

# Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Overview

PHSSC September 14, 2021

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# Health Equity Informed Planning

Understanding Linkages to Strategic Work at Niagara Region

## HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

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Foster a high quality of life through safe, inclusive neighbourhoods and delivery of quality, affordable and accessible human services.



### Health Equity Informed Planning

By focusing on the implementation of the Health Equity Strategic Plan, broaden the scope to the corporation as a whole to identify opportunities such as defining priority populations, healthy community design or inequities in service access.

Identify health and health equity impacts within projects through tactics such as embedding in capital project business cases, e-scribe reports or through Environmental Assessments.

- Increase access to health equity data and partnerships to drive decisions
- Increase consideration of health and health equity impacts in community and infrastructure design
- Greater organizational and public awareness of social determinants of health that impact individual health outcomes

# Health Equity Informed Planning – Overview

- This project aims to address the unintended impacts on health or health inequities that result when decisions are made in non-health sectors
- Goals:
  1. Increase considerations of health and health equity during decision making and implementation in the Niagara region during 2019–2022
    - a. Objective 1- To incorporate HIAs into regional planning and budgeting processes by June 2022**
  2. Advance Health Equity & Socioeconomic Status
  3. Support Sustainable and Engaging government

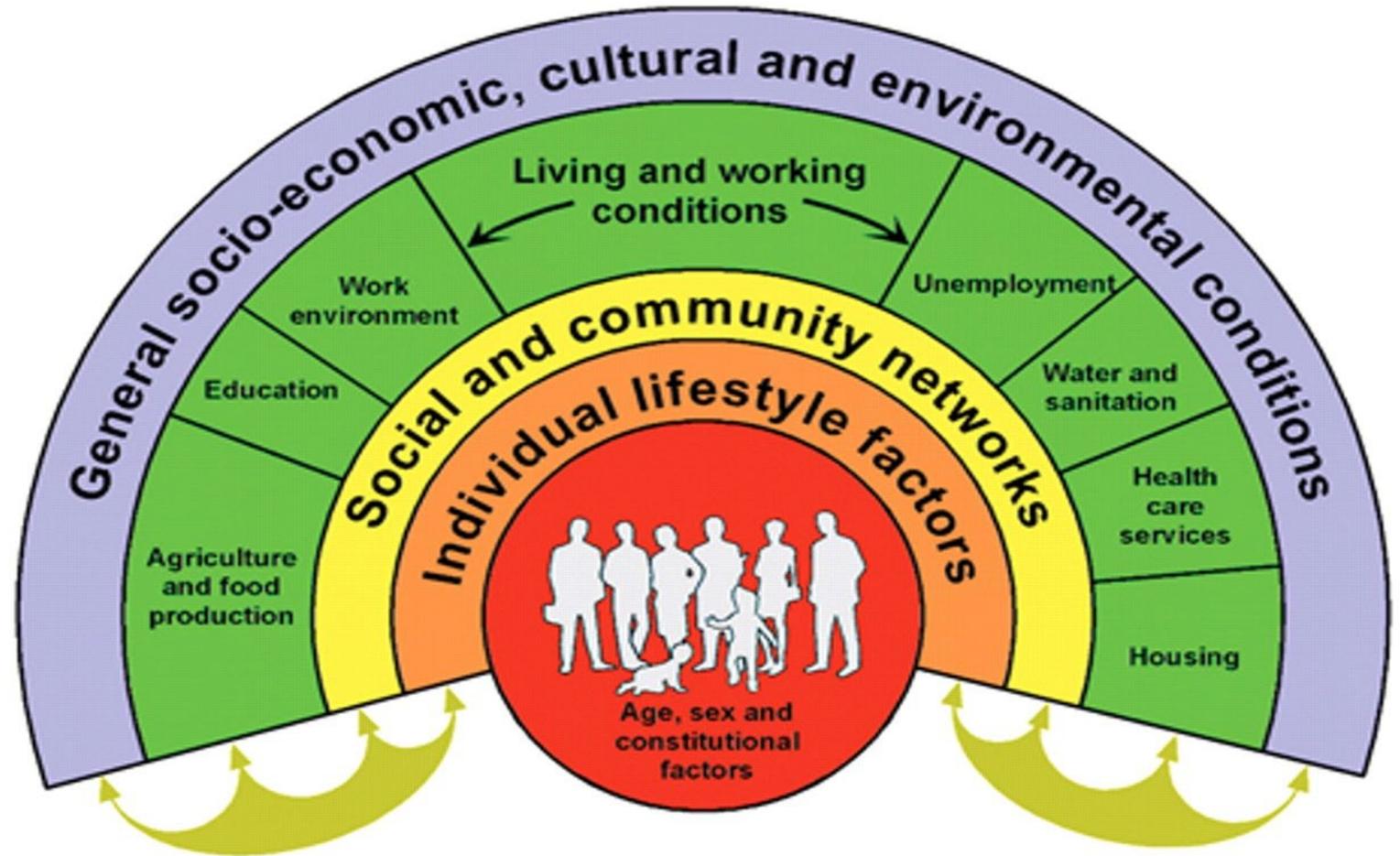
# What is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

# Important Concepts

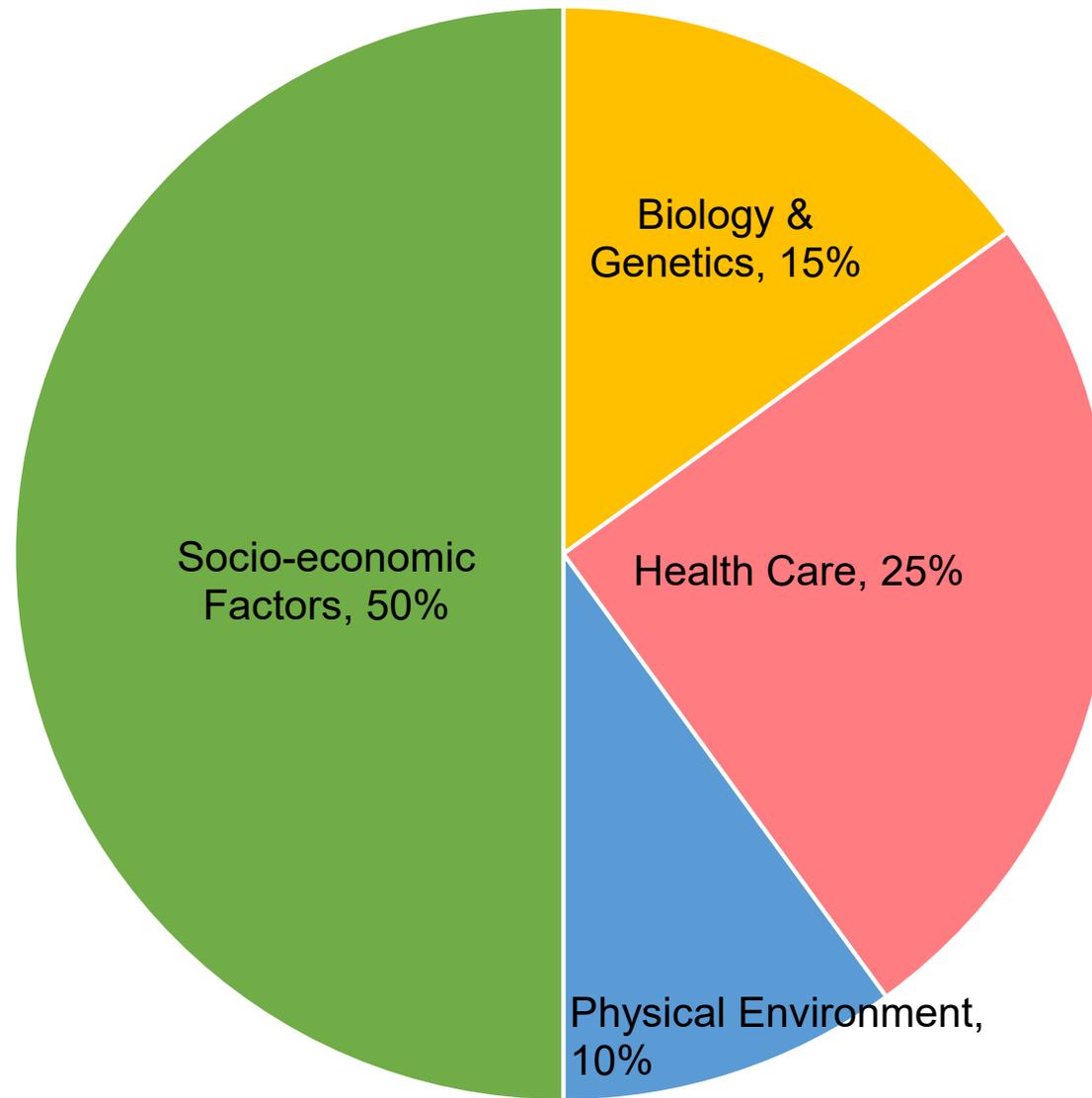
- The health of a population is closely tied to the conditions in which people live and work
- All sectors share responsibility for the health of the population
- As such, two concepts warrant further explanation:
  - *Social Determinants of Health*
  - *Health Equity*

# Social Determinants of Health

- Social determinants of health are the factors in your life that affect how healthy or sick you are, including your race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, level of social supports, working and housing conditions, your education, income and more



Dahlgren, G. and Whitehead, M. (1991). Policies and Strategies to Promote Social Equity in Health. Stockholm: Institute for Futures Studies.



Keon & Pepin. A Healthy, Productive Canada: A Determinant of Health Approach.  
The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology Final Report of Senate Subcommittee on Population Health. June 2009.

# Equality



# Equity



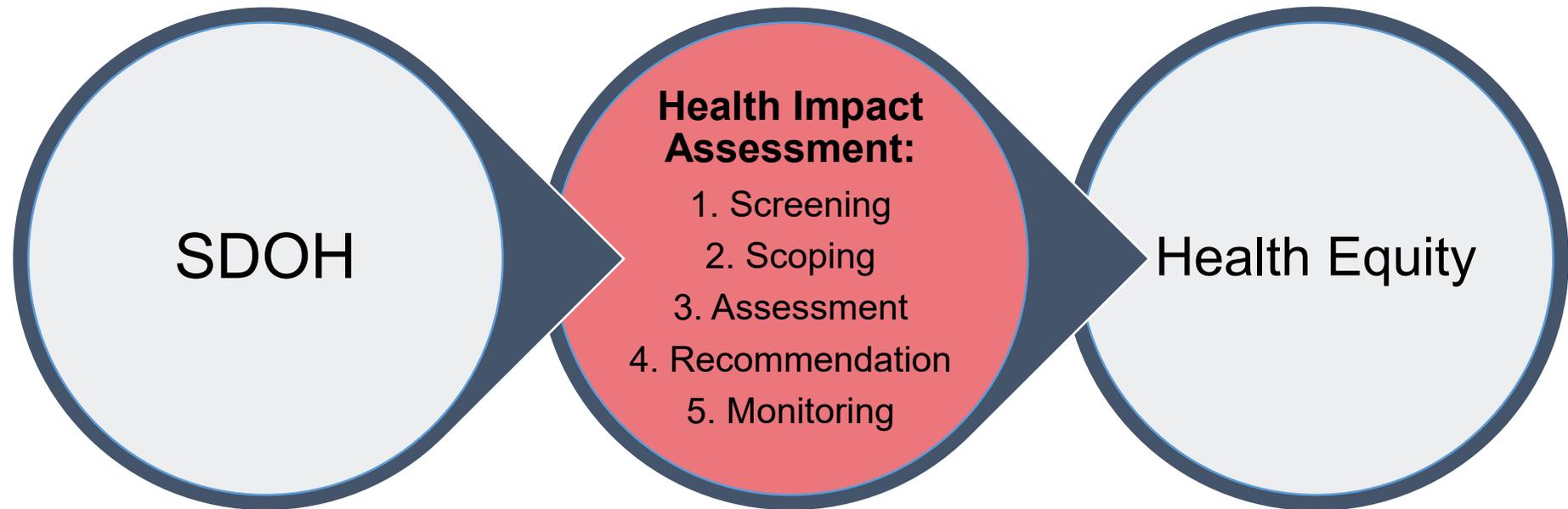
# What is a Health Impact Assessment?

**HIA** is “a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a **policy, program or project** may be judged as to its **potential effects on the health** of a population”

HIA is most frequently used to assess proposals that are **outside of the traditional health** sector, and which do not target health as their principal goal.

*World Health Organization, Gothenburg Consensus, 1999*

# Putting it all Together



# Who Uses HIAs?

- In Canada
  - Quebec
  - Vancouver
  - Toronto
- Outside of Canada
  - Europe
  - Cities in the United States
- Niagara Region
  - One of the first in Ontario to implement the HIA process into all capital projects
  - First jurisdiction in Ontario to create a standardized means to implement the process into daily work

# When should a HIA be completed?



Source: (Project Management Overview, 2017)

# HIA Levels

	<b>Rapid/Desktop</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>
<b>Time</b>	3-4 weeks	2-5 months	6-18 months
<b>Personnel</b>	1 FTE	0.5 FTE coordinator, team support	1 FTE, team support
<b>Data Collection</b>	Existing	Existing and some new data	Existing, extensive new qualitative and quantitative data
<b>Stakeholder Involvement</b>	Limited	Moderate	Extensive and Structured

Screening

Should we perform an HIA?



Scoping

How broad should be the HIA?



Assessment

What are the health impacts?



Recommendation

What are cost-effective/reasonable measures to maximize positive health impacts and mitigate negative impacts?



Monitoring

Are we having the intended health impact?

# Current State of HIA Work at Niagara Region

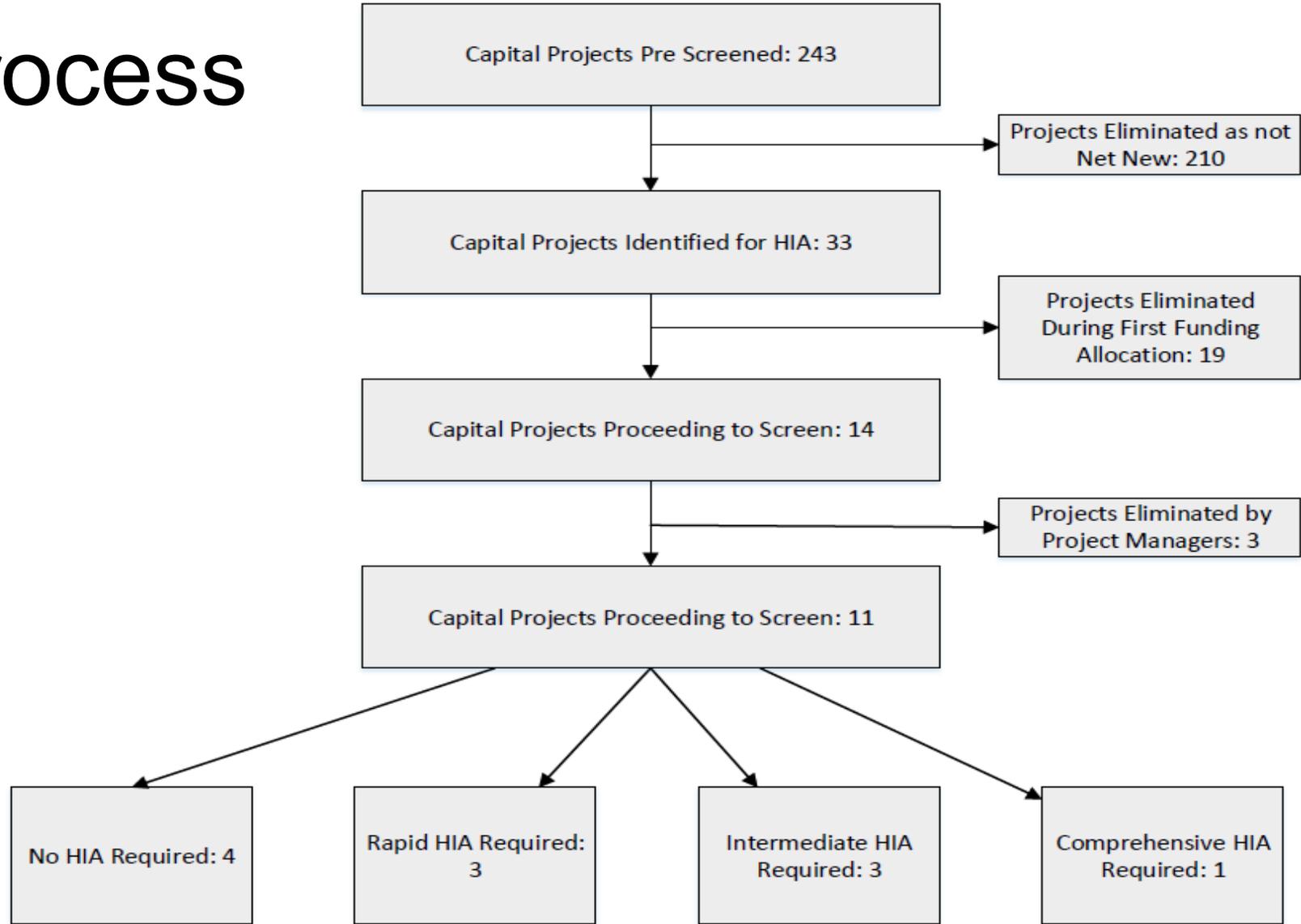
# 2021 Pilot Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Level of HIA</b>
Merritt Rd.	Public Works	Transportation Planning	Intermediate
Ontario St.	Public Works	Transportation Engineering	Rapid
Glendale Eco Park	Planning and Development Services	Long Range Planning	Rapid
Glendale Secondary Plan Update	Planning and Development Services	Long Range Planning	Intermediate
Niagara Falls Elevated Tank	Public Works	Water/Wastewater Engineering	Intermediate

# Pilot Projects Overview

- **Determinants of Focus:** Transportation, Access to Public Services, Built Environment, Housing, Natural Environment
- **Short-Term Health Outcomes of Focus:** Collisions, Physical Activity, Access to Services, Accessibility, Social & Physical Connection and Cohesion, Safety, Climate Change
- **Long-Term Health Outcomes of Focus:** Chronic Conditions, Respiratory Diseases, Mental Health, Chronic Stress, Injury and Death, Emergency Service Access

# HIA Process



# 2022 Capital Projects Included

Project Name	Department	Division	Level of HIA
POA Intensification	Community Services	Housing Services	Intermediate
Rds Rehab- Sodom Rd.- Lyons Creek to Willick	Public Works	Transportation Engineering	Rapid
Catherine St. Pumping Upgrades	Public Works	Water/Wastewater Engineering	Rapid
Niagara Escarpment Crossing*	Public Works	Transportation Planning	Comprehensive
Rds Rehab- Glendale Ave: Welland Canal to Homer Rd.	Public Works	Transportation Engineering	Intermediate
Capacity Improvement- Montrose Rd.: Lyons Creek to Canadian	Public Works	Transportation Engineering	Intermediate
Rds Rehab- Stevensville Rd.- Eagle to Bowen**	Public Works	Transportation Engineering	Rapid

# Future State

- Each year, projects will be screened for inclusion in late **Spring**
- Following budget approval, HIA projects for the following year will be finalized in the **Fall**
- As part of the annual budget report, an appendix will be included that details the results of the HIA screening process for that year
- The success of this work is contingent on sustainable funding for a position to support HIA work
- Overall the HIA process will lead to improved health outcomes and increased health equity for all residents of Niagara

# Questions?

For further information, or for any other questions please contact the project leads:

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## Thank you!