zoning of land and share knowledge of brownfields or other contaminated areas that should be remediated
Local real estate associations	Advocate for zoning and building codes that can reduce property damage
Historical preservation authorities	Expertise on historical preservation policies and cultural resources management
Business developers	

Resources

Health in All Policies

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#)
- [Pan American Health Organization](#)
- [California HiAP Guide for State and Local Governments](#)
- [Rural Health Information Hub Toolkit](#)
- [ChangeLab Solutions HiAP Toolkit](#)
- [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#)
- [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#)

Health Impact Assessment

- [National Environmental Health Association \(NEHA\)](#)
- [Society of the Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment \(SOPHIA\)](#)
- [NACCHO HIA Resources for Local Health Departments](#)
- [ASTHO HIA Resources for State Health Departments](#)

Health Lens Analysis

- [Kent County, Michigan Health Lens Analysis Checklist](#)
- [Tacoma Pierce County Health Lens Analysis](#)
- [Cambridge, MA Health Lens Analysis of Urban Agriculture Policy](#)

Health Notes/Health Impact Review

- [Washington State Health Impact Review](#)
- [Harris County, TX Health Impact Review](#)

Public Health Matrix

- [Creating a Public Health Matrix Tutorial](#)

Checklists

- [San Francisco Healthy Development Index](#)
- [Riverside County Healthy Development Checklist](#)
- [CDC Healthy Community Design Checklist](#)
- [The Heart Foundation's Healthy By Design Tool](#)
- [Denver's Healthy Development Measurement Tool](#)

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