

Summary

A Health Impact Review (HIR) is an analysis of a proposed legislative or budgetary change to determine how it may impact health and equity in Washington State. The State Board of Health, in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, completes HIRs at the request of the Governor or any member of the Legislature. We have completed a total of 106 HIRs at the request of 56 different legislators and the Governor. This report provides a brief summary of the HIR work we completed during the 2021 Legislative Session.

By the numbers

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

* As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Legislative Session was held virtually. Legislators were encouraged to limit bill introductions and companion legislation, and we received 0 requests on companion bills (most sessions we receive about 3 requests). However, we received a greater percentage of requests than previous years on larger, omnibus-type bills and on new policy topics (e.g., climate change, housing). We also learned about new ways legislators were using HIRs, including to advocate for a bill on the floor, to pass a budget proviso, and to determine next steps in policy development.