

Understanding Environmental Perceptions and Behaviors through use of Geospatial Technologies: Implications for Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)

Jacqueline W. Curtis, Ph.D.^{*1} and Kim Gilhuly, MPH^{†2}

¹ GIS Health & Hazards Lab, Department of Geography, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, USA

²Human Impact Partners, Oakland, California, USA

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Summary

Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) are an accepted approach to understand the potential health outcomes created by a specific planning or policy initiative. Internationally, they are supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in the United States they are promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HIAs are typically directed by public health departments with consultation from local government officials and input from community members. Despite its limited use in the HIA process, there are numerous opportunities for integration of geospatial technologies to provide insights throughout the assessment. The objectives of this poster are to a) provide an overview of how geospatial technologies can be more widely incorporated into the HIA process and b) report on their use for understanding resident environmental perceptions and behaviors in three different HIAs in the United States.

KEYWORDS: Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS), geospatial technologies, environmental perception

Jacqueline Curtis is the Associate Director of the GIS | Health & Hazards Lab and Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. Her current projects focus on the use of geospatial technologies and spatial analysis to map and assess perception of physical activity environments for children in derelict neighborhoods.

Kim Gilhuly received her Master's in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research has examined HIAs in land use and policy, as well as studies on food access, violence prevention, and pesticide monitoring. Her current interests focus on understanding health outcomes through the direct involvement of communities.

* jmills30@university.edu

† kim@humanimpact.org