

HSC 315 – Public Health  
**Department of Health Sciences**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY**

ASSIGNMENT 2  
Health Policy Issue Brief

**Problem Statement**

The lead health officer for your jurisdiction (Alameda County Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services), in collaboration with governmental representatives, wishes to create a plan of action should an epidemic of Zika occur in your constituent population (Alameda County, State of California, United States of America). You are a member of a task force that has been asked to recommend a plan for infectious disease control, based on relevant health policies and regulations. Your task force is expected to create a policy brief highlighting at least one major policy intervention (ideally, two or three) which is/are within the authority of your assigned organization – the recommendations should be quickly actionable – to promptly be put into effect once Zika infection and associated disease is found in the population whose health you are responsible for protecting. Your plan should also take into account current climate projections to estimate likelihood of the presence of Zika vectors in your jurisdiction. In other words, how should control of Zika be incorporated into climate adaptation plans for your jurisdiction?

**Assignment**

The purpose of the Health Policy Issue Brief is to clearly and succinctly convey the background and significant (context) of a particular health issue, the proposal of one or more policies to address the health concern, and the logic of and expected outcomes with implementation, regulation, or application of the proposed policy(ies).

Each group is responsible for developing a Brief that provides recommendations to administrators charged with developing policies in the most appropriate government entity for the region that they are assigned. To ensure that recommendations are able to be adopted, each group should conduct a targeted review of the relevant policies and regulations that govern public health in their assigned jurisdiction, including relevance to the specific problem raised in HSC 315 during the semester.

**Conceptual Framework**

The general framework for this assignment is Bardach's Eightfold Policy, summarized at the following link: <https://www.govloop.com/community/blog/how-to-conduct-an-effective-policy-analysis/>

The emphasis for this assignment is Step 2: "Assemble Some Evidence".

The Brief should be at least two pages and no more than four pages (without references). A key emphasis of the Brief should be on prevention rather than treatment. Based on the information provided in the background reading, there should be four distinct sections of information covered in the Brief. The following is the general outline that each group should adhere to:

### I) Problem Definition

Groups should summarize the actual and potential consequences of Zika infection at the individual and population level. Particular attention should be paid to the geography that each group's designated health organization is responsible for, including communities that may be at risk for infection and/or unique outcomes. PolicyMap should be utilized for mapping demographic and/or health data to the geographic area in your jurisdiction. There should be a description of issues related to climate (e.g., temperature levels, projections of change) that may contribute to vectors and other environmental determinants of Zika in the target population.

### II) Description of Proposed Health Policy(ies)

Once the problem is adequately defined, the Brief should transition to summarizing the existing health policies that are currently implemented in the jurisdiction that may influence the spread of Zika among the constituent population. In this section, each group should propose at least one policy that would prevent and/or decrease the potential of an epidemic of Zika infection, as well as who would be responsible for implementing and enforcing it. The Brief should identify how the recommended policy(ies) target various determinants of this infectious disease in the population. The Brief should also describe what systems and processes need to be in place for monitoring and tracking success of the proposed policy(ies).

### III) "Make the Case"

The third section of the Brief should focus on the logic and rationale for execution of the proposed policy(ies). Each group should provide data or other evidence that supports implementation to prevent disease in the designated population, including at-risk subgroups. To the greatest extent possible, the Brief should draw from successful policies in similarly-situated communities and/or existing policies that might be adaptable to characteristics and circumstances found in the constituent population. Particular attention should be paid to addressing levels of vectors associated with climate change and other environmental conditions.

### IV) Discussion of Intended / Desired Impacts

The expected goals and/or desired impacts of the policy(ies) should be included in the final section. Emphasis should be placed on which outcomes are most important to evaluate and what measurements would be used to determine success. Potential consequences of the policy action(s) should be discussed, along with resource implications. The Brief should end with a restatement of the problem and short summary of how the proposed policy(ies) would enable prevention of Zika infection at both individual and population levels, with particular emphasis on issues of climate change.

Students should use APA formatting for citations (in-text and bibliographic). Briefs should have one inch margins, be single-spaced, and use 12-point Times New Roman font. Although graphics (e.g., tables, graphs, images) are not required, they are welcomed to enhance effect of the Brief on the target audience.

Background reading: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/features/fsh-fsh0000238.pdf>

**Due: 11:59 PM on Sunday July 14, 2019 via Blackboard (one per group)**

## Rubric

	<b>Distinguished (Range: 88%-100%)</b>	<b>Proficient (Range: 75%-87%)</b>	<b>Novice (Range: 0%-74%)</b>
<b>Problem Definition (20%)</b>	<p>Sufficient and succinct synopsis of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem summarized at both the individual and population levels.</li> <li>• Constituent population and jurisdiction, with special attention given to at-risk communities and effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Policymap is utilized efficiently to explain the demographics of the jurisdiction.</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate synopsis of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem summarized at both the individual and population levels.</li> <li>• Constituent population and jurisdiction, with special attention given to at-risk communities and effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Policymap is utilized efficiently to explain the demographics of the jurisdiction.</li> </ul>	<p>Some to no synopsis of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem summarized at both the individual and population levels.</li> <li>• Constituent population and jurisdiction, with special attention given to at-risk communities and effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Policymap is utilized efficiently to explain the demographics of the jurisdiction.</li> </ul>
<b>Description of Proposed Health Policy(ies) (20%)</b>	<p>Sufficient and succinct summary and discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing health policies potentially related to Zika.</li> <li>• One or more policy(ies) are sufficiently presented, taking into account personnel, population demographics, and measures of success.</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate summary and discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing health policies potentially related to Zika.</li> <li>• One or more policy(ies) are sufficiently presented, taking into account personnel, population demographics, and measures of success.</li> </ul>	<p>Some to no summary and discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing health policies potentially related to Zika.</li> <li>• One or more policy(ies) are sufficiently presented, taking into account personnel, population demographics, and measures of success.</li> </ul>
<b>“Make the Case” (20%)</b>	<p>Sufficient and succinct argument of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The logic and rationale for execution of the proposed policy(ies), taking into account the jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Climate change and other environmental conditions particular to the proposed policy(ies).</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate argument of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The logic and rationale for execution of the proposed policy(ies), taking into account the jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Climate change and other environmental conditions particular to the proposed policy(ies).</li> </ul>	<p>Some to no argument of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The logic and rationale for execution of the proposed policy(ies), taking into account the jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Climate change and other environmental conditions particular to the proposed policy(ies).</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion of Intended / Desired Impacts (20%)</b>	<p>Sufficient and succinct discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and measurement methods for success for the policy(ies).</li> <li>• Potential consequences and resource implications.</li> <li>• Findings, including climate change implications.</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and measurement methods for success for the policy(ies).</li> <li>• Potential consequences and resource implications.</li> <li>• Findings, including climate change implications.</li> </ul>	<p>Some to no discussion of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and measurement methods for success for the policy(ies).</li> <li>• Potential consequences and resource implications.</li> <li>• Findings, including climate change implications.</li> </ul>
<b>Context / Audience (5%)</b>	<p>Material included is appropriate for high level decision makers.</p>	<p>Most of the material included is appropriate for high level decision makers.</p>	<p>Material present is not appropriate for high level decision makers, e.g. incomplete, cursory, at a basic level, etc.</p>
<b>Mechanics (5%)</b>	<p>No more than one spelling or grammar mistake.</p>	<p>Few (&lt;5) spelling or grammar mistakes.</p>	<p>Many (&gt;5) spelling or grammar mistakes.</p>
<b>References (10%)</b>	<p>All sources are appropriately cited in APA format.</p>	<p>Most sources are appropriately cited in APA format.</p>	<p>Few sources are appropriately cited in APA format.</p>