



RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Planning Healthy Communities Initiative

www.phci.rutgers.edu

Integrating health into planning, policy and decision-making

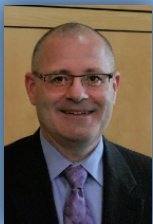
Who we are

We are a multidisciplinary team of professionals at the Rutgers Bloustein School with expertise in advancing health equity, integrating health into state and local public policies, and supporting community-based efforts. Our team develops and deploys research, training and technical assistance at the national, state, regional and local levels that result in tangible improvements in health and health equity. The Bloustein School Planning Healthy Communities Initiative (PHCI) is New Jersey's leading practitioner of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and provider of HIA training.

What we do

- ✓ **Training and Capacity-building** for decision-makers, community leaders, professionals and others to enhance skills to implement policies, projects and strategies that integrate health into all policies and address health equity.
- ✓ **Technical Assistance** for policymakers, community leaders and local officials including surveys, mapping, stakeholder and community engagement, strategic planning, and needs assessments.
- ✓ **Policy Analysis** to integrate health and health equity into policies affecting "upstream" factors such as transportation, housing, community development, built environment and economic development.
- ✓ **Evaluation, Analysis and Development** of healthy community data at the state and local levels that integrates health in all policies and health equity objectives.

The Leadership Team



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Building a healthier and more equitable New Jersey

To improve health for all New Jerseyans, communities and decision-makers must address key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities by making changes in the social, physical, and economic environments, known as “social determinants of health.”

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a structured process that provides information to decision-makers to consider health impacts **before** policies, plans and projects are implemented. It is a tool to integrate health into all policies at the state and local levels. HIA is an emerging practice that provides decision-makers with a process to integrate health outcomes in decisions that may not traditionally be health-related.

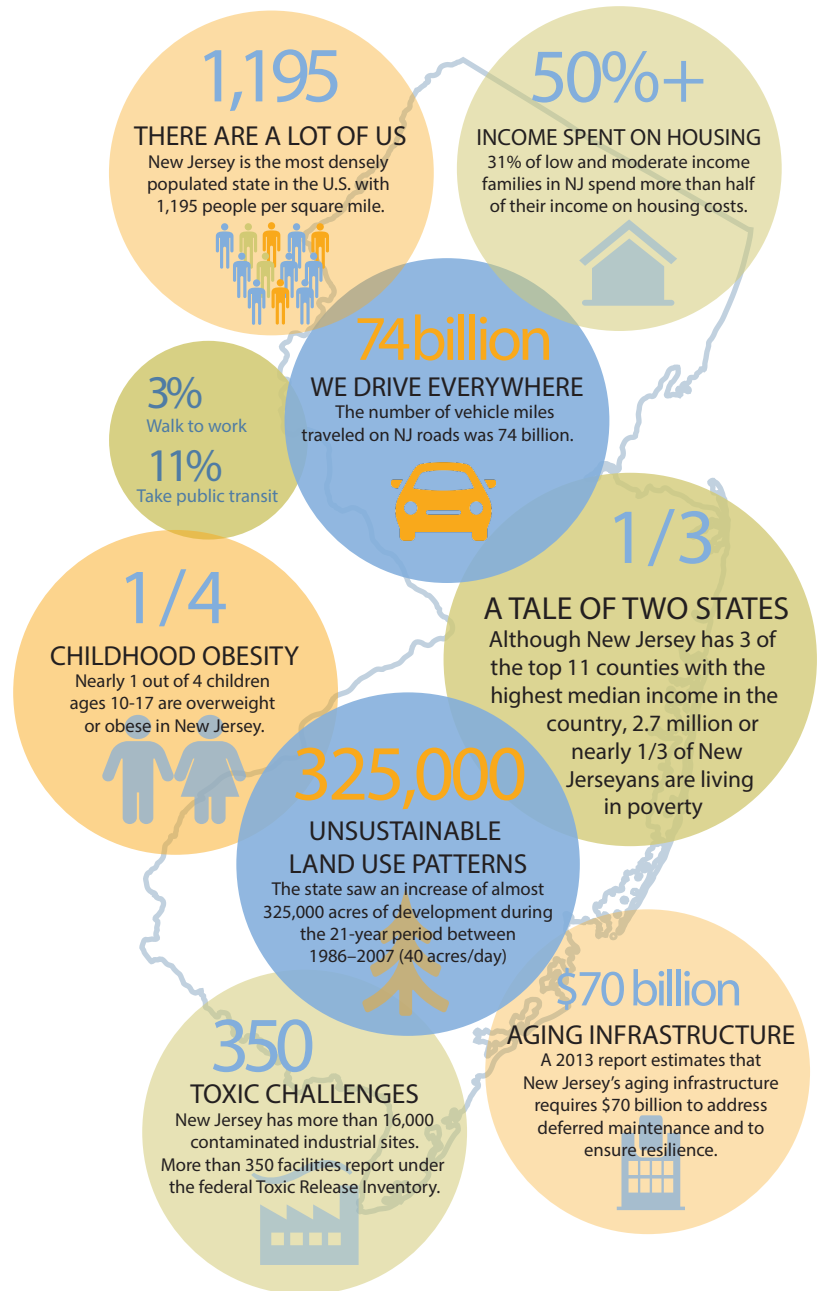
Health inequities are differences in health outcomes and access to health care resulting from unfair and unjust conditions, including social injustices. **Health equity** represents a commitment to eliminate disparities in health, including social, structural and other underlying determinants.

Factors Causing Health Inequities

- Racism
- Poor housing
- Poverty
- Unhealthy environments
- Lack of mobility options
- Lack of good jobs
- Access to quality education
- Access to quality health care

New Jersey BY THE NUMBERS

New Jersey faces unique challenges that could benefit from HIA efforts.



Given New Jersey's dense population, aging infrastructure, diverse and socially vulnerable residents, HiAP & HIA offers considerable potential to improve health for all New Jerseyans.

New Jersey HIA and HiAP work led by PHCI have projected health impacts and produced recommendations for decisions associated with municipal and regional planning, resilience, infrastructure, transportation, recreation, waterway access and other projects and policies.