

Why health impact assessment needs a human rights dimension

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Human rights

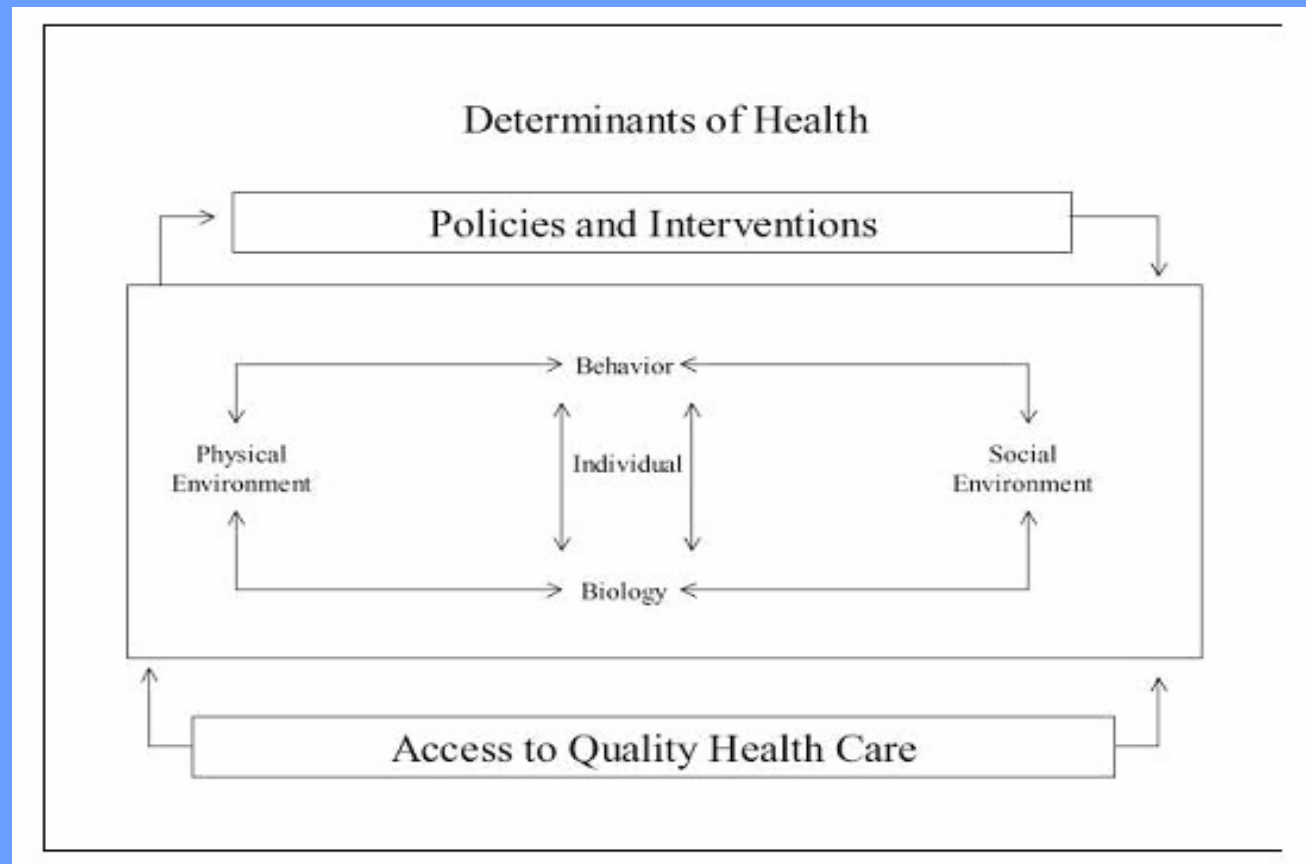
Legal and moral
entitlements and
freedoms
applicable to all
human beings



Human rights are
important
determinants of
health and thus
constitute a key
aspect of the HIA
process



HR are determinants of health



Source: Healthy People 2010



Like some other key health determinants (eg mental well-being, gender), the place of HR within HIA is still waiting to be adequately acknowledged and operationalised



Both domestic and international public policies and projects have important HR dimensions which therefore require acknowledgement within HIA



The focus of HR on *obligations* and on *morality* – both relatively unfamiliar in the health sector – by no means makes it an inappropriate focus for HIA – whose value content (eg equity) – is well established



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