



The Health Impact of Industrial Sand Mining in Western Wisconsin Fact Sheet

What is a health impact assessment?

“A Health Impact Assessment is a practical tool that uses data, research and stakeholder input to determine a policy or project’s impact on the health of a population. HIAs also provide recommendations to address these impacts.” (Human Impact Partners). A HIA follows *specific steps* – looking at health from a broad perspective that considers social, economic and environmental influences – and when complete, offers recommendations to maximize benefits and minimize harms.

What will the benefits of this HIA be?

There has been considerable public concern about the potential health impacts of industrial sand mining in the region and there have been a variety of data gathering efforts. This HIA will “pull together” these data and stakeholder engagement efforts and provide the analysis needed to offer practical recommendations so community members can make informed decisions.

What will this HIA address?

There are many potential areas to explore with this assessment. We will work with stakeholders in four Level One partner* communities to narrow the scope. (Level One partners are each considering policy decisions related to industrial sand mining.) The potential health impacts (both positive and negative) of sand mining are many – and resources for this project are limited. This assessment will need to focus on the issues of greatest importance to stakeholders. It will not answer every potential question.

What organizational partners are involved?

The Ho-Chunk Nation*, and the health departments of Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire*, Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce*, Rusk, St. Croix and Trempealeau* Counties, and the University of Iowa’s Environmental Health Sciences Research Center.

Who is leading the effort?

The Institute for Wisconsin’s Health, Inc. - a non-partisan, not-for-profit, independent public health institute.

What is the timeline?

October 2014 to March 2016

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To learn more about HIA

www.healthimpactproject.org
www.humanimpact.org/new-to-hia/
www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm
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