

Health Policy Analysis:

An Overview and Comparison of Approaches Used for Health Policy Analysis: What to Use and When ?

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Key points

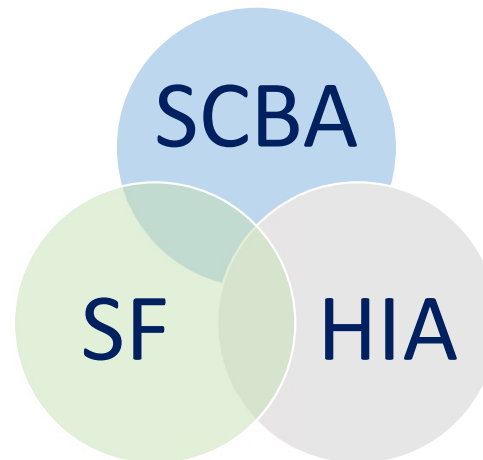
- There is need to connect HIA better to economic evaluation aspects (i.e. adding a monetary component to HIA).
- Uncertainties related to future developments such as, climate change, technological advancements, need to be address more in HIA .
- A streamlined HIA version is needed for use in time sensitive settings or as complementary to other existing health policy tools (i.e., SCBA or SF).

Background

- Public health challenges are increasingly complex and require effective policy responses.
- Multi-criteria approaches are needed to address these complexities.
- Traditional decision support tools often address single objectives in isolation.
- A multi-criteria approach enables assessment of multiple objectives and offers a more comprehensive view of policy effects.
- Our goal was to understand how different policy tools used at RIVM can complement each other and identify ways to integrate them for improved policy analysis.

Methods

- We used a mixed method approach, drawing on insights from RIVM experts working with Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) and Strategic Foresight (SF).
- We consulted with policy makers from the Ministry of Health.
- We compared the different approaches (HIA, SCBA, SF) and searched literature to under more their differences.
- We identified policy questions where these tools have been applied to assess their potential for complementarity.



Results

Aspect	HIA	SCBA	SF
Primary goal	Evaluates potential health effects of a policy	Estimates societal costs and benefits of policies	Explores potential future trends and uncertainties
Time horizon	Short to long term	Short to medium term	Generally long term
Methods	Qualitative Quantitative Mixed methods	Quantitative	Qualitative Quantitative, Mixed methods
End product	Recommendations	Net value	Scenario insights
Strengths	Identifies potential health effects on different groups of the population	Provides economic estimates	Explores future perspectives
Weakness	Lacks an economics perspective	Lacks a qualitative perspective	Abstract concepts and long-time horizons