Sub-Theme: Supportive Environments for Physical Activity

Health Policy Development Using Health Impact Assessment: A Case Study of Ministry of Public Health's Bicycle Lane Policy

SUKANDA PUDPADEE, PANITA CHAROENSUK, CHANAJIT PANOU, WASSANA LOONSAMRONG Health Impact Assessment Division, Department of Health

Background: Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) issues a policy for accommodating bicycle lane across the area to improve and promote public health personnel well-being. However, without the consideration carefully, negative health outcomes attribute to the policy may occur. MOPH place an important on Health Impact Assessment process. It is a proactive process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project or policy. An HIA can provide recommendations to increase positive health outcomes and minimize negative health outcomes.

Purpose: To provide the information and recommendations for the Ministry to increase positive and decrease negative health impacts.

Methods: The step of HIA process was applied, including screening, scoping and appraisal. In the Screening and Scoping phase, key stakeholders were identified and the following aspects were reviewed and collected; bicycle lane project details and activities, health determinants, risk factors, and health effects related to project activities. In addition, public scoping was conducted to help identify public concerns. In the appraisal phase, key stakeholders concerns were investigated. The Identified stakeholder including, MOPH personnel, government sectors, and community member in the vicinity area.

Result: The stakeholder respondents, mostly, agree with the policy. Because it helps increase physical activities, promote alternative transportation route. In addition, almost respondents are likely to use cycling that the MOPH will provide as a transportation option. Their addressed concerning issues are safety of crossroad, road lighting, bicycle thieves, traffic lighting on bike way, and signals for intersection. Additionally, they require services and facilities related to bicycle. Moreover, the important issue raised by stakeholders is bicycle lane safety measures.

Conclusions: Ministry of Public Health's bike lane policy helps promote an opportunity to build sound environment, and create transportation mode that require physical activities for public health personnel, bicyclist around the Ministry. To fulfill the healthy policy, this study drew the major concerns and recommendations of stakeholders which are including health-related performance measures, encourage bicycle used increasing, as well as reduce risk factors associated with riding.

Keywords: Health policy development, Health Impact Assessment, Bicycle Lane