

STRENGTHENING HIA CAPACITY IN SLOVAKIA: PERSPECTIVES OF MPH STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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1. Introduction & Background

- HIA is a key tool for assessing the health impacts of policies and projects.
- The development of HIA competencies is essential for future professionals in the specialization study program Master of Public Health.

2. Objectives

- To assess the level of awareness, knowledge, and experience with HIA among MPH students.
- To identify gaps and opportunities in public health education regarding HIA.
- To provide recommendations for curriculum development and capacity building.

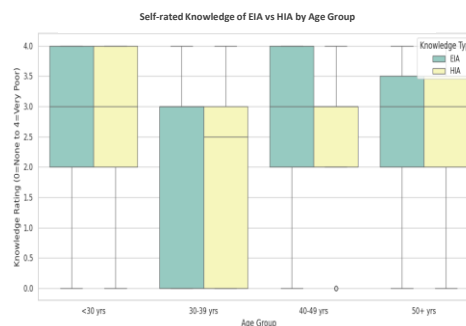
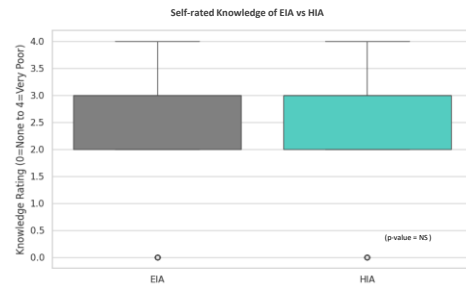
3. Methodology

• **Survey period:** February 2022 – March 2025

• **Participants:** 115 MPH students (public health officers, nurses, lab technicians)

• **Data collection tool:** Questionnaire covering:

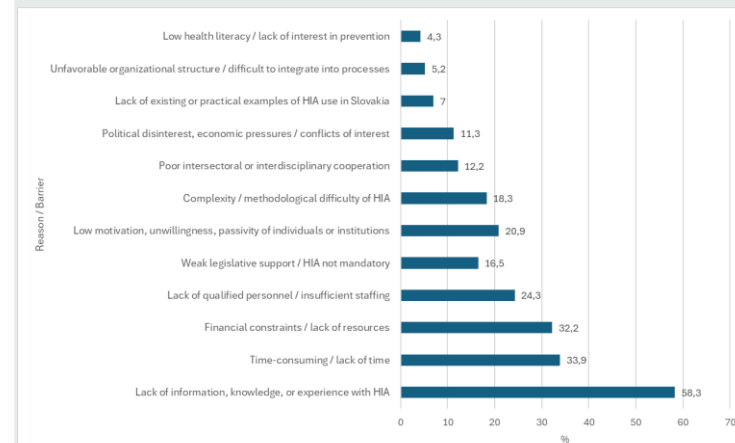
- Awareness of health determinants
- Knowledge of HIA framework
- Participation in HIA-related courses and workshops
- Self-assessment of skills (HIA, EIA)
- Practical experience with HIA reports
- Perceptions of health in workplace decision-making
- Opinions on integrating HIA in policy/strategy



Basic characteristics of participants:

Age group	Abs.	%
<30 yrs	28	24,4
30-39 yrs	43	37,4
40-49 yrs	32	27,8
50+ yrs	12	10,4
Gender		
Men	12	10,4
Women	103	89,6
Residence		
City	66	57,4
Municipality	49	42,6

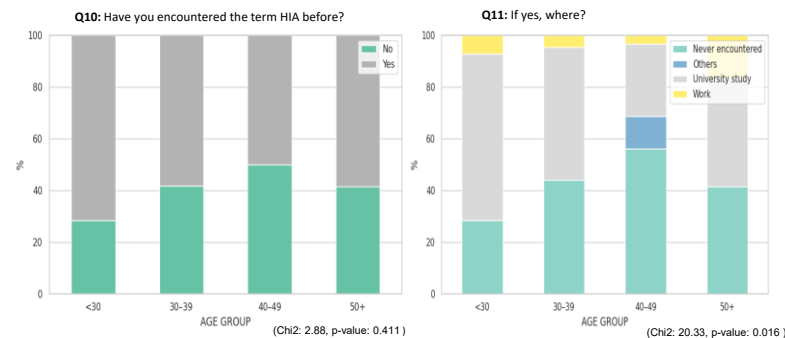
Overview of the Most Common Reasons for Not Using HIA in Practice



Note: Not all respondents answered this specific open-ended question.

4. Key Findings

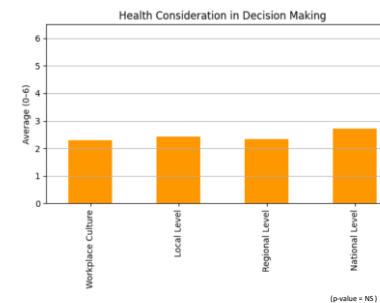
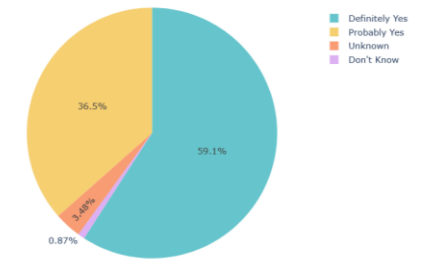
- Varying levels of awareness and understanding of HIA.
- Limited practical experience in conducting or contributing to HIA.
- Moderate participation in formal HIA-related education.
- Positive attitudes towards integrating HIA into policy and practice.
- Need for clearer institutional support and training.



5. Discussion & Implications

- Gaps in conceptual and practical training in HIA.
- Potential role of universities, public health institutions, and local authorities.
- Importance of embedding HIA in public health curricula and workplace culture.

Support for HIA Implementation (Q34)



6. Limitations of the analysis:

Recall bias: Based on self-reported data, which may be inaccurate.

Limited generalizability: The sample may not represent the broader population.

Small subgroups: Reduces reliability of comparisons.

Uncontrolled confounders: Factors like professional background or prior HIA exposure not accounted for.

7. Recommendations

- Develop tailored HIA training modules for MPH programs.
- Strengthen collaboration between academia and public institutions.
- Promote exchange of best practices via EU and international cooperation.
- Foster interdisciplinary teaching on health determinants and policy-making.

8. Conclusion

- Investing in HIA education is key to preparing a competent public health workforce.
- These findings support strategic actions to institutionalize HIA in Slovak public health practice.