

Health Impact Note Guided Template

(Extended Version)

What is a health impact note?

Health notes are brief impartial documents that provide context relating to the health and wellness impacts of legislation (Enlund, 2022). They can be utilized to support community focused policy and provide insight for decision-making practices around the conditions that impact wellness.

Why is the consideration of health and wellness important during the policy making/evaluation process?

Policy determines resources which influence or directly impact a community's wellness. Identifying potential health and wellness risks early in the policy development process can provide an opportunity for lawmakers, government agencies, community organizations, and individuals to promote positive health outcomes and mitigate negative consequences (National Research Council (US) Committee on Health Impact Assessment, 1970).

How can I use this template to benefit me?

This template was created to serve as a guide for reviewing and identifying potential health and wellness impacts within legislative policy. Section one of the template focuses on identification and breakdown of the policy. This can aid in fostering an understanding of its intent, as well as identifying potential leverage points for health considerations. Section two of the template focuses on the identification of wellness impacts of the policy. Within those leverage points, a system-thinking approach can be implemented to analyze how a given policy/program may impact the conditions in which people live, work, age, play, and worship (WHO). Section three of the template provides a space to identify positions that support or oppose the policy. By considering these factors, as well as the following questions throughout this guide, one should be able to:

- a) identify key components of a bill/program in question,
- b) identify the health impacts of said legislative policy,
- c) observe the arguments for and against, and
- d) highlight ways to improve the legislative policy to be more well-oriented, if necessary

An Appendix was created as a compliment to this health impact note template. That Appendix can be found on the NOMHE webpage or at the end of the extended version of the Health Impact Note Template.

Section 1: Identification of Key Components of the Legislative policy:

The aim of this section is to gain an understanding of what a legislative policy is intending to change regarding legislation, how that will be achieved, and how populations identified in the bill may be impacted relating to the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

Date of Bill Introduction:

Date this Health Impact Note was Initiated:

Fill out the following questions to identify what the legislative policy is trying to achieve.

Is this bill intended to amend previously existing law? Select Yes or No.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

How are they looking to amend existing law? Please summarize below.

Is this bill introducing a new law? Select Yes or No.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

When will this legislative policy come into effect? Identify the date (s) within the bill.

Who is responsible for overseeing this change in law?

How long is this legislative policy?

- a) *Less than 5 pages*
- b) *5-10 pages*
- c) *10-20 pages*
- d) *20-30 pages*
- e) *More than 30 pages*

Are you looking at specific sections of a legislative policy? If so, start here:

➤ **Skip this section and proceed to the next if looking at the entire bill,**

What is the main goal of this(these) sections(s) of the legislative policy? Summarize as succinctly as possible.

Are there other sections of the bill that relate to the one you are interested in? Summarize as succinctly as possible.

What pieces of legislation are being amended: List the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) identifiers:

What are the main NRS chapters that were identified?

What are those NRS chapters about? Summarize as succinctly as possible.

How are those pieces of legislation being amended?

- a) *Adding new information (e.g. definitions, regulations, sections to pre-existing chapters)?*
- b) *Removing information (e.g. definitions, regulations)?*
- c) *Both A and B*

What is being added/removed? Please list the associated bill section(s).

How will the legislative policy be different if this(these) section(s) was omitted?

Are you looking at the whole bill for analysis? If so, start here:

Please go back to the previous section if looking at only one, or selected few, section(s) of the bill. If you have completed the previous section, proceed to the next part titled community impacts.

What is the main goal of this legislative policy? Summarize as succinctly as possible.

Are multiple amendments being made in this legislative policy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What pieces of legislation are being amended? List the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) identifiers:

What are the main NRS chapters that were identified?

What are those NRS chapters about? Summarize as succinctly as possible.

How are those pieces of legislation being amended?

- a) *Adding new information (e.g. definitions, regulations, sections to pre-existing chapters)?*
- b) *Removing information (e.g. definitions, regulations)?*
- c) *Both A and B*

What is being added/removed? Please list the associated bill section in parentheses.

What populations are identified in this legislative policy (e.g. students, users of health insurance, healthcare providers)? Please be as specific as possible.

To the best of your knowledge, was the aforementioned population(s) involved in the creation of this legislative policy?

➤ **All individuals completing this form should continue in the next section below.**

Community impacts of the legislative policy:

- How may the populations identified in this legislative policy be impacted in relation to their opportunities to achieve their highest levels of health and wellness, regardless of their social, economic, or geographic circumstances? Are there other populations that may be indirectly affected? (e.g. students, users of health insurance, healthcare providers)? Place your answer in the box below.

Within the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) framework, how will the communities be impacted?
(Check all that apply- The Appendix of the Impact Note contains SDoH Definitions)

- ☐ Access to Education and Quality of Education
- ☐ Access to Health Care and Quality of Healthcare
- ☐ Neighborhood and Built Environment
- ☐ Economic Stability
- ☐ Social and Community Context

Based on what was selected above, what are 3 potential impacts that an individual in that community will face? Please explain your reasoning and relate your response back to a relevant area(s) of SDoH.

***Guiding questions are listed in section 1 of the Appendix to aid in answering this question.**

1.
2.
3.

Are there any economic impacts of this legislative policy?

- ☐ *If Yes, please continue working through this section*
- ☐ *If No, please explain:*

- **If no was answered for the previous question,** please move on to the last question of this section.

Who is being economically impacted or influenced?

Who is paying for these changes?

- a) County Government*
- b) City Government*
- c) State Government*
- d) Federal Government*
- e) Other: (please describe below or state unsure/not applicable, etc .)*

Where will the money come from?

- a) County Government*
- b) City Government*
- c) State Government*

d) *Federal Government*

e) *Other: (please describe below or state unsure/not applicable, etc. Examples may include gas tax, hotel and tourism tax..)*

➤ **All individuals completing this form should continue in the next section below.**

Have any fiscal notes been introduced? (If only looking at a singular or selected few sections of the bill, please only include fiscal notes relevant to that/those section(s)).

☐ *If yes, please explain what has been identified and include the date(s) that the fiscal note(s) were prepared:*

☐ *If no, do you believe that this bill can benefit from having one provided? Please explain:*

Section 2: Identification of Wellness Impacts of the Legislative policy

The intent of this section is to prompt thought about the indirect impacts of a legislative policy. This includes identifying areas for improvement or expansion, opportunities for community engagement, and routes in which the bill may improve Nevadan wellness.

Will this legislative policy directly impact access to health resources/services?

a) *Increasing access (e.g. expanding health insurance coverage to more people, or more providers being made available)*

b) *Decreasing access (e.g. removing certain health services or providers)*

c) *If both: (please explain below)*

d) *If N/A: (please explain below)*

How will this legislative policy impact access to health resources/services? Please explain both indirect and direct impacts.

Will this bill disproportionately impact one community over another?

☐ *If Yes, please explain below:*

☐ *If No, please explain below:*

***Note: A disproportional impact can occur when a rule or policy that seems neutral, leads to a greater negative effect on one group of people (based on geographic location or some other characteristic) compared to others. One example could be a tax cut that primarily benefits wealthy individuals, which can widen the gap between rich and poor communities. Another example could be a zoning law relating to the placement of hazardous waste facilities or landfills near low-income communities, which can lead to an increased exposure to hazardous pollutants, and potentially negative health outcomes.**

When will the health impacts come into effect?

- a) *Immediately upon passage and approval*
- b) *Long-term (i.e. months or years later)*

Is this legislative policy intending to improve Nevadan wellness in some way? Please explain and provide examples.

Will this legislative policy negatively impact health in some way? Please explain and provide examples.

**Does this legislative policy address any of the Health in All Policies (HiAP) principles?
(Appendix Contain Definitions) Check all that apply:**

- ☐ *It promotes health and wellness*
- ☐ *It promotes sustainability*
- ☐ *It engages the community and government to work together for implementation*
- ☐ *It introduces a structural or procedural change to a policy or agency that impacts the social determinants of health (SDoH)*
- ☐ *No, it does not*

*Based on your response above, how will the legislative policy address that/those HiAP principle(s)?
Or how will it not address any of those principles?*

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Section 3: Opinions on the Legislative policy

What are three arguments for supporting this bill?

1.
2.
3.

Who is likely to support this bill? Have any letters of support been submitted?

What are three arguments for opposing this bill?

1.
2.
3.

Who is likely to be in opposition of this bill? Have any letters of opposition been submitted?

Please attach any references that were identified to answer the questions of this guide here:

Date this Health Impact Note was Completed:

**For More Information on the Health Impact Note Template
Contact the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE)**

nomhe@dhhs.nv.gov

References

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Appendix:

A: Helpful Definitions:

- **Community-based participatory research (CBPR):** a collaborative research method that involves community members, researchers, and organizations, in order to improve health and well-being within a given community (Collins, et al., 2018).
- **Health:** a complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not just the absence of disease (WHO).
- **Health-span:** the amount of time a person is healthy, free from serious disease, and disability (*Health Span Definition*).
- **Health in All Policies (HiAP):** a framework for policy making that aims to improve health outcomes by integrating health considerations into policy decisions (*American Public Health Association*).
 - It is both a practical and collaborative approach that help governments make decisions to improve quality of life for all people. It recognizes that decisions about housing, transportation, education, land use and other complex topics have a determining effect on wellness.
- **Lifespan:** the total number of years that a person/organism lives (*Life span Definition*)
- **Political Determinants of Health (PDoH):** examines how political systems, policies, power structures (e.g. laws, resource allocation, social norms) shape health outcomes (2023).
- **Quality of life:** a person's perception of their life in the context of their culture, values, and goals (Teoli, 2023).
- **Social Determinants of Health (SDoH):** the non-medical factors that affect health outcomes, well-being, and quality of life, and can include, economic stability, education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context (WHO).

Examples provided below:

-Economic stability: the state of one's income, employment status, and access to affordable housing.

-Education access and quality: being able to obtain education (high-school diploma and higher), and to have that education be of high quality.

-Healthcare access and quality: having health insurance coverage that is affordable, having access to healthcare services (i.e. primary and specialty care), and receiving quality care.

-Neighborhood and built environment: living in a place that is clean, safe with low crime rates, having access to parks and outdoor recreation areas, availability of health stores, and having access to quality transportation (i.e. public transit, biking or walking trails, safe roads and sidewalks).

-Social and community context: having social support networks, feeling connected to your community, a lack of discrimination and prejudice, and access to cultural and recreational activities.

- **Systems thinking**: a holistic approach to understanding and addressing health issues by considering the complex interactions between social, environmental, and behavioral elements, rather than just focusing on individual behaviors/disease (Thelen et al., 2023).
- **Well-being**: a positive state encompassing a person's physical, mental, emotional, and social health (WHO).

B: Guiding Questions to understand potential impacts relating to the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH):

Healthcare Access and Quality

Will their access to health care, or the quality of their health care be impacted?

Will more providers be made available?

Will the work of healthcare providers change in some way?

Is the cost of health care changing?

Is health insurance coverage going to change?

Education Access and Quality

Will their access to education, or the quality of their education be impacted?

Will more educators be made available?

Will educators start getting paid more, or paid less?

Is the curriculum changing in some way?

Is the legislative policy related to primary education (K-12th grade) or secondary education (college/university)?

Is the cost of education changing in some way?

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Is the neighborhood or built environment for a community going to be changed?

Are things being added or taken away from the community?

Social and Community Context

Will the social networks/community for that individual be impacted in some way?

Economic Stability

Will people lose their jobs?

Will more jobs be created?

Will people be paid more or less?

Will taxes be increased/decreased?

C: Additional Resources:

- Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Website
 - <https://www.dhs.nv.gov/Programs/omhe/>
- Health Notes for Policy Makers Training by the UNR Larson Institute
 - <https://learn.makinghealthhappen.org/#/online-courses/f7b3b00b-1c68-4b2d-bdab-91d91f8aa53d>
- The PEW charitable trust produced a health note for Colorado Senate Bill 20-014, which addressed excused absences in public schools for behavioral health reasons. The example is linked below:
 - https://www.pew.org/-/media/assets/2020/02/co-sb20-014-health-note_final.pdf
- The PEW charitable trust produced a health note for Metro D.C. Amendment Act of 2021 Bill 24-0429
 - [Microsoft Word - Health Note DC B24-0429 Metro for DC Amendment Act of 2021](#)
- Policy Matters Ohio, a nonprofit think tank, developed a health note in 2020 for that state's HB 1 and SB 3, both of which addressed drug sentencing reform. The example is linked below:
 - <https://policymattersohio.org/research/health-note-drug-sentencing-reform/>
- The North Carolina Budget and Tax Center produced a health note in 2019 for HB 692 to examine the health effects on older adults of proposed changes to their homestead property tax liability. The example is linked below:
 - https://www.ncjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Health_note_school_construction_2020.pdf

- The Health Impact Project formed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with The PEW charitable trust created a user guide to legislative health notes. The guide is linked below:
 - <https://www.pew.org/-/media/assets/2021/04/apractitionersguidereportfinal.pdf>