WHAT IS A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT?
A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool that brings together public health knowledge, scientific information, and community participation to identify the impacts of proposed legislation, policies, and projects on the public’s health. The HIA process includes screening, scoping, assessment, recommendations, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation.1

The Policy Surveillance Program collected and analyzed state HIA bills and laws that were introduced, enacted, or amended between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2016.

Between 2012 and 2016:
• 40 HIA bills were introduced across 11 jurisdictions: California (1 bill), District of Columbia (1 bill), Hawaii (1 bill), Maryland (1 bill), Massachusetts (7 bills), Minnesota (7 bills), New Jersey (1 bill), New Mexico (1 bill), New York (14 bills), Washington (1 bill), West Virginia (5 bills).
• California, New Hampshire, and New Jersey enacted HIA laws.

WHO INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION?
• 134 individual state legislators were named as the primary drafters on the 40 HIA bills collected.
• 117 legislators were Democrats, 16 were Republicans, and one was an Independent.
• The 16 Republicans who drafted bills came from California, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, and West Virginia.
• Two HIA laws were amended by Democratic legislators or administrations. One HIA law was enacted by a Republican administration.
WHO CONDUCTS AN HIA?

HIAs may be conducted by state and local agencies, academic institutions, community-based organizations, and others. Eight types of organizations are listed in the 40 HIA bills analyzed.

In California’s law, university public health programs must conduct HIAs. New Hampshire’s law requires a private non-government contractor, and New Jersey’s law states that a private entity must conduct the HIA.

WHERE DOES THE HIA APPLY?

Among the 40 bills collected, there were eight sectors where an HIA would apply. The chart at right shows the number of times each sector appeared in a bill.

In California’s law, HIAs apply to the health care sector; in New Hampshire’s law, HIAs apply to the oil and gas sector; and in New Jersey’s law, HIAs apply to the environmental sector.

For more information about health impact assessments, and to explore the characteristics of HIA bills and laws between 2012 and 2016, visit:

http://lawatlas.org/dataset/hia-bills
http://lawatlas.org/dataset/hia-laws

---


Icons are credited to designers associated with the Noun Project, http://thenounproject.com