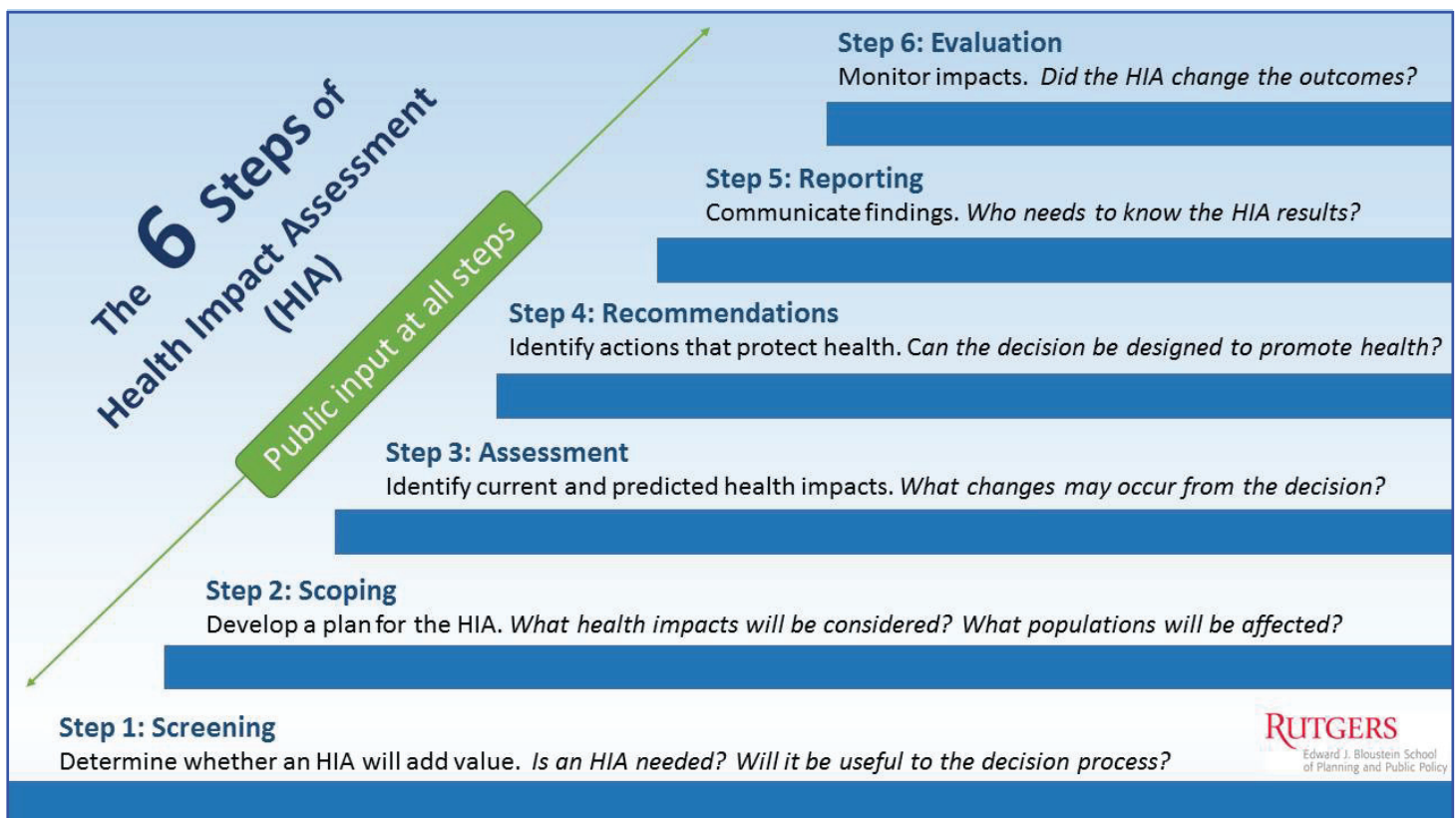


Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a fast-growing practice in the U.S. that provides practitioners and policymakers with a tool to consider health outcomes in decisions that may not traditionally be health-related. Combining scientific data, health expertise and public input, HIA offers a systematic approach to identify and assess the potential positive and negative health effects of decisions related to policies, programs or projects.

HIAs in the U.S. have been applied to decision-making in sectors including land use, energy, transportation, housing and economics. By using HIA to consider and address health impacts early in the decision-making process, HIA efforts in the U.S. have led to improved health outcomes.

In general, HIA follows a 6-step method which can be accomplished fairly quickly (e.g. “rapid” HIA) or through a more comprehensive process with extensive stakeholder engagement, collection of data and consultation. HIA provides a practical and applied approach to the decision-making process by:

- Considering health outcomes in decision-making such as social, economic and environmental influences;
- Convening diverse members of the public to elicit multiple perspectives and input;
- Identifying groups of people who might be particularly vulnerable to health impacts; and
- Reviewing potential strategies that may reduce negative health impacts and increase positive impacts.



For more information and to sign up for our email list, visit njhic.rutgers.edu or call (848) 932-2725.