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

Jon Carnegie, AICP/PP  
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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.

- **$70 billion:** AGING INFRASTRUCTURE
  - A 2013 report estimates that New Jersey’s aging infrastructure requires $70 billion to address deferred maintenance and to ensure resilience.

- **325,000:*** UNSUSTAINABLE LAND USE PATTERNS
  - The state saw an increase of almost 325,000 acres of development during the 21-year period between 1986–2007 (40 acres/day).

- **1,195:*** THERE ARE A LOT OF US
  - New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the U.S. with 1,195 people per square mile.

- **50%+:** INCOME SPENT ON HOUSING
  - 31% of low and moderate income families in NJ spend more than half of their income on housing costs.

- **74 billion:*** WE DRIVE EVERYWHERE
  - The number of vehicle miles traveled on NJ roads was 74 billion.

- **1/4:*** CHILDHOOD OBESITY
  - Nearly 1 out of 4 children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese in New Jersey.

- **11%:*** Take public transit

- **3%:*** Walk to work

- **1/3:*** A TALE OF TWO STATES
  - Although New Jersey has 3 of the top 11 counties with the highest median income in the country, 2.7 million or nearly 1/3 of New Jerseyans are living in poverty.

- **350:*** TOXIC CHALLENGES
  - New Jersey has more than 16,000 contaminated industrial sites.

- **5%:*** 350 facilities report under the federal Toxic Release Inventory.

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.