



Health Impact Reviews: FY 2023 Update

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Health Impact Reviews

HIRs can be requested for any bill topic.

- **Objective, nonpartisan, evidence-based analysis**
- Prospective tool
- Determine how a legislative or budgetary change will likely impact **health** and **equity**
- Requested by any state lawmaker or the Governor
- Must be completed in 10 days during legislative session

(RCW 43.20.285)



HIR Process

Review Bill

Determine how provisions in the bill would change status quo:

- Review the bill
- Interview agencies responsible for implementation



Explore Pathways

Explore potential connections to health:

- Conduct initial literature reviews
- Review public testimony and relevant documents
- Draft a logic model
- Consult subject matter experts and key informants



Literature Review

Conduct specific reviews of literature to determine:

- How provisions may impact health
- Who is most likely to be impacted
- How the change may impact equity

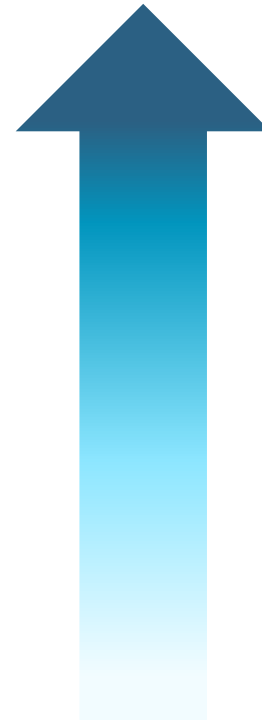
Types of Key Informant Engagement



Strength-of-Evidence Criteria

Ratings are based on criteria which consider:

- the amount of research
- appropriateness of study design
- study execution
- generalizability



VERY STRONG EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

A FAIR AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE

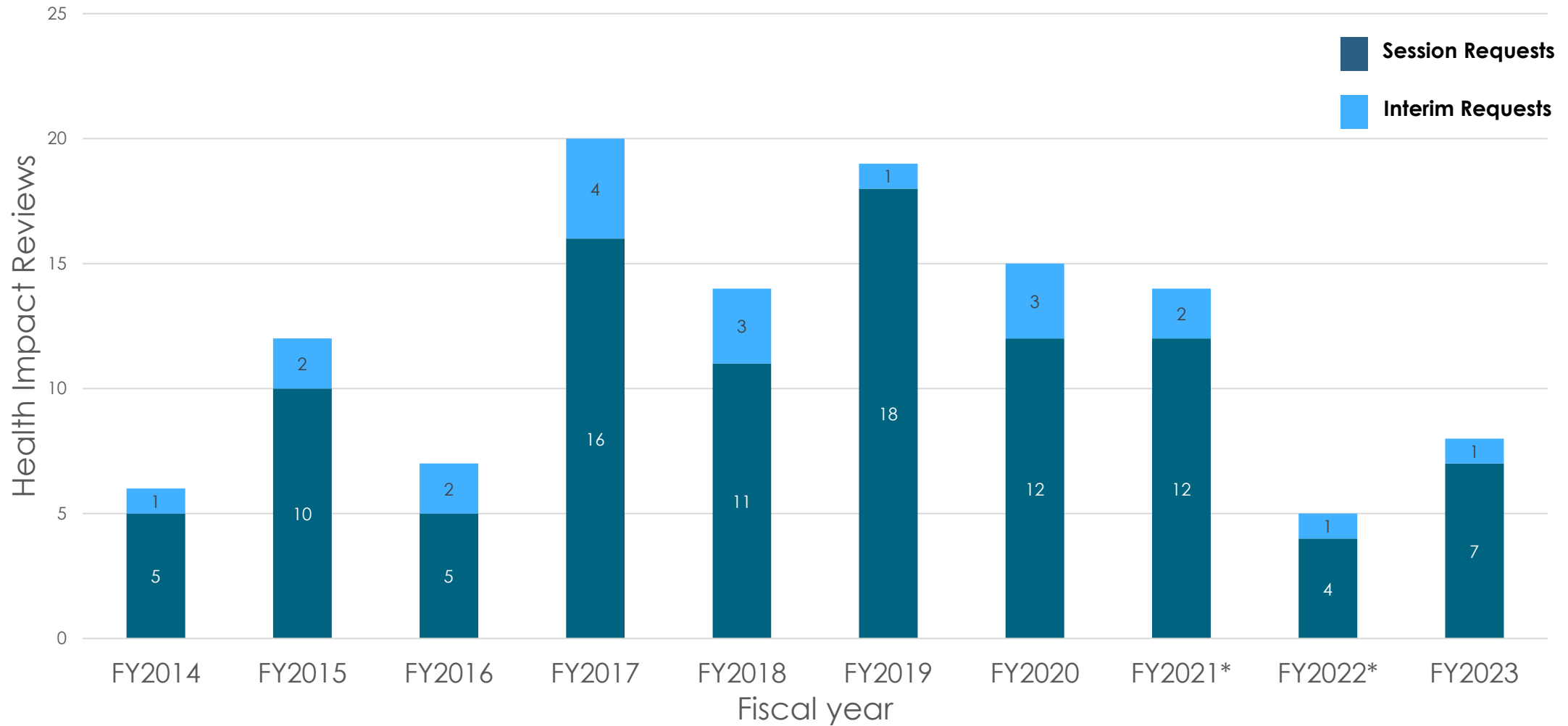
EXPERT OPINION

INFORMED ASSUMPTION

NOT WELL RESEARCHED

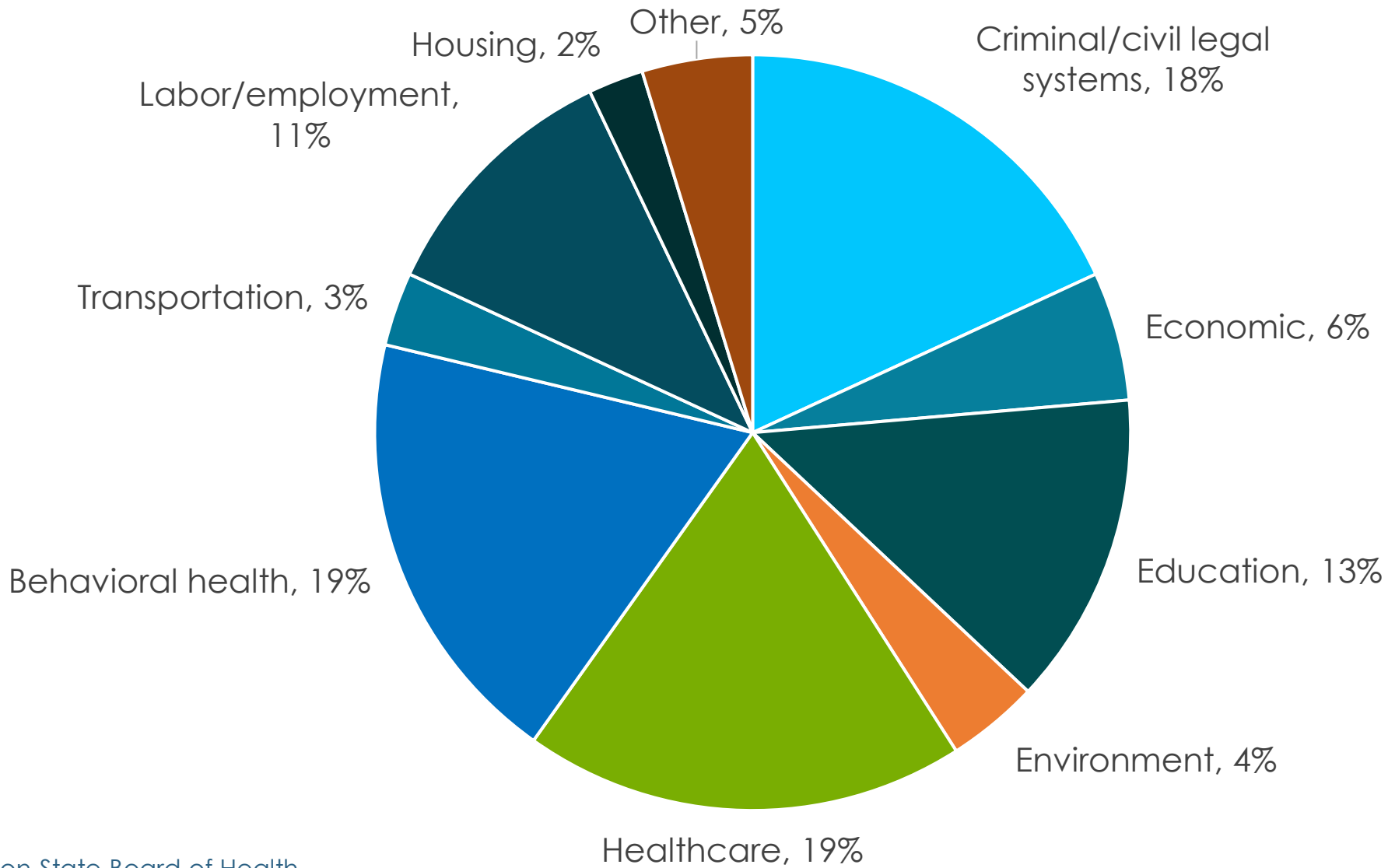
UNCLEAR

120 Completed HIRs



*COVID-19 pandemic, virtual session

HIR Requests by Topic Area



2023 Legislative Session, By the Numbers

<p>8</p> <p>The number of Health Impact Reviews completed during the 2023 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>The number of HIR requests on healthcare-related topics during the 2023 Legislative Session.</p>
<p>75%</p> <p>The percentage of HIR requests on criminal and/or civil legal system-related topics during the 2023 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>The number of times staff testified on HIR findings during the 2023 Legislative Session, the most since 2020.</p>
<p>19%</p> <p>The percentage of HIR requests received since 2014 that have been related to criminal/civil legal system-related topics, making it one of the most requested policy topic areas.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The total number of HIR-related bills that passed the Legislature and were signed into law by the Governor.</p>

How HIRs Inform Policy

Requesters have used HIRs to understand:

- The **evidence base** for a proposal
- If a bill will have the **intended impact**
- Potential **unintended consequences**
- **Equity implications**

Requesters have used HIR findings to:

- Talk with colleagues about a bill
- **Refine a policy**
- Discuss the bill on the floor
- Develop points for **budget negotiations**
- Inform how to vote



2021 Key Informant Interviewee Feedback

Survey Participants	
Role	Total
WA State Agency	17
Community-based organization	11
Agency outside of WA	4
Researcher	3
Individual, community member	3
Professional Association	2
Total	40 (42%)

Of key informants who responded...

- **96%** said participation with the HIR team was productive and meaningful
- **58%** said they used HIR findings

Ways HIR findings were used:

- Advocacy for legislation
- Research on a particular topic
- Direct language for agency use
- Educational and communications use
- Next steps for agency program

Most Useful about HIR Findings:

- Clarity, format, detail, and thoroughness of report
- Specific components: Logic model, summary of HIR findings, annotated bibliography

2023 Key Informant Interviewee Feedback

Survey Participants	
Role	Total
WA State Agency	16
Community-based organization	3
Researcher	2
Professional association	1
Individual, community member	0
Agency outside of WA	0
Total	22 (30%)

Of key informants who responded...

- **86%** said participation with the HIR team was productive and meaningful
- **55%** said they used HIR findings

Ways HIR findings were used:

- Shared with community partners
- Talking points in request for funding
- Legislative and advocacy relations
- Educational purposes (self and legislator)
- Provide recommendations for health equity work in state government

Most Useful about HIR Findings:

- Consolidation of relevant, thorough data
- Specific components: Strength of Evidence ratings, logic model, literature review, summary of findings
- Range of issues included

Work this Interim

- Completing Health Impact Reviews on SB 5435 (Residential rent increases), SSB 5171 (Consumer products/gender), and anticipating additional interim requests
- Holding outreach meetings with legislators and the Governor's policy advisors
- Continuing to refine equity approach
- Exploring opportunities to provide compensation for key informants
- Developing an outreach toolkit for Board and Council members to use to discuss Health Impact Reviews

Refining the HIR Equity Approach

- Exploring further incorporation of equity-focused frameworks such as:
 - Public Health Critical Race Praxis
 - Community-partnered participatory research
 - National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine recommendations for considering equity

- Chandra L. Ford, Collins O. Airhihenbuwa, “Critical Race Theory, Race Equity, and Public Health: Toward Antiracism Praxis”, *American Journal of Public Health* 100, no. S1 (April 1, 2010): pp. S30-S35.
- Chandra L Ford, Collins O. Airhihenbuwa, “The public health critical race methodology: praxis for antiracism research”, *Social Science Medicine* 71, no. 8 (October, 2010): pp. 1390-8.
- Jones L, Wells K. “Strategies for academic and clinician engagement in community-participatory partnered research”, *JAMA*. 294, no. 4 (January 24, 2007): pp.407-10.
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2023. *Federal Policy to Advance Racial, Ethnic, and Tribal Health Equity*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26834>.

Exploring compensation for key informants

- Health Impact Reviews began including key informant interviews in 2018
 - Since then, HIR requests have increased in number and complexity
 - Key Informants have suggested compensation for their time
- State Board of Health staff are exploring compensation for eligible Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and HIR Key Informant Interviewees

Developing a HIR Outreach Toolkit

Outreach toolkit for Board and Council members

- Discuss HIRs as an available tool with Legislators and the Governor
- Emphasize non-partisan, objective, evidence-based approach
- Clarify role when in conversations about HIRs

Questions for Board Members

- What would be helpful to include in the outreach toolkit?
- What excites you about communicating about HIRs?
- What challenges do you anticipate in communicating about HIRs?
- What toolkit format would be most useful?

Support Health Impact Reviews

- When you receive a notification that a new HIR has been requested, connect the HIR team with key informants
- Share HIRs with colleagues and partners
- Use HIR research and findings to inform your work and Board work
- Share information about HIRs with decision-makers





Contact the HIR Team

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Completed Health Impact Reviews can be found on the
Washington State Board of Health website:

<https://sboh.wa.gov/health-impact-reviews>

| THANK YOU