

# Introduction to EIS (HIA)

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# What is HIA?

- It is intended to inform a decision.
- It seeks to predict the health consequences of implementing different options.
- It is a decision support tool
- It is not a decision making tool

# What is HIA?

“A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population.”

WHO Gothenberg consensus paper

# HIA

## Another definition



‘Health impact assessment is a process through which evidence (of different kinds), interests, values and meanings are brought into dialogue between relevant stakeholders (politicians, professionals and citizens) in order imaginatively to understand and anticipate the effects of change on health and health inequalities in a given population’

*Gareth Williams, South East Asian and Oceania Regional Health Impact Assessment Conference, Sydney, Australia, November 2007*

# Health Impact Assessment applicable to



- Policies
- Programmes
- Projects

# Roots of HIA



- Policy appraisal and healthy public policy
- Environmental Impact Assessment

# Benefits of HIA



- Information for decision makers on health consequences allowing better trade-offs
- Decisions that are better for health
- Greater openness and involvement of public?
- Better co-operation between different departments
- Better understanding of health issues among policy makers
- Better understanding of health issues among public

# Unintended Health Impact of Health Policy(1)

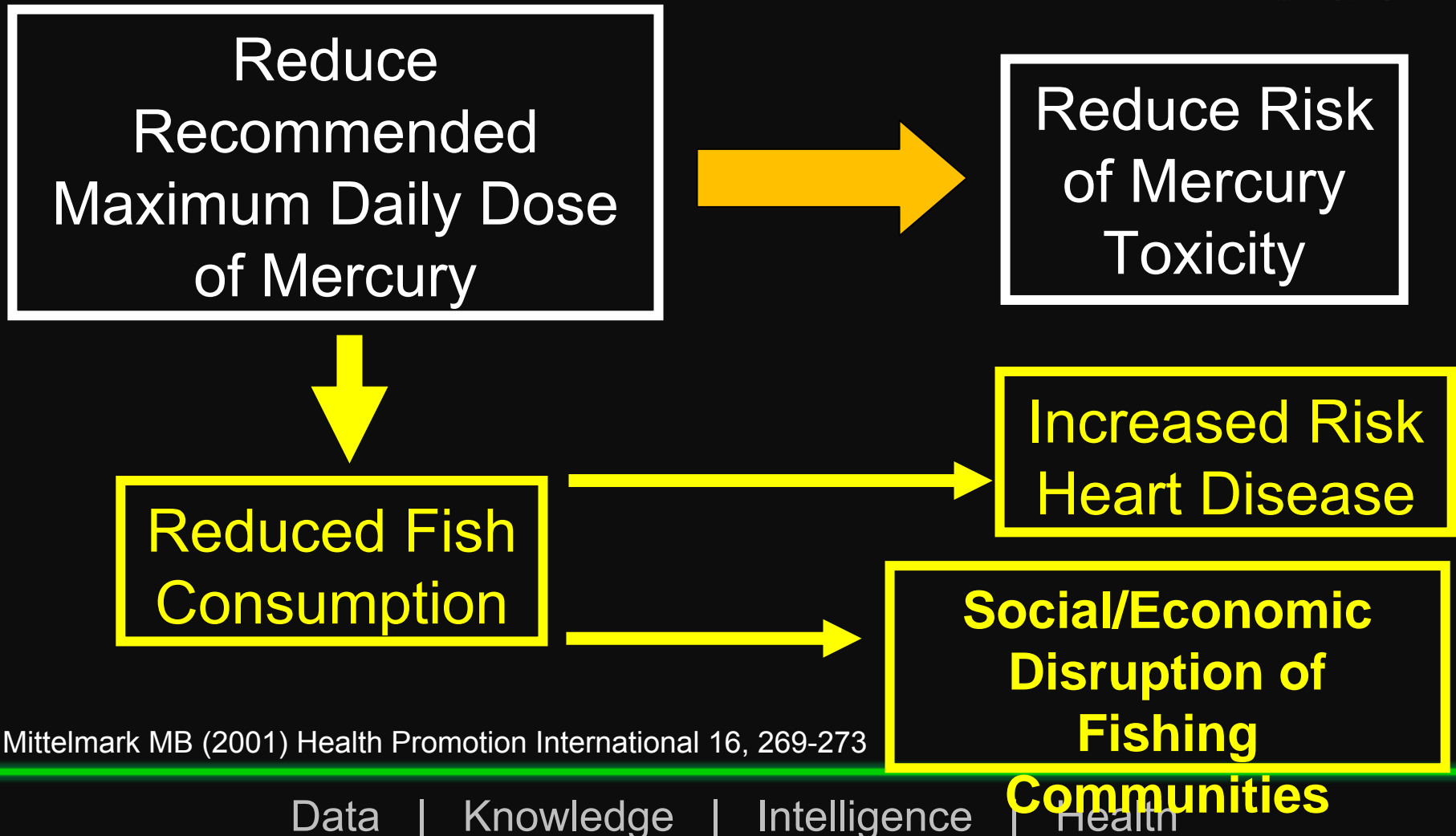
Reduce  
Recommended  
Maximum Daily Dose  
of Mercury



Reduce  
Risk of  
Mercury  
Toxicity



# Unintended Health Impact of Health Policy (2)



Mittelmark MB (2001) Health Promotion International 16, 269-273

**General socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions**

**Living and working conditions**

**Social and community influences**

**Individual lifestyle  
factors**



**Age, sex &  
hereditary  
factors**

**Data | Knowledge | Intelligence | Health**

# Stages of HIA

Screening



Scoping



Risk Assessment



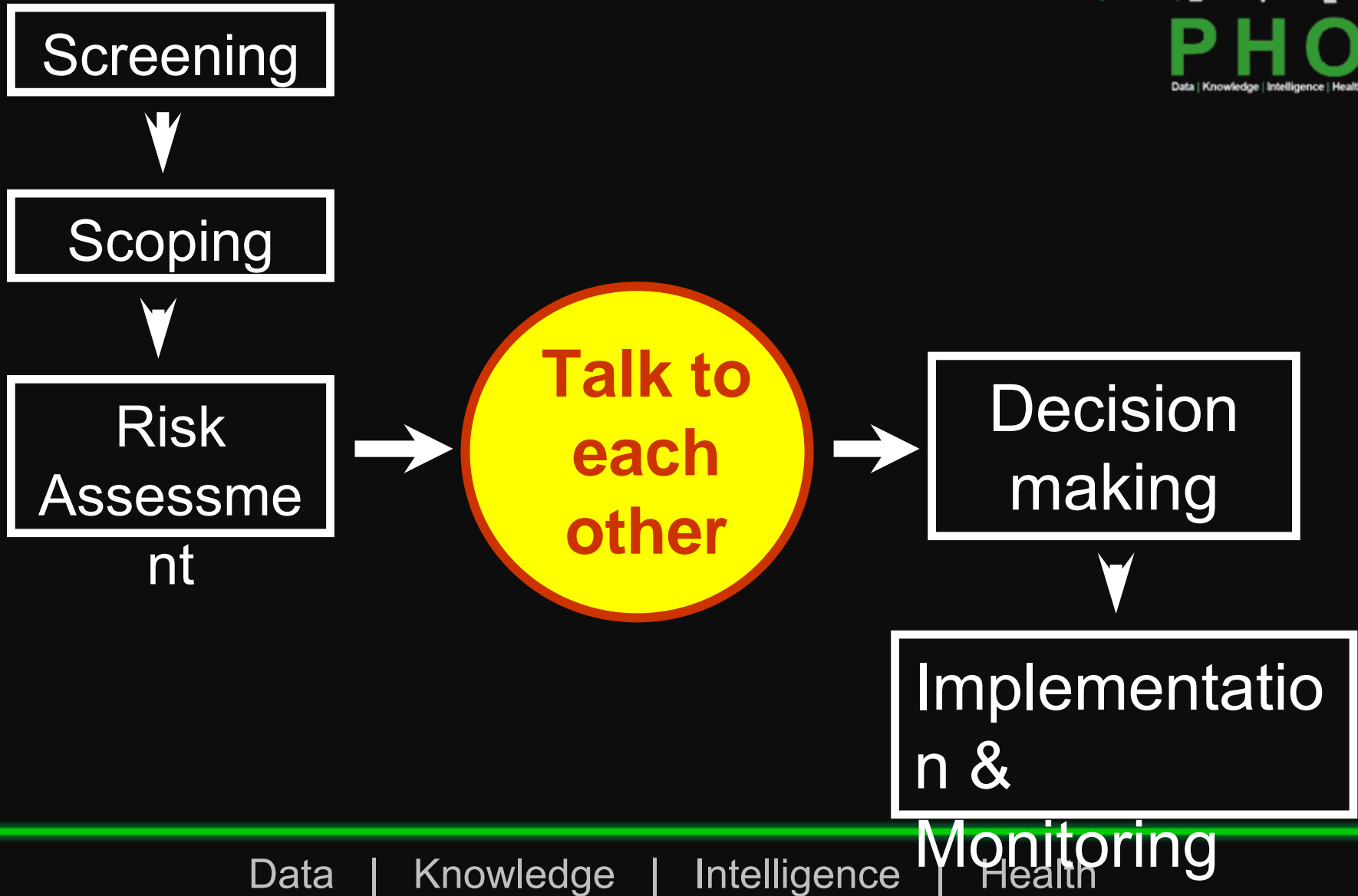
Decision making



Implementation &

Monitoring

# Stages of HIA



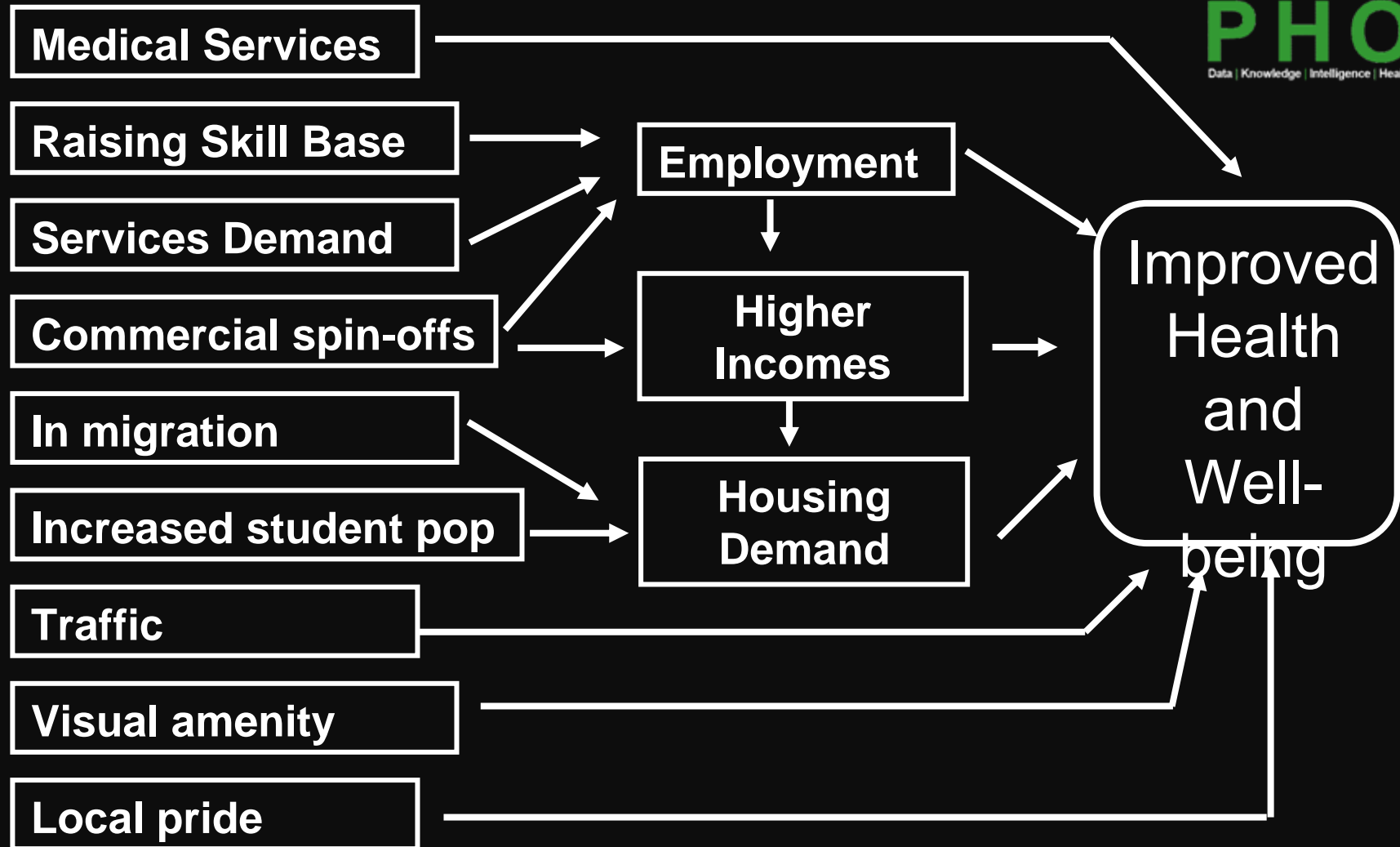
# Decision Maker's requirement of HIA

- Policy relevant
- Time frames
- Proportionate
- Impartial (not advocacy)
- Confidential ???
- Admit uncertainty
- Best Judgement

# Causal Paths

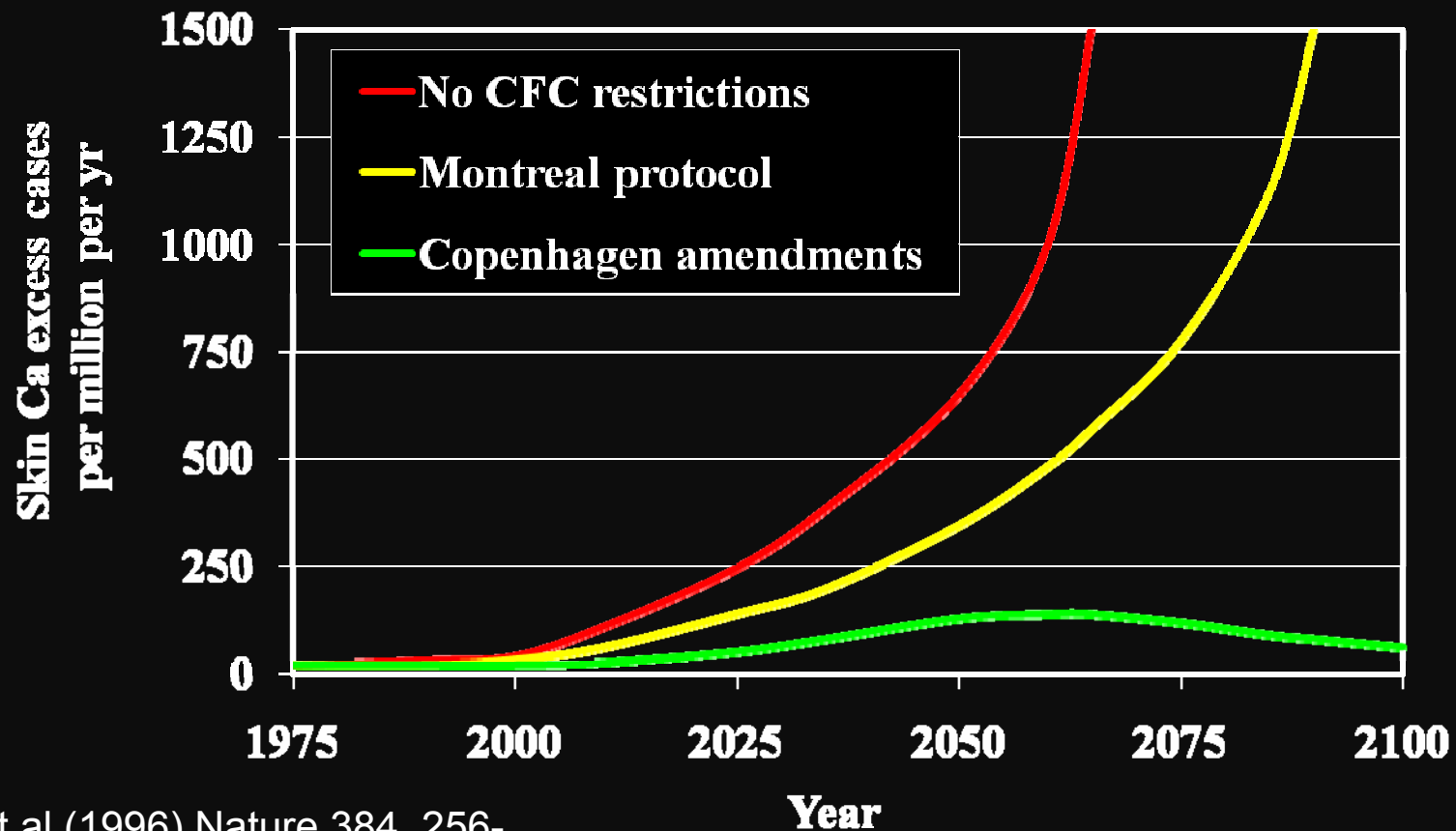


# HIA of N. Staffs Hospital & MS



# CFC and Skin Cancer

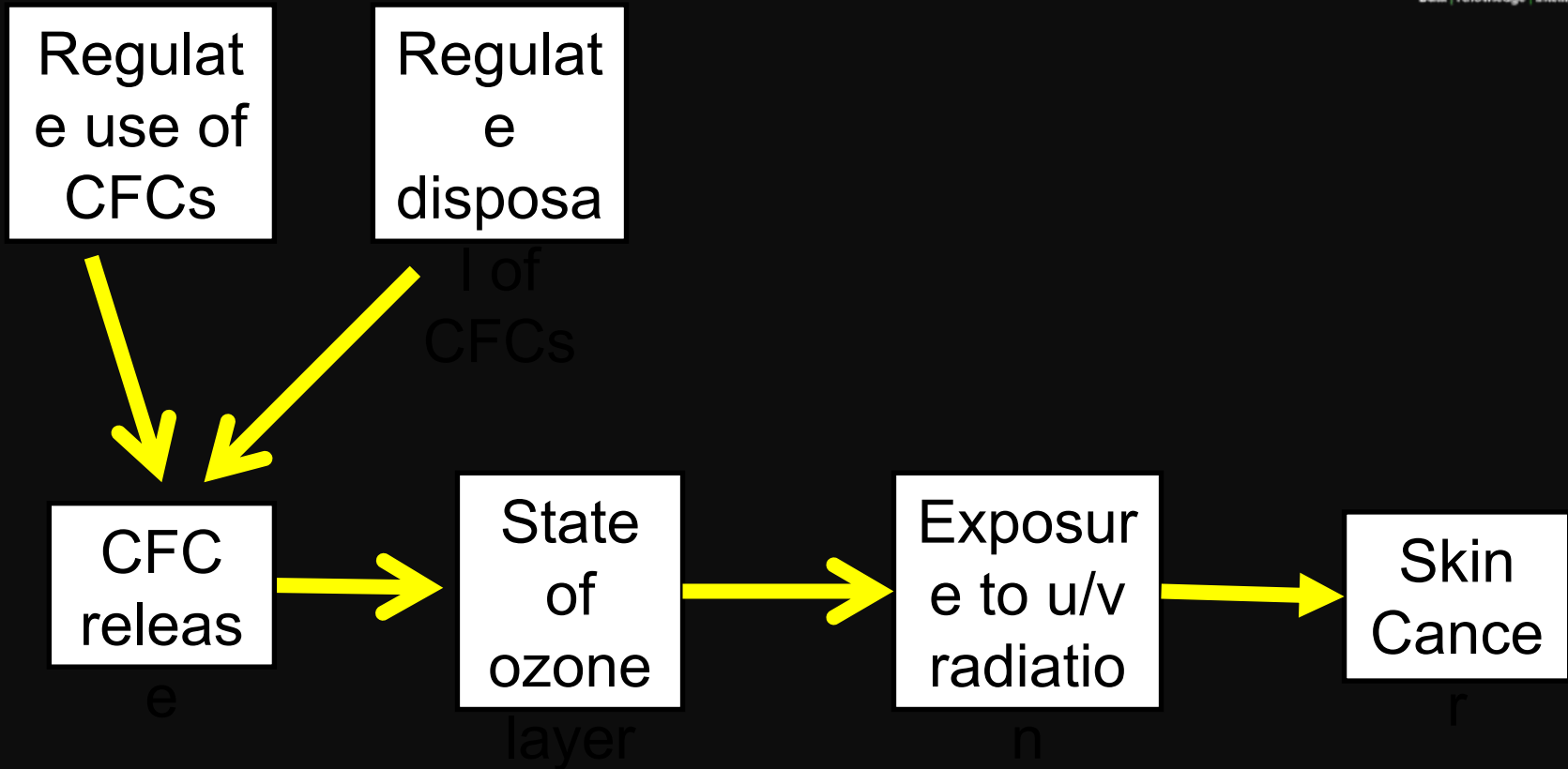
## Excess cases in USA on 3 different scenarios



Slaper H et al (1996) Nature 384, 256-258.



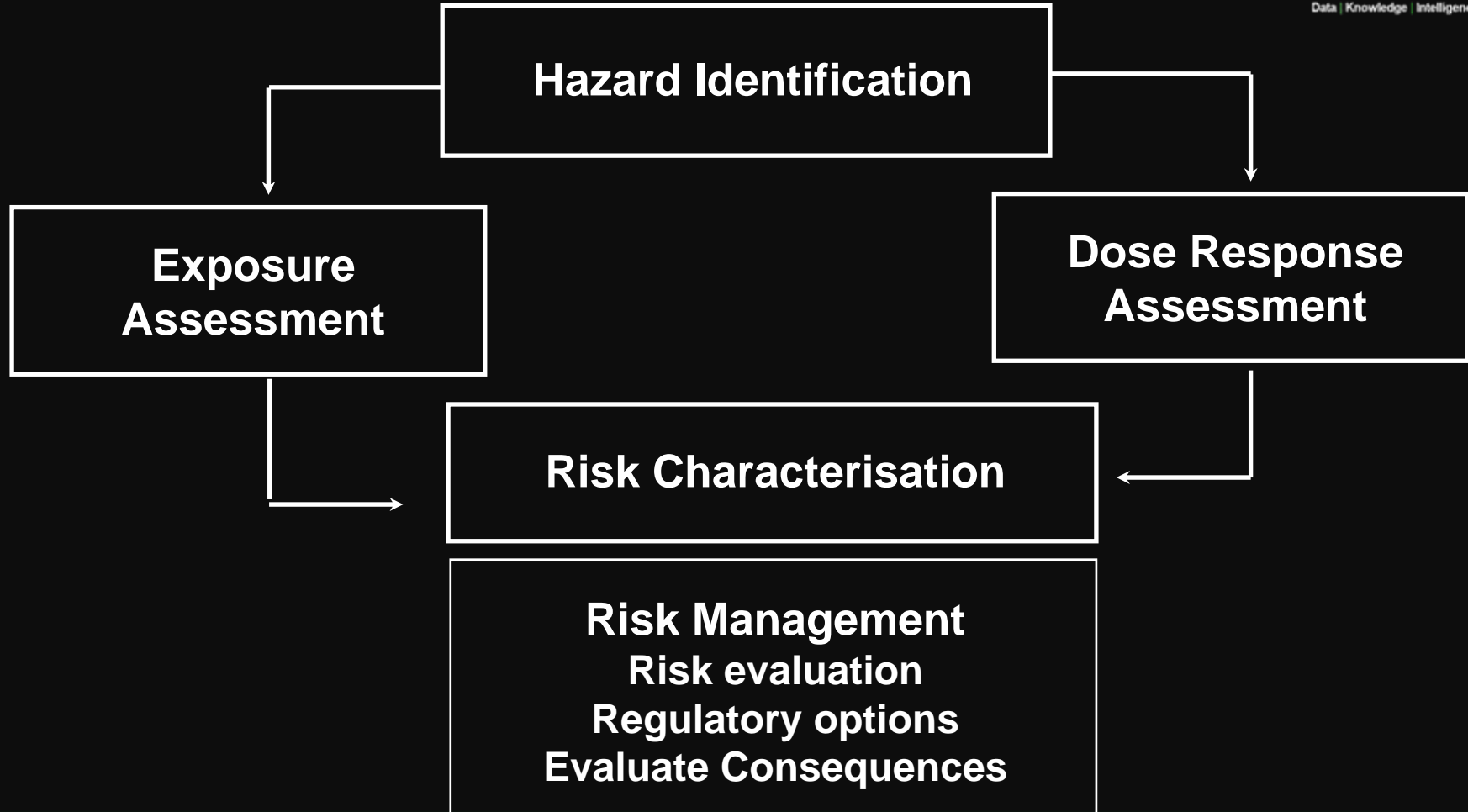
# Health impacts regulation of CFCs



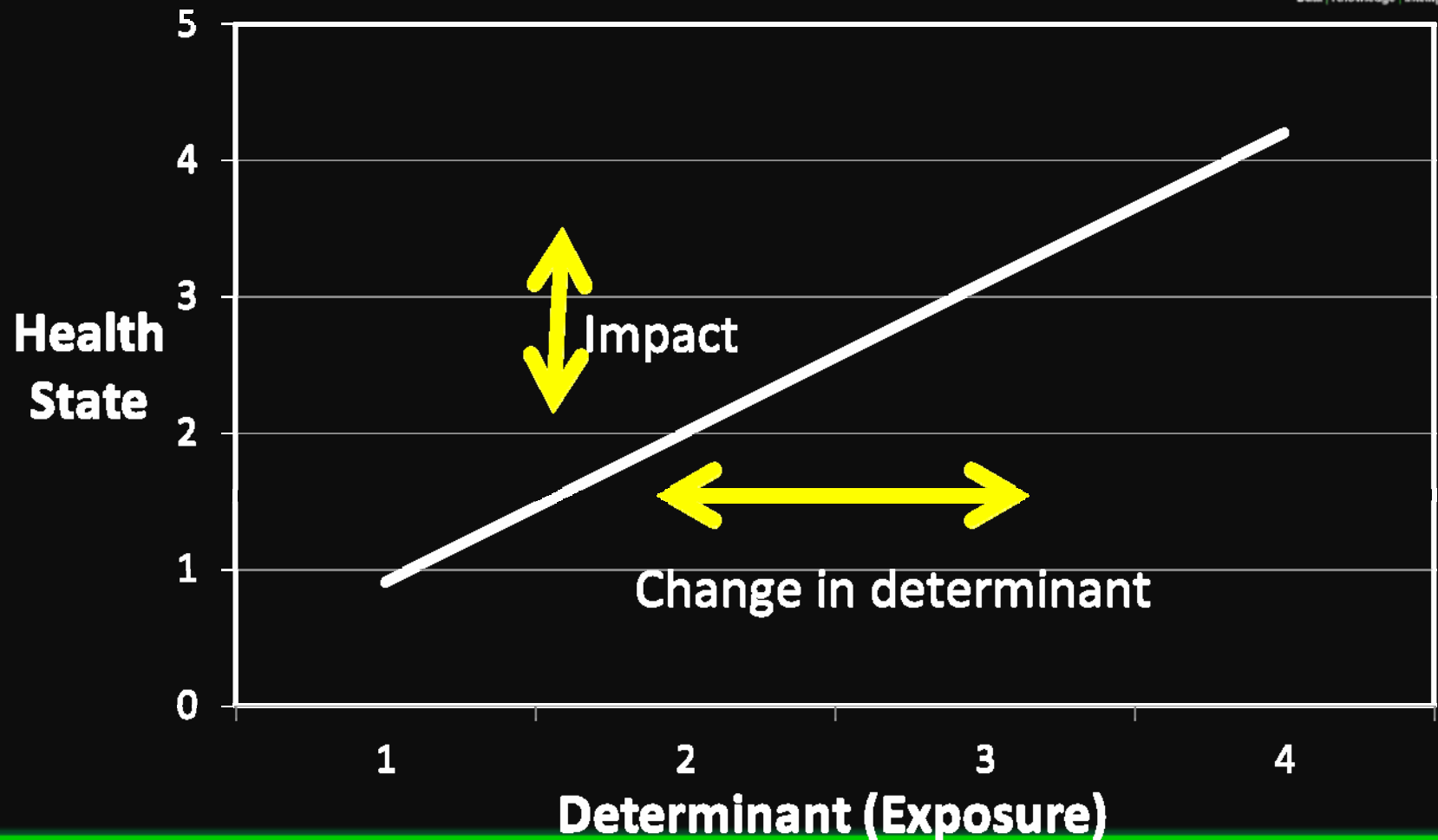
# Describing impact

- Nature of impact
- Direction of impact
- Magnitude of impact

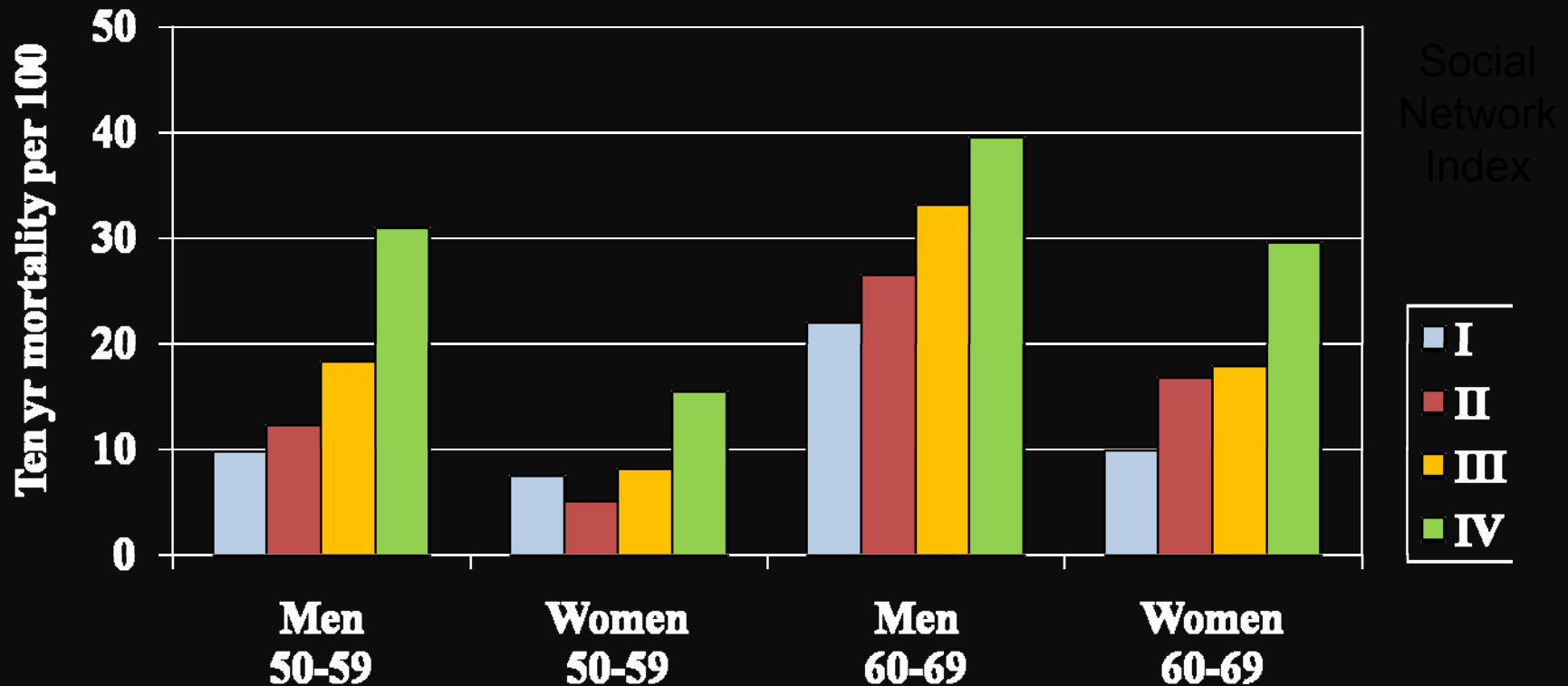
# USNRC Risk Assessment Model



# Dose response curves



# Social networks and mortality (Alameda county study)



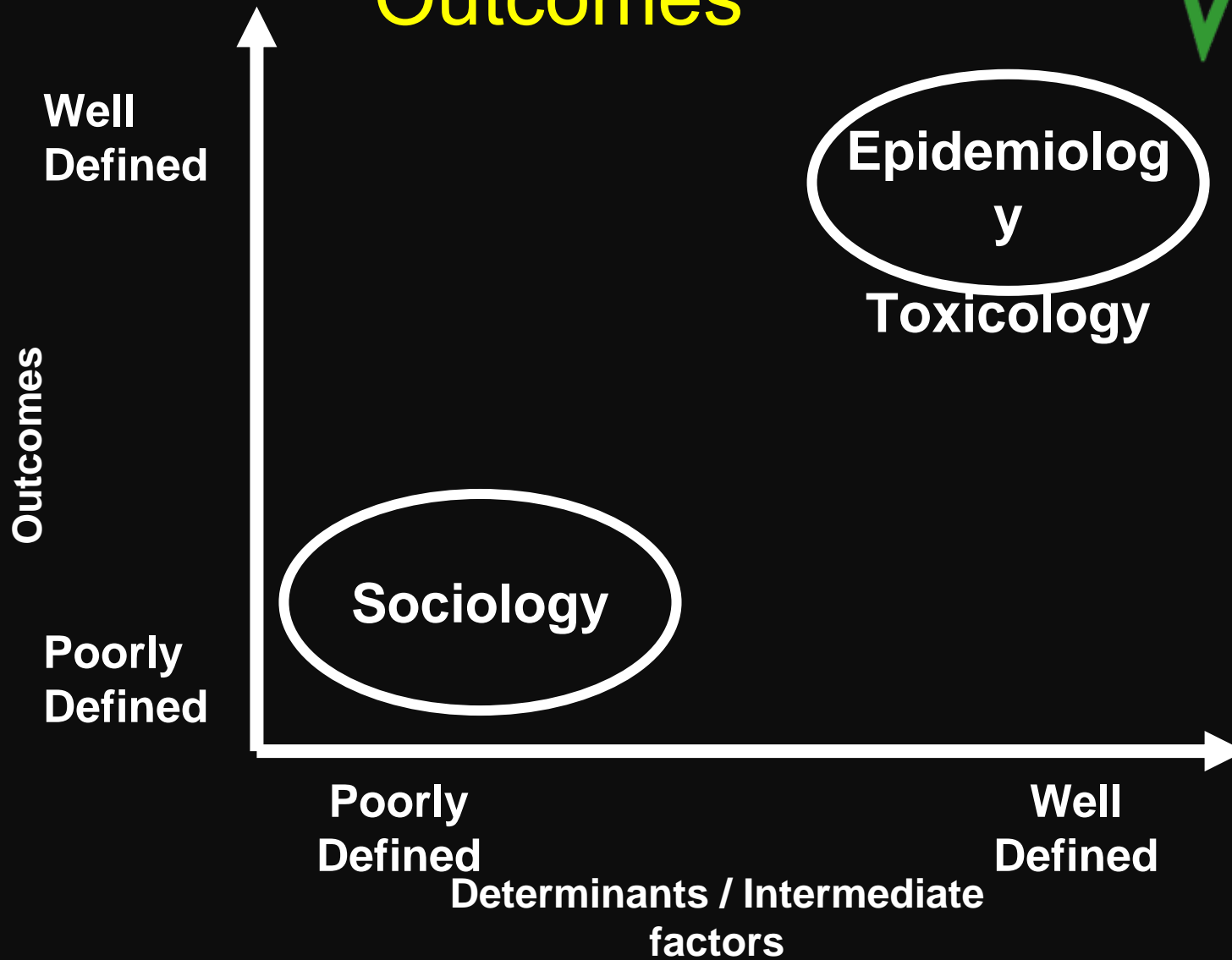
Source Berkman 1987 Rev Epid et Sante Publ 35, 46-

# Chaos

‘In chaos a little bit of uncertainty in initial conditions is quickly and enormously magnified. The system is unpredictable because the initial conditions can never be specified so precisely that you can tell where the system will end up’

Kolata G (1986) Science 231. 1068-1070

# HIA Determinants and Outcomes



# The limits of science

If residents are concerned about a possible health hazard

And you demonstrate with sound science that it does not pose any risk to health

It remains a problem because residents think it is a problem

i.e. So long as someone thinks it is a health problem it is a health problem



# Health Impact Assessment Core Values



- Equity
- Openness
- Sustainability
- Ethical use of evidence
- Broad view of health
- Best value/ Resource efficiency
- Utilitarianism

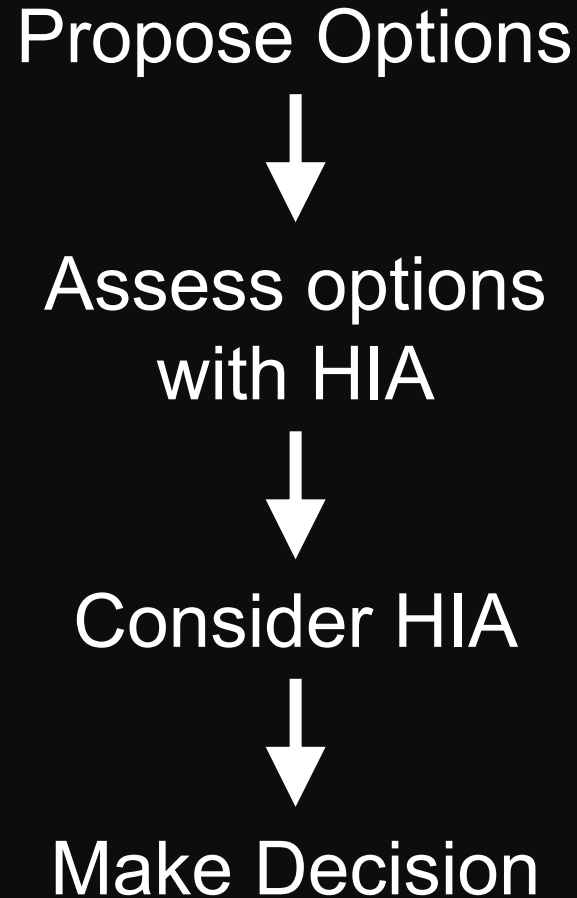
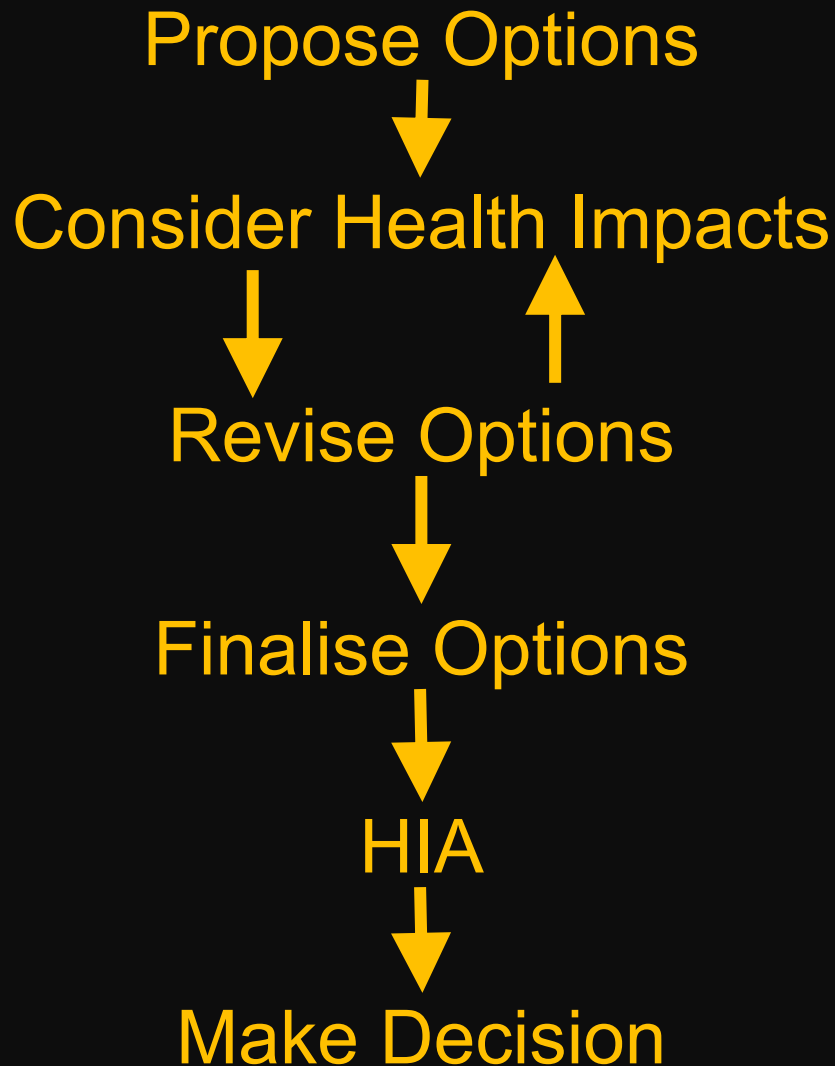
# Roles in HIA

- Proponent
  - pushing for proposal
- Assessor
  - assesses impacts
- Decision maker
  - uses impact report & decides if proposal will be allowed

# Equity of Health Impacts

- Nearly always winners and losers
- Negative impacts (if unavoidable) should fall on those best able to bear them
- Positive impacts should most benefit those with poorest health
- Compensation for negative impacts

# HIA & Decision making



# Rugby Cement proposal to use chopped tyres as fuel



# Conflict resolution

- HIA often invoked by community to stop something
- HIA increasingly invoked by proposer to justify something
- HIA is an assessment not advocacy
- Aim to be impartial
- Usually dealing with situations of unequal power

# The HIA Gateway

Managed by West Midlands Public Health Observatory on behalf of the Association of Public Health Observatories

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APHO

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## HIA Gateway

### [Health in SEA Courses](#)

Two new web-based learning courses on addressing health within Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) have been developed by the West Midlands Public Health Observatory (WMPHO). The courses are for both SEA practitioners and those with some familiarity with SEA and who wish to integrate health comprehensively into the SEA process. A one day course has been developed and piloted for trainers for delivery in-house, and the second course is for self-learners to complete the course in their own time. WMPHO, April, 2010.

### [Some Recent Additions](#)

#### [Mapping in-country partnerships: Mining Industry](#)

This report contains a desk-based mapping of partnerships from around the world, in six priority partnership themes: mining and poverty reduction; mining and economic development (revenue management); mining and economic development (regional development planning); mining and economic development (local content); mining and social investment; and mining and dispute resolution. ICMM, February 2010.

#### [Great outdoors: use of green space to improve wellbeing](#)

The report outlines the evidence that the natural



### [Register with the HIA Gateway](#)

If you register with the HIA Gateway you will get a monthly email listing all the resources added to the site over the previous month. This will cover reports, guides, tools, links, evidence, events, training courses and more.

<http://www.hiagateway.org.uk>



I propose we  
go on a quest

Should we do  
an HIA first?

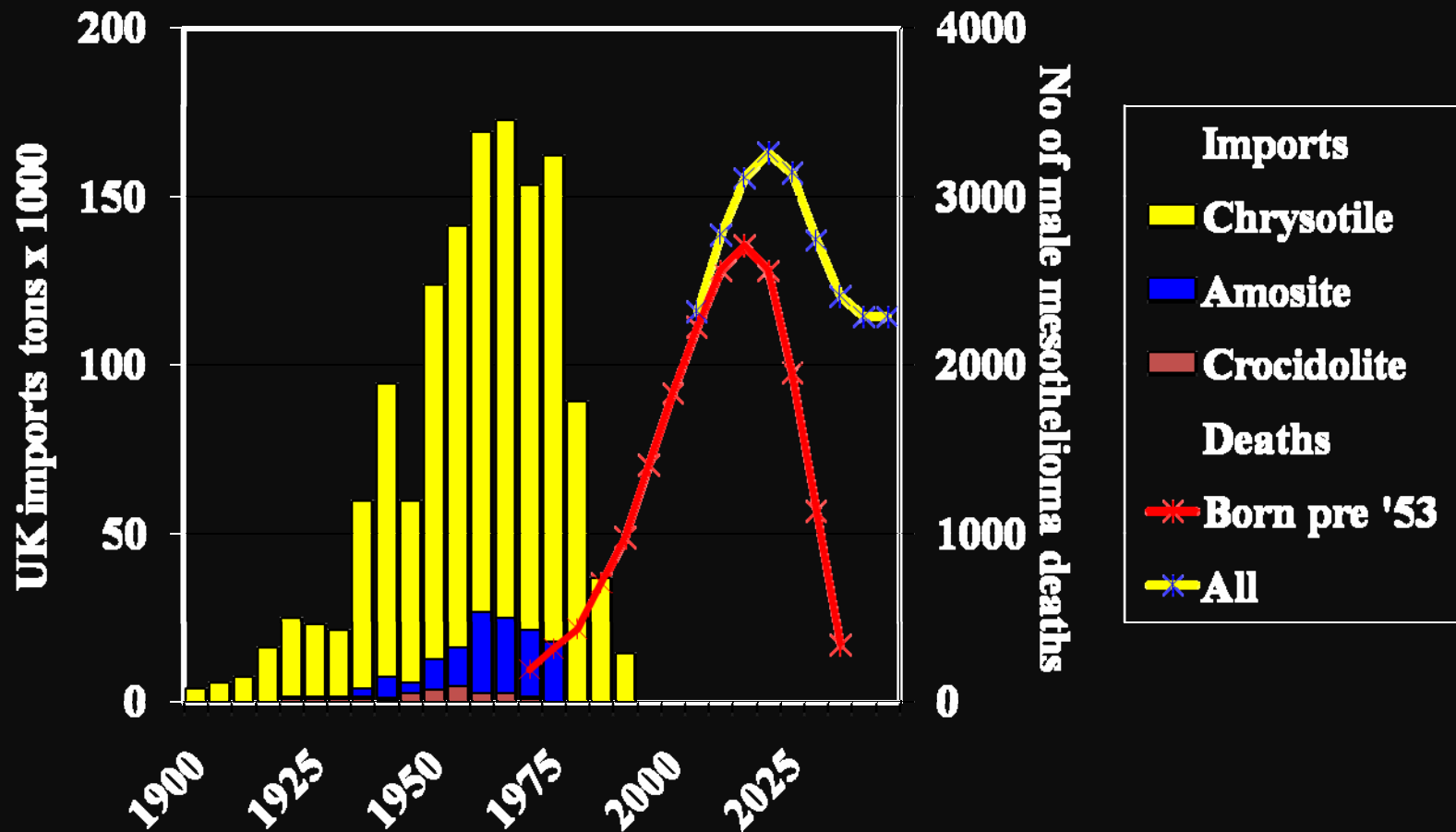




Muchas gracias por su  
atención

# Asbestos Imports & Predicted Mesothelioma deaths in UK

Peto J et al (1995) Lancet 345 535-539.



## INTERVENTION

## HEALTH OUTCOME

