



Health Impact Reviews

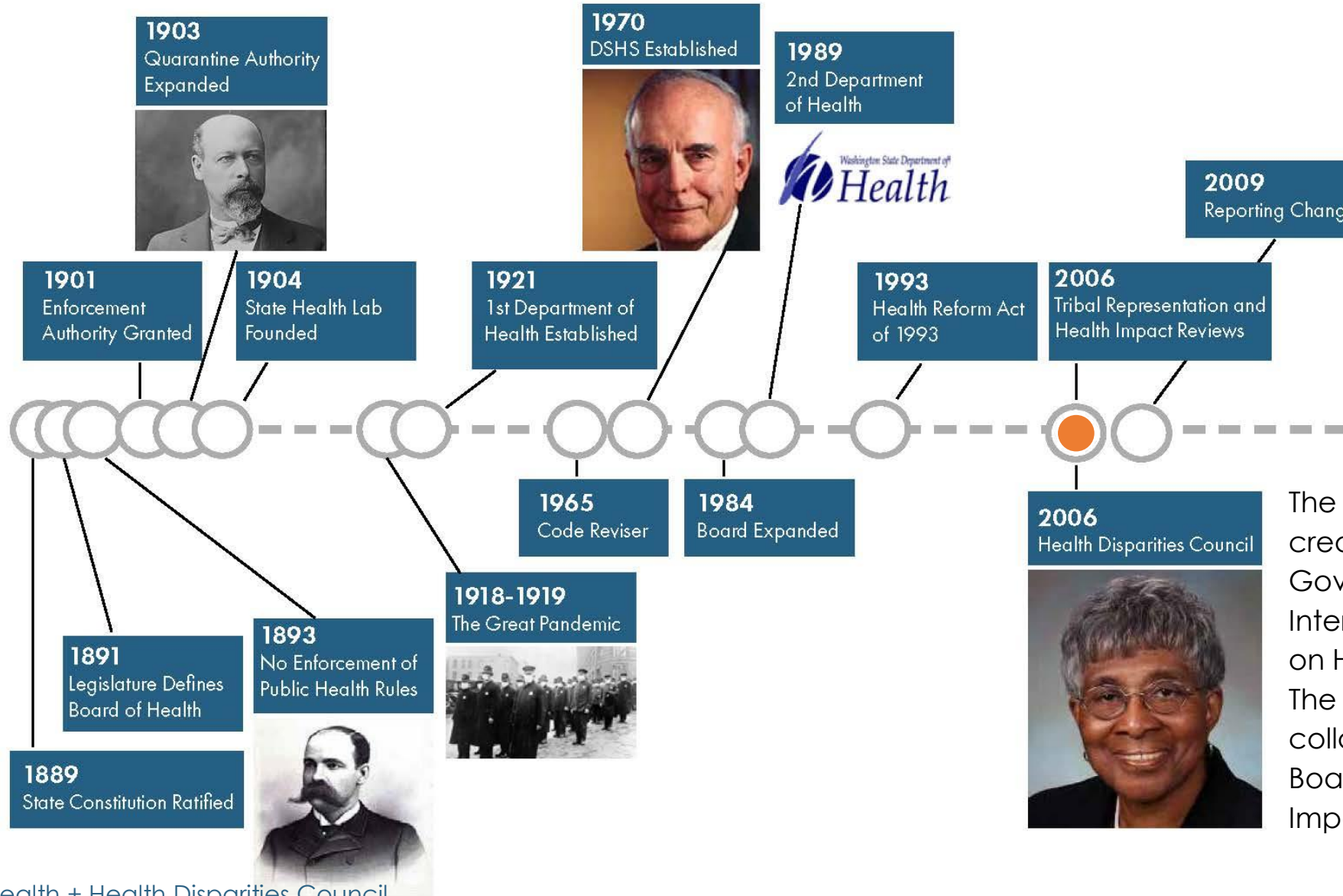
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State Board of Health and Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

May 19, 2022

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

133 Years of Public Health



The Legislature created the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Council collaborates with the Board on Health Impact Reviews.

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 Legislator 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

Levels of Key Informant Engagement



Priority Considerations for Equity

Inequities are not inherent to a person's unique identity, circumstance, or group affiliation. Rather, they are influenced by social determinants that systematically marginalize groups due to these factors. Inequities can be exacerbated or alleviated by intersecting identities and experiences.

- Age
- Behavioral health status
- Criminal legal system involvement
- Disability status
- Education
- Employment status
- Family status
- Foster care status
- Gender identity
- Geography
- Housing status
- Immigration status
- Indigeneity
- Language/literacy
- Military/veteran status
- Race/ethnicity
- Religion
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socioeconomic status
- Experience of violence

Applying an equity lens

Guiding questions that center equity are useful in identifying missing perspectives and gaps in knowledge or information. Seeking out key informants, data, and/or other sources to fill information gaps can help preemptively identify and address potential unintended consequences that could undermine equity.

- How does the proposal change the status quo?
- Who is likely to be affected by this change? (populations/groups to consider)
- Who may be affected differently by this change?
- How could this positively affect equity? Negatively affect equity?
- What unintended consequences may result from this change?
- What evidence and/or data could help us fully understand this change?
- Who could provide content expertise or context expertise to help use fully understand potential impacts of this change?

Using data to improve equity

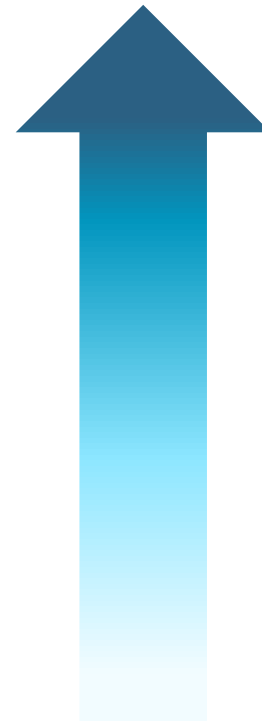
Research and data do not always assess or include information about all communities, and certain populations are more likely to be left out of research published in journals. Be thoughtful about the story that the evidence may not be telling about impacts on diverse communities. Collect evidence from a variety of sources.

- Are quantitative and/or qualitative data available?
- Who collected the data and information?
- What was the intent of data collection?
- Were all individuals given appropriate and adequate opportunity to participate and provide information? Were any groups systematically left out of data collection?
- Do data represent a variety of communities, perspectives, experiences, viewpoints, locations, etc.?
- Are data inclusive of or representative of Washington's population? Generalizable to communities likely to be impacted by the change?
- How were data reported, shared, or made available to community?
- What challenges or limitations were presented?

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

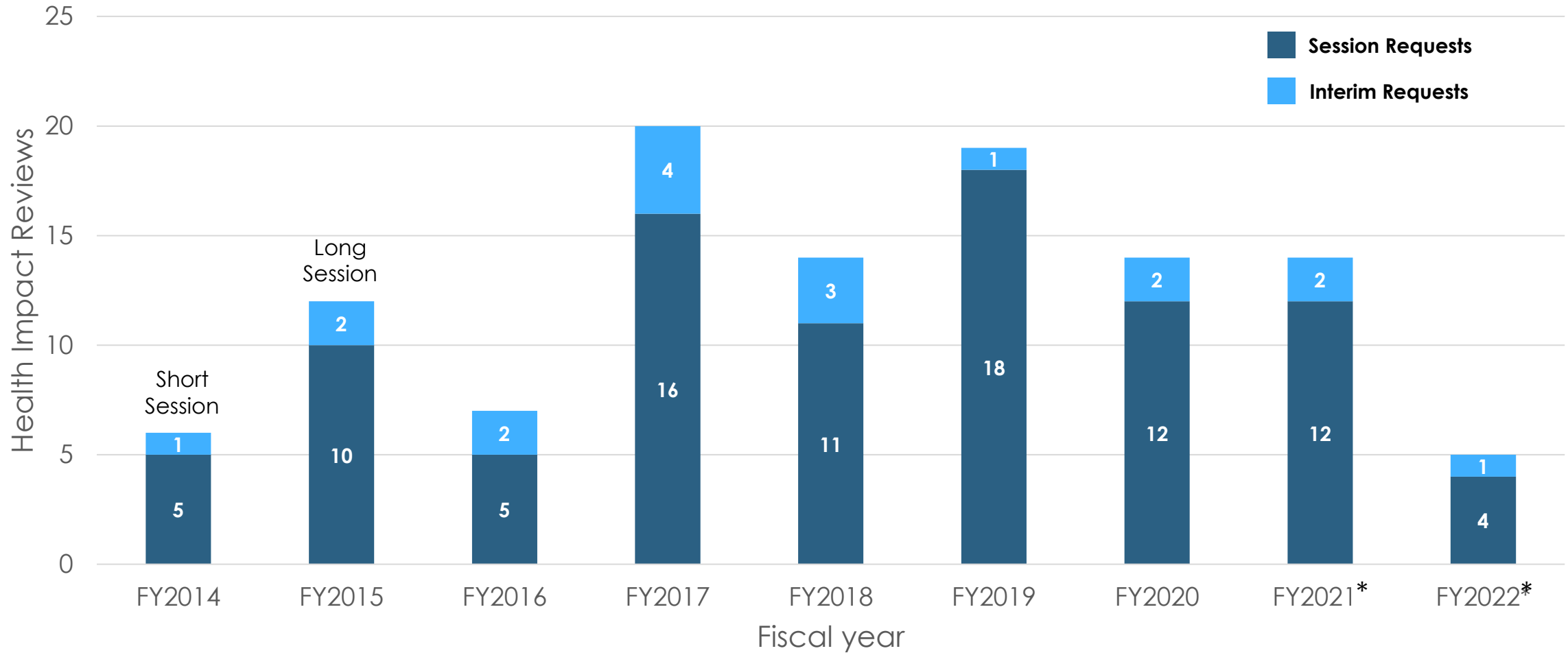
EXPERT OPINION

INFORMED ASSUMPTION

NOT WELL RESEARCHED

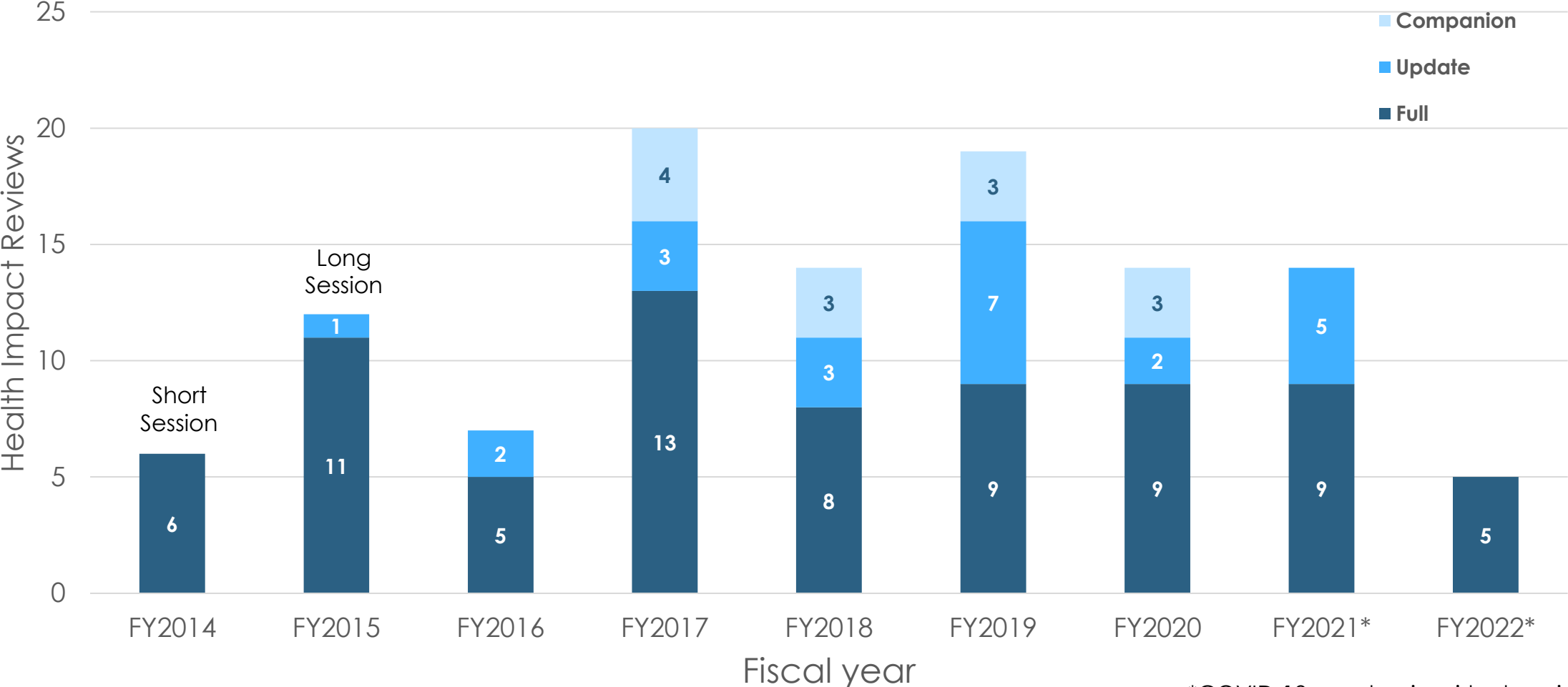
UNCLEAR

112 Completed HIRs



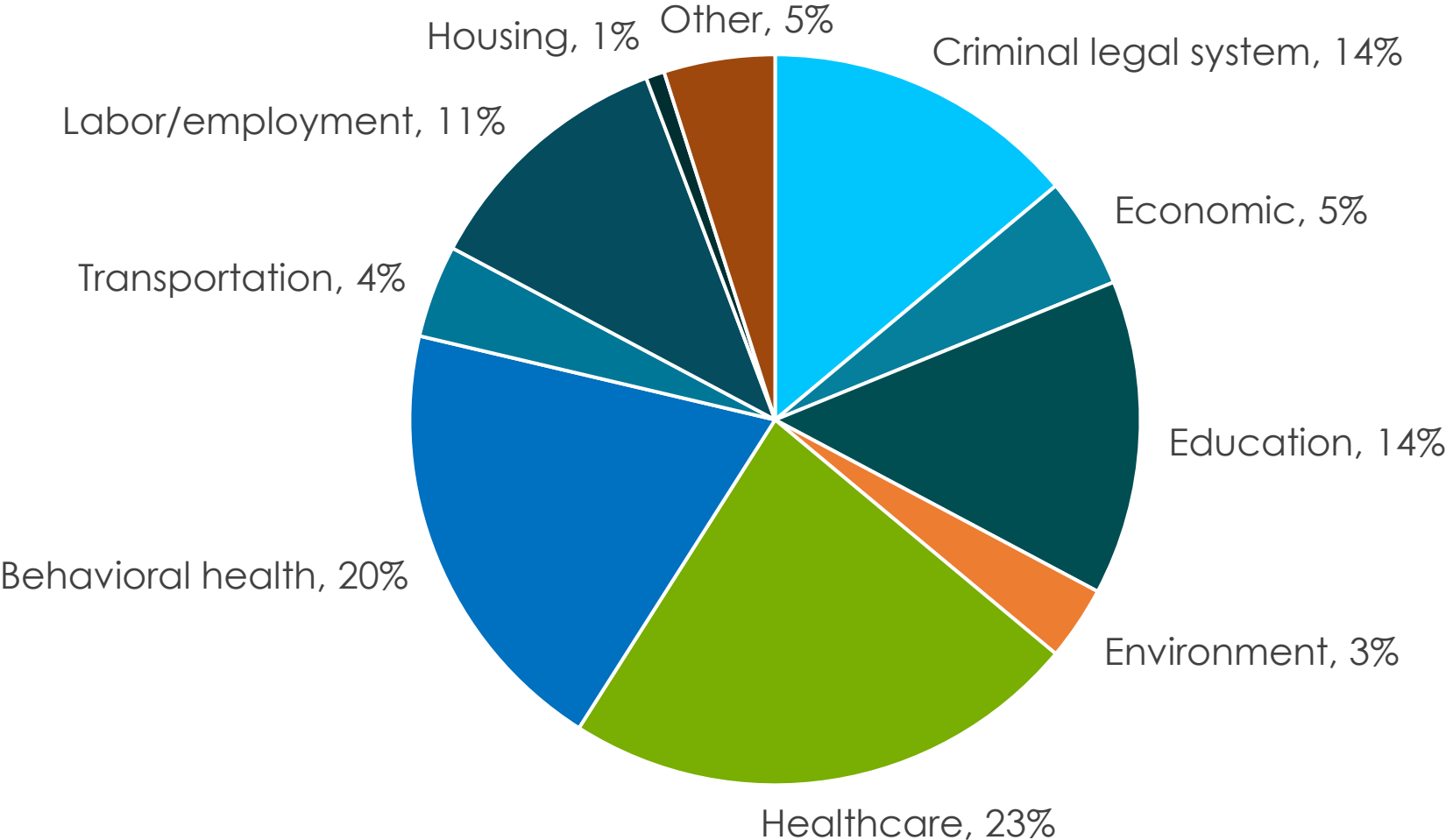
*COVID-19 pandemic, virtual session

Majority of HIRs are full reviews



*COVID-19 pandemic, virtual session

HIR Requests by Topic Area



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**
- Decide how to vote





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