

Examples of Impact Assessments from Non-Child Focused Fields that Shine a Spotlight on Children and Youth

As efforts to deploy child and youth impact assessments (C/YIAs) in the U.S. grow, we can learn from other types of impact assessments—such as health impact assessments (HIAs)—which often have included the effects of proposed policies and programs on kids. The following examples illustrate how taking children and youth into account when assessing a policy or program not typically thought of as affecting children can make a big difference for kids. While the assessments used in these examples are considerably more detailed than [youth impact assessments](#) designed by Kids Impact Initiative, YIAs can achieve similar results. For a comprehensive database of similar examples, visit this [Health Impact Assessment toolkit](#).

Type of Location, Location, and Year of Assessment	Type and Name of Organization Conducting Assessment	Topic Area	Summary of Assessment	Outcome Resulting from Assessment
State: Wisconsin 2011	<i>Nonprofit organizations:</i> WISDOM and Human Impact Partners	Criminal Justice	An impact assessment of the effects of a proposal to increase funds for alternative programs to prison in Wisconsin found that the added funding would likely reduce crime, strengthen families, and improve public health across the state.	As a result of the assessment’s recommendations: 1)The state of Wisconsin increased the budget for such programs fourfold; 2)The number of prison alternative programs rose from 7 to 34; and 3) Legislators from both parties supported increased funding for these programs.
State: Massachusetts 2005	<i>Universities and health providers:</i> Boston University School of Medicine, Boston University School of Public Health, Brandeis University, Children’s Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School,	Housing	A child health impact assessment of the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)—a rental assistance program for families in Massachusetts—found that changes proposed by the governor, senate, and house, such as imposing time limits on MRVP eligibility and imposing work requirements, would have negative health effects on children.	The results of the assessment influenced the state's decision not to move forward with the proposed changes to the program.

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	Harvard School of Public Health, and University of Massachusetts, Boston			
<i>Community within a City: Greenville, South Carolina 2013</i>	<i>Government entity: City of Greenville, South Carolina, and nonprofit research organization: South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health</i>	Parks and Recreation	A health impact assessment of a proposal to increase and expand parks, trails, and greenspace in the west side of Greenville, South Carolina—which is comprised mostly of communities of color and low-income residents—found that the proposal would result in several benefits for children, their families, and other residents including: improved physical health, especially for those who have chronic diseases like as asthma and obesity; improved mental health; accessible and affordable recreational and other programs; increased access to healthy, affordable food; and increased economic opportunity and potentially job opportunities. However, the plan also could lead to increased rental rates, which could result in involuntary displacement of some families as well as homelessness.	The HIA influenced the development of a subsequent affordable housing plan for the city. It influenced the city to hold a meeting so that residents could voice their opinions about the plan.
<i>City: San Francisco, California</i>	<i>Government entity: San Francisco</i>	Housing	An impact assessment of a plan to demolish a 360-unit rent-controlled apartment complex in San Francisco found	As a result of the assessment, the proposal was revised and instead called for replacing the units, continued leases for

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2006	Department of Public Health		that the demolition would harm the health and wellbeing of children and their families in multiple ways.	existing tenants, creating a play area for children, and other enhancements.
<i>State:</i> Vermont 2015	<i>Government entity:</i> Vermont Department of Health	Family Economics: Paid Sick Leave	The Vermont Department of Health conducted a health impact assessment of legislation proposing requiring employers to provide paid sick leave, noting that children were one of the populations most affected by the proposed policy. The HIA found that the legislation would increase access to paid sick leave and decrease the spread of infectious disease. The HIA showed that the policy also had the potential to increase access to preventive health care for children and families.	The policy was introduced in the 2013 session of the Vermont legislature but did not pass. It was reintroduced as H. 187 in February 2015 after completion of this HIA. The HIA influenced the governor in signing mandatory sick leave into law in 2016.
<i>City:</i> Decatur, Georgia 2007	<i>University:</i> Georgia Institute of Technology	Transportation	A health impact assessment of the Decatur, Georgia, Community Transportation Plan found that the plan would have largely positive impacts on public health by increasing opportunities for physical activity, improving safety, and providing better access to health services. The HIA recommended developing a community-wide campaign to promote physical activity, including partnering with local schools to encourage childhood physical activity, and ensuring that	The HIA influenced city officials to create an Active Living Division to provide support services that contribute to the quality of life of its citizens.

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			intersections comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and be easily accessible for Decatur's most vulnerable populations, including children, among other recommendations.	