Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

Just-In-Time Training
Today’s Agenda

- Background and Introduction
- Purpose of CASPER
- Methodology Overview
- Team Organization
- Packet Review
  - Selecting Households
  - Completing Forms
  - CASPER Questionnaire
- Safety in the Field
- Logistics
Introductions

Name

Is this your first community survey?
Disasters

A serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses, that exceeds the local capacity to respond and calls for external assistance.

*CDC/WHO
Disaster/Event Background
**Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)**

- **ONE** type of RNA
- Provides **household-based** information about a community, quickly and at low-cost
- Used in **both disaster and non-disaster** settings
- Quick, reliable public health and basic needs data to **inform** decision-makers
- **Is generalizable, flexible**, and uses **simple** reporting format
- **Cluster sample methodology** – two stage (30x7) design
- Results are descriptive of the **entire sampling area**
Goals of CASPER

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<th>Obtain</th>
<th>Produce</th>
<th>Assess</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rapidly obtain information about the needs of a community</td>
<td>Produce population-based estimates for decision-makers</td>
<td>Assess new or changing needs</td>
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</table>
What CASPER is NOT

• NOT intended to deliver food, medicine, medical services, or other resources to the affected area
• NOT intended to provide direct services to residents such as cleanup or home repair
• NOT able to determine why people are not returning to the community, nor to establish current population estimates
CASPER Phases

**PREPARE**
- Objectives
- Assessment area
- Forms (survey, etc.)
- 1st stage sampling (30 clusters)

**CONDUCT**
- Just-in-time training
- Interview teams
- 2nd stage sampling (7 households)

**ANALYZE**
- Weighted data
- Tracking form

**REPORT**
- Interpret data
- Write report
- Share results
Goals and Objectives
CASPER Methodology Overview

- Two-stage probability sampling
  - 30 clusters 7 households
- Household interview
- Data weighting to obtain population estimates
- Report generated within 36 hours of data collection and shared with key stakeholders and decision-makers
CASPER Team Composition

- “Diverse” teams of two
  - Locals with non-locals
  - Avoid male-male teams
  - Experience with less experience
  - At least one person must have a car

- Remember, be flexible!

Please check-in your team and receive your assigned cluster packet. Please be patient and take a break while the sign-in process is being completed.
Introduction to CASPER Packet

• In your CASPER Packet you should find
  • Maps of your cluster(s)
    • The map number(s) should correspond with the number(s) written on the outside of your folder
  • 1 consent form in a plastic cover
    • Numerous additional consent forms
  • At least 7 questionnaires per cluster
  • At least 2 tracking forms per cluster
  • Handful of referral forms (approximately 3)
Stage 2: Systematic Sampling of Households

- Randomly choose a starting point (e.g., intersection) prior to heading into the field

- Select the nearest house, then every $n$th house after

- Choose $n$ based on the size of the cluster
  - Look at the approximate number of households found on the map
    - If 23 households, $23/7=3$ ... select every $3^{rd}$ household – If 10 or less households, go to every one!
    - Apartment complexes: each unit is a separate household
  - Once you pick a number, stick to that number!

- The goal is to be sure interviews are spread out across the cluster
Example: Selecting Households to Interview

- 24 chocolates in the box
- You want to randomly eat 7
- \( \frac{24}{7} = 3.3 \)
- \( N = 3 \)
Example: Selecting Households to Interview
Example: Selecting Households to Interview
Tips: Selecting Households to Interview

• **Apartment complexes**
  • Approximate number of households by counting on one floor and multiplying by the number of floors
  • High rises: randomly select 7 floors then get an interview on each floor
  • Mixed clusters: attempt houses first then move to apartment complex
    • Goal is to have interviews spread out in the cluster

• Replacing households only if *vacant, refused, or after THIRD attempt with no answer*

• Always call headquarters if there are any questions

• **REMEMBER TO TRACK ALL HOUSEHOLDS!!!**
Tips: Replacing Households

- ONLY replace households if
  - VACANT,
  - REFUSES, or
  - no answer after THREE attempts
Things to Avoid

CONVENIENCE SAMPLING  TARGET SAMPLING  SEQUENTIAL SAMPLING  POOR RECORD KEEPING

Remember: an individual can choose the clusters, but random selection of households is the responsibility of the whole team!
Tracking Form

• Used for tracking *every* household sampled
• Each cluster is collected on a separate form
• Allows for calculation of response rates
Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER): Tracking Form

City: [Cluster # (i.e., 1-30): 13] # of Houses in the Cluster: 53  Team: dinosaur  Date of Interview: 5/12/17

**Instructions:** Use one tracking form per cluster. Check where appropriate, but try to choose only one best option for each of the five categories. Go as far down the list as possible for each site you visit. Use neighbors to find information if no resident is available.

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Make sure to track EVERY visit!
Tracking Form

Write information to identify households to return to or any notes that you may need to take (e.g., why the household is inaccessible) on the back of the form.

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER): Notes

Instructions: Use this page to keep notes on which houses may need return visits.

Sampled Households

1. 2-story with green roof and rock garden — Spanish, come back after 5:30pm
2. 3 big scary dogs w/no trespassing sign

CALL TONIGHT 9:00pm - 123.555.4356
3. Red door, large gnome on the porch
4. Mc Mansion on the corner
5. Dark brown with white awning
6. Unique house w/columns in front & Christmas decorations still up

7. 12 flag in window (go hawks!) bamboo garden on side
Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

Good afternoon, my name is _______ and this is _______. We are with the Mariposa County Health Department. We are talking to randomly selected households about their experiences regarding the drought in Mariposa County.

- We are talking to residents about how the drought has affected them and how they are responding to the drought.
- We want to get an idea of how the county can better serve residents that are affected by the drought.
- Your house is one of 210 that has been randomly chosen to be in this survey.
- If you agree to participate, we will not ask you any personal questions such as those about education or place of birth. All the questions are about your entire household.
- The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Your answers will be kept private and the survey is voluntary and anonymous. You can refuse to take part in the survey or refuse to answer any of the questions. Nothing will happen to you or your household if you choose not to take part in the survey.
- We also have some information we would like to leave with you from the County that may be of interest to you and your household.

If you have any questions about this survey, you can ask anyone here right now. If you would like to confirm that we were sent by the Health Department, you may call the Health Department at 209-966-3689 or 800-459-4466.

[Surveyor: Wait for respondent to clearly answer YES or NO after each question below]

1. Would you like to participate in this survey? Yes ___ No ___
2. Do you live in this home? Yes ___ No ___
   a. If “No”: Is there someone else who lives in this home that we can speak to? Yes ___ No ___
3. Are you at least 18 years or older? Yes ___ No ___
   a. If “No”: Is there someone else who lives in this home that we can speak to? Yes ___ No ___

[Conduct interview if respondent answered yes to all three questions]

[If NOT, tell them: Thank you very much for your time.]

Consent Script

- Consent script = intro to the CASPER
- Verbal consent is sufficient
  - No personal identifiers collected
- Provide household with copy
- Consent script contains
  - Who you are
  - Why you are there
  - How long it will take
  - Explicit request for consent – PLEASE WAIT
  - Phone number for verification or questions
Confidential Referral Form

- Report urgent household need(s)
- May need to pass personal identifying information to health department or other agency
- Will illicit immediate follow up
Providing Public Health Information
Questionnaire

- Review questionnaire
- Clarification of specific questions
  - Intent of question
  - Explanation of skip patterns
- Tips for completion
- Interviewing
  - Empathy and Respect are key
  - Remind the participant that all answers are confidential
  - Be confident
  - STANDARDIZE
Standardization

Why Standardize Procedures

- Increases reliability of data
- Allows others to replicate findings
- Easier to explain findings
- Helpful to identify sources of bias/error

Why Standardization is Difficult

- Situation is artificial
- Using a script can be awkward
- Tempting to change content
Standardization Procedures

Tips for standardization

• Ask the question in the *same order* with the *exact wording*
• Don’t prefill questions or finish respondents sentences
• Read the entire question
• Record answers verbatim

Departures from standardization

• Changing wording = asking different questions
• If respondents have difficulty...pause!
• Document any departures

*Standardization increases reliability of data*
Ending the CASPER Interview

• Thank for participation!
• Offer how and when results will be available
• Check the entire questionnaire before leaving
• Re-check the questionnaire and tracking form once you leave the household
Safety First!

Watch out for domestic/wild animals

No trespassing vs no solicitation

Personal safety

• Only enter a household if both you and your partner feel comfortable to do so
  • Decide this now
    • IF you enter a household, stay in the entryway closest to door
  • Know your limitations
  • Drink plenty of water
When You Return

Review all forms – please be patient!

Return supplies to the team leads

Check out

Clarify any unknowns in the questionnaire with the team leaders (e.g., missing, illegible)

Wait for the leaders to check correct completion of the tracking form

Submit any referral forms
Team Member Responsibilities

• Remain flexible – 2 person team
• Think safety
• Understand the objectives
• Adhere to the methodology
  • Map – sample validity
  • Interview – data quality
  • Tracking form – representativeness
  • Data entry - timeliness
• Be respectful
• Understand personal limitations
Logistics

- Please CALL/TEXT HEADQUARTERS (NAME - NUMBER)
  - When arrive in cluster
  - After your second interview
  - If you have ANY questions
  - If you have any media encounters (please do not talk to the media)

- Please leave your cluster at sundown (TIME pm)

- We will meet tomorrow at headquarters at TIME pm
Contact Numbers

- NAME  Number
- NAME  Number