

Utilization of the CASPER Survey Tool in Riley County, Kansas

Jason DeFisher and Ellyn R. Mulcahy, PhD, MPH

Background

- The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Survey Tool was created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to quickly gather data regarding public health needs.
- Since creation of the CASPER survey tool, it has been used in both emergency situations and everyday data collection.
- This project involved the adaptation of the CASPER tool for use with the Riley County Health Department (RCHD) to provide data for Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) or future use in emergencies.

About the CASPER

- The CASPER Survey Tool was first designed as a rapid needs assessment that utilized a two-stage cluster method which was popularly used in the early 2000s.
- The CDC has provided support and updates for their CASPER toolkit since 2001. Support includes technical assistance from CDC personnel as well as a comprehensive guide to CASPER surveys published on the CDC website.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Utilization of the CASPER Survey Tool in Riley County, Kansas

Jason DeFisher and Ellyn R. Mulcahy, PhD, MPH

Why CASPER?

- The two-stage cluster method used in CASPER surveys allows for reduced bias when surveying the community. Each section of the community, city, or county has the same chance to be randomly selected when choosing 30 sections to survey.
- The CASPER survey is a rapid needs assessment that allows the surveyors to quickly collect and analyze large amounts of data regarding the community's health.

The Project - Methods

- Adaptation of the CDC's comprehensive CASPER guide to a protocol more appropriate for Riley County, Kansas.
- Protocol development included (1) literature review of previous CASPER surveys in Hawaii, Texas, and West Virginia, and (2) review of the CASPER guide.
- Supplemental document templates including press releases, final reports, and training presentations were created to expedite future CASPER surveys.

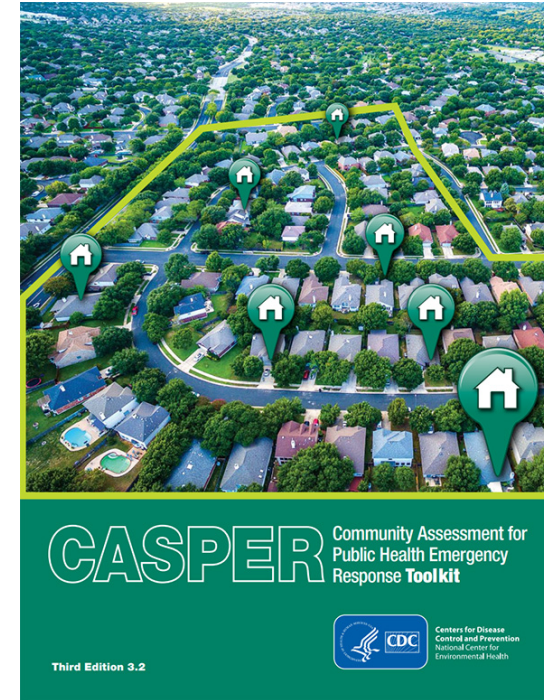


Utilization of the CASPER Survey Tool in Riley County, Kansas

Jason DeFisher and Ellyn R. Mulcahy, PhD, MPH

Results and Next Steps

- The supplementary documentation and basic protocol have been completed, the next step in this ongoing work is to test the protocol.
- The anticipated test CASPER survey is planned to be 10% of the scale, with only 3 sections of Manhattan, Kansas randomly selected rather than 30 sections per the CDC CASPER guide.
- The scale of this test is designed to allow for each step of the CASPER process to be tested in order to identify weak points or areas to improve. No report will be published, but a mock report will be created to finish the test.



Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Mr. Ed Kalas, Riley County Health Department

Contact:

Jason DeFisher (jrdefish@ksu.edu)

