



Health Impact Reviews

2021 Legislative Session Update

August 11, 2021

HIR overview

HIRs can be requested for any bill topic.

An HIR is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based analysis to determine how a legislative or budgetary change will likely impact health and equity in Washington State.

HIRs can be requested by any legislator or the governor.

(RCW 43.20.285)



HIR Process

Review Bill

Analysts determine how provisions in the bill would change the status quo by reviewing the bill language and interviewing staff at agencies responsible for implementing the proposed policy



Explore Pathways

Analysts explore potential connections to health by:

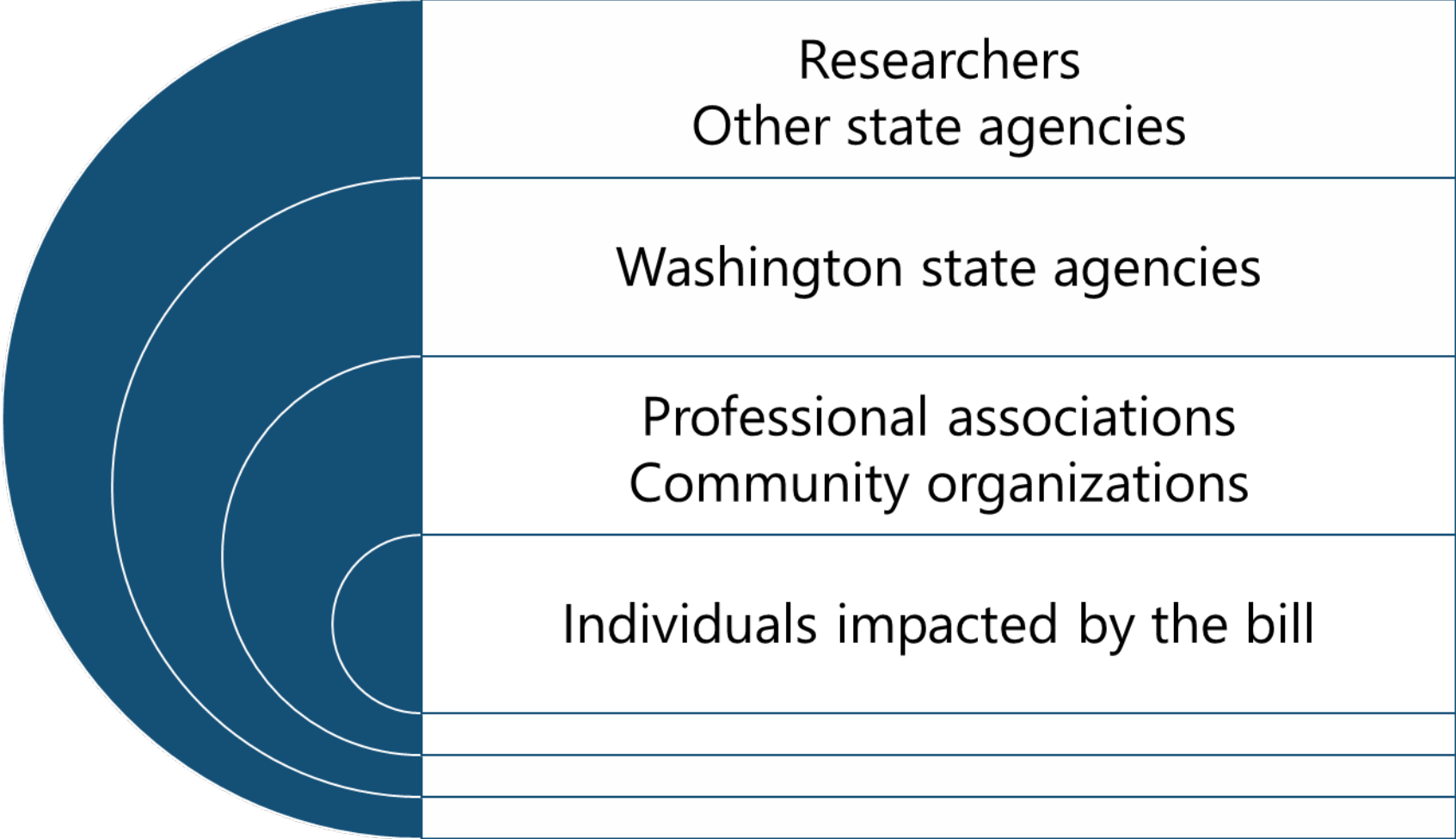
- Conducting initial literature reviews
- Reviewing public testimony and documents relevant to the bill
- Drafting a logic model for review by subject matter experts and key informants



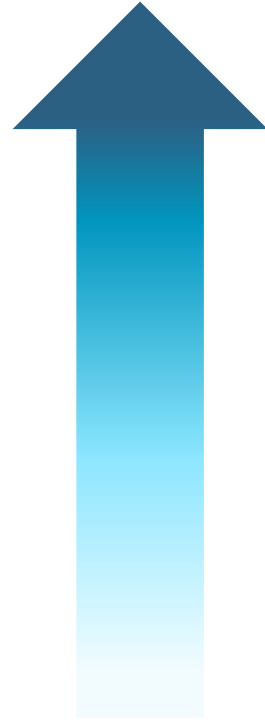
Literature Review

Analysts conduct specific reviews of literature to determine how the provisions may impact health and which populations are most likely to be impacted by the proposed change

Levels of Key Informant Engagement



Strength-of-Evidence Criteria



VERY STRONG EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

A FAIR AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE

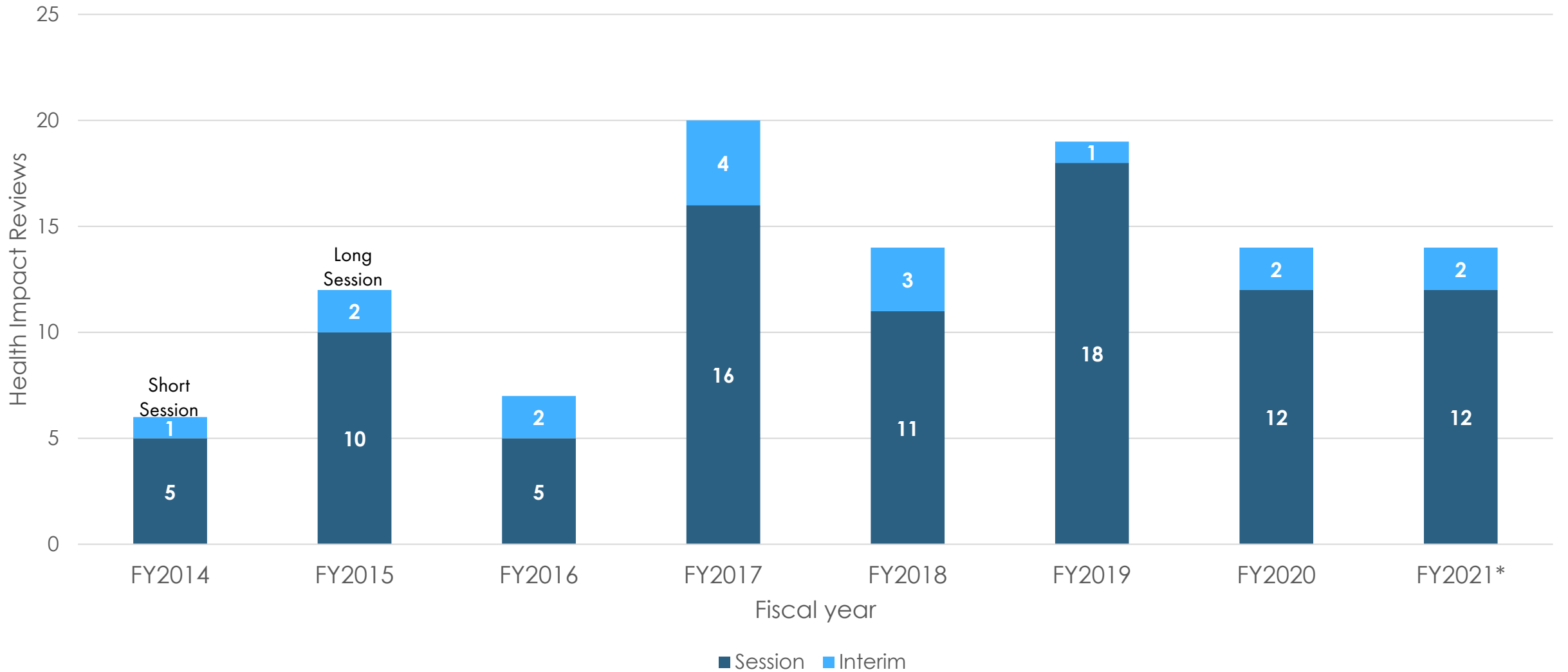
EXPERT OPINION

INFORMED ASSUMPTION

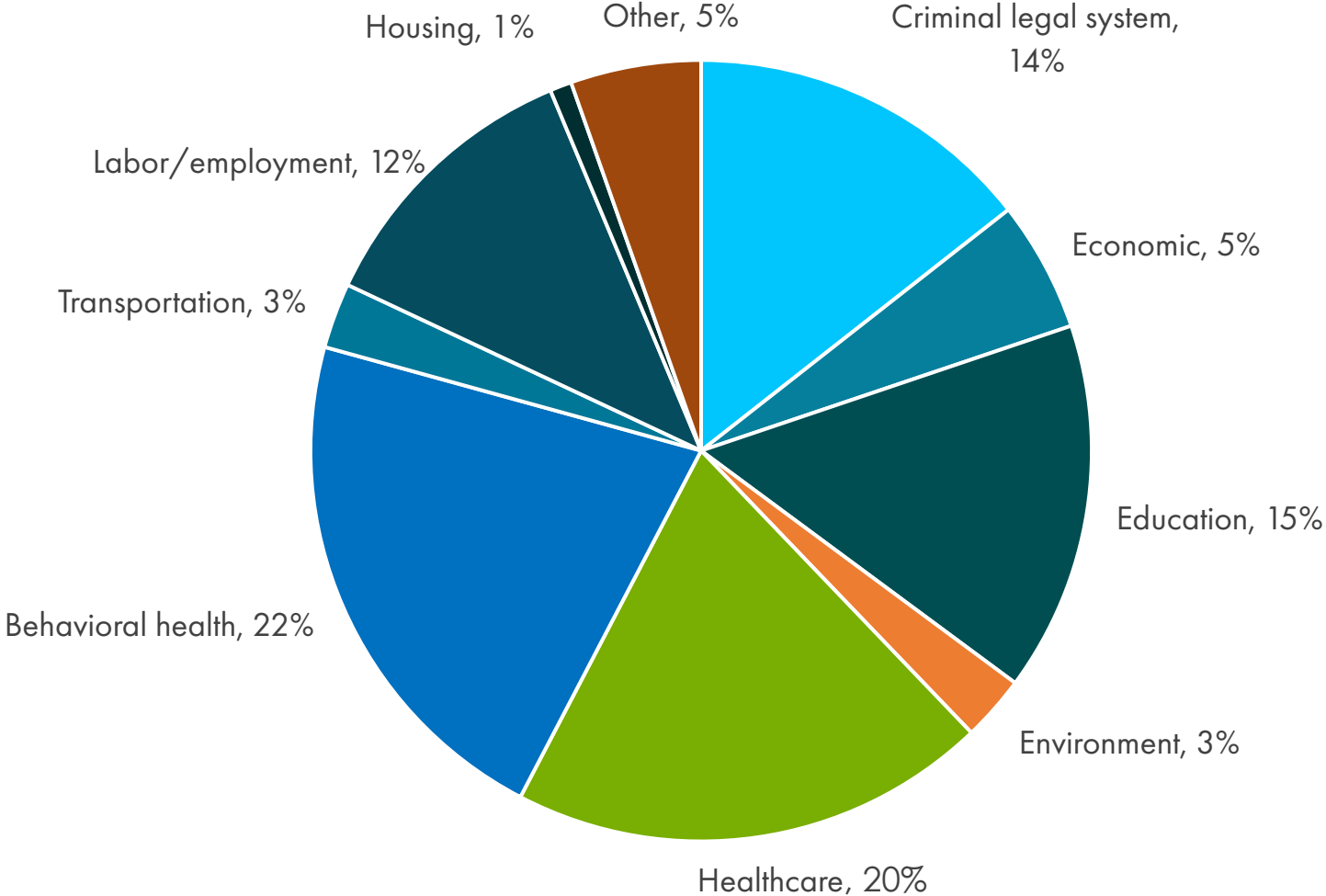
NOT WELL RESEARCHED

UNCLEAR

106 Completed HIRs



HIR Requests by Topic Area



2021 Legislative Session, By the Numbers

<p>12</p> <p>The number of Health Impact Reviews we completed during the 2021 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>100th</p> <p>The milestone we reached during the 2021 Legislative Session for the total number of completed HIRs.</p>
<p>75%</p> <p>The percentage of HIR requests we received “organically” (i.e., with no outreach) during the 2021 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>The number of times staff testified on HIR findings during the 2021 Legislative Session, less than typical due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>31%</p> <p>The percentage of HIR requests we received from first-time requesters during the 2021 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The total number of HIR-related bills that passed the Legislature and were signed into session law by the Governor.</p>

HIR feedback

Requesters have used HIRs to:

- Determine if there is enough evidence to support a policy direction
- Determine if a bill will have the intended impact
- Build support for bills that may have positive impacts on health or equity
- Get information to decide how to vote on a colleague's bill.



Next steps

The Health Impact Review Team will help inform state equity work

- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC), racial equity analyses
- Office of Financial Management (OFM), equity impact assessments





Contact

Lindsay Herendeen (she/her)

lindsay.herendeen@sboh.wa.gov

360-628-6823

Cait Lang-Perez (she/her)

caitlin.lang@sboh.wa.gov

360-628-7342

Completed Health Impact Reviews are located on the
Washington State Board of Health website:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/OurWork/HealthImpactReviews.aspx>

| THANK YOU