# Integrated Learning Experience: Riley County Health Department & Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Sierrah Haas

Master of Public Health Candidate
Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses



## MPH Committee



Dr. Ellyn R. Mulcahy



Dr. Robert Larson



Dr. Katherine Nelson

#### **Academic Timeline**

BS in Public Health, SUNY Albany, 2018 -2021

MPH Program Entrance, Fall 2021 APE and ILE, October 2022 - February 2023











Intern,
NYSDOH &
Health
Research Inc.,
Spring 2021

Graduate
Assistant,
November
2021 - Present



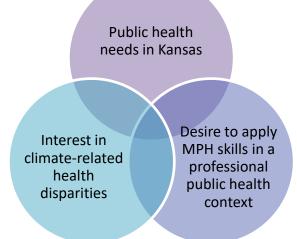
#### **Experience Overview**

#### **Riley County Health Department (65%)**

- Preceptor: Ms. Skylar German
- County level public health operations
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Community outreach

#### Kansas Department of Health & Environment (35%)

- Preceptor: Dr. Steven Corbett
- Preliminary study
- Introduction to mapping data





#### Overall Learning Objectives



Understand public health emergency preparedness and emergency response processes at the county level in KS.

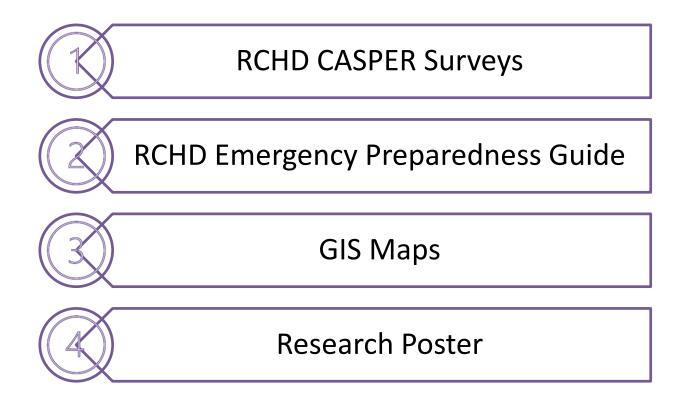


Locate KS census tracts of focus to direct public health resources through a spatial analysis of extreme heat data and potentially related health outcomes.



Propose improvements in the distribution of public health emergency preparedness resources and education in Kansas.

#### Overview of Portfolio Products





#### Experience Part 1: RCHD activities

- Attended meetings
- Completed online public health trainings
- Participated in community outreach events
- Reviewed emergency preparedness documentation
- Assisted with virus testing



#### RCHD Product 1: CASPER Surveys

- Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response
- CDC methodology
- Household level surveys used to assess public health response and preparedness needs in the event of external stressors
- Survey 1: Preparedness

Demographi	c Information
Q1. Type of structure GSingle family \(\to\)Multiple unit \(\to\)Mobile bome \(\to\)Other (please specify) \(\to\)DK \(\to\)RF  Q2. Including yourself, how many people live in your HH? \(\to\)DK \(\to\)RF	Q8. How often in the past 12 months would you say your HH was worried or stressed about having enough money to buy nutritious meals? Would you say your HH was worried or stressed □Always □Usually □Sometimes □Rarely □Never □DK □RF  Q9. Does your current homeowner's insurance policy cover □. Flood damage □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Fire damage □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Tornado damage □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q3. Including yourself, how many people living in your HH are □Less than 2 years old □2-17 years □18-64 years □65+ years □DK □RF	4. Straight wind damage DYes INNo DDK GRF Q10. Have you or a member of your HH ever been told by a healthcare professional that he/she has 1. Asthma/COPD/Emphysema DYes GNO DDK GRF 2. Diabetes OYEs GNO DDK GRF 3. Developmental disability OYEs GNO DDK GRF 4. Hypertension/heart disease GYES GNO DDK GRF 5. Immunosuppressed CYES GNO DDK GRF 6. Physical disability GYES GNO DDK GRF 7. Psychosocial/mental illness CYES GNO DDK GRF 7. Psychosocial/mental illness CYES GNO DDK GRF
Q4. What race does majority of your HH identify with? □Asian □American Indian/Alaska Native □Black or African American □White □Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □Hispanic or Latino □DK □RF	Q11. Do you or does any member of your HH need  1. Daily medication CYes CNo CDK CRF  2. Dialysis CYes CNo CDK CRF  3. Home health care CYes CNo CDK CRF  4. Oxygen supply CYes CNo CDK CRF  5. Wheelchair/cane/walker CYes CNo CDK CRF  6. Other type of special care CYes CNO CDK CRF  6. Other type of special care CYes CNO CDK CRF
Q5. What is the main language spoken in your HH? □English □Spanish □Other (please specify) □DK □RF  Q6. What is the marital status of your head of HH?	Q12. In the past 5 years, have you or anybody in your HH taken training in  1. First aid □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. CPR □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. CERT □Yes □No □DK □RF  Q13. In the past year, have you reviewed, created, or practiced
Married/unmarried couple □Separated/divorced □Widowed □Never married □DK □RF	emergency plans with your HH?  □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q7. How often in the past 12 months would you say your HH was worried or stressed about having enough money to pay your rent/mortgage? Would you say your HH was worried or stressed □Always □Usually □Sometimes □Rarely □Never □DK □RF	Q14. How would you classify your HH's overall emergency preparedness?  □Not at all prepared □Slightly prepared □Moderately prepared □Very prepared □DK □RF
	nications
Q15. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following:  1. Impaired hearing OYSe □NO □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □YSe □NO □DK □RF  3. Developmental Cognitive disability □YSe □NO □DK □RF  4. Difficulty understanding begish □YSe □NO □DK □RF  5. Difficulty understanding written material □YSE □NO □DK □RF  Q16. What is your HH's main source of information about disasters or emergency events? (Check one) □Newspaper □TV □Radio □Internet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth □social media □Text message/Cel phone alert □Church/Place of worship □Other (please specify) □DK □RF	Q17. Is your HH aware of the following materials to better prepare you and your family for a natural disaster or other significant event?
Situational Preparedness	
Q18. Does your HH have any of the following emergency plans  1. Emergency communication plan such as a list of numbers and designated out-of-town contact □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Designated meeting place immediately outside your home or close by in your neighborhood □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Designated meeting place outside of your neighborhood in case you cannot return home □Yes □No □DK □RF	



## **CASPER Survey 2: Tornado Response**

Survey to assess household needs following a tornado.

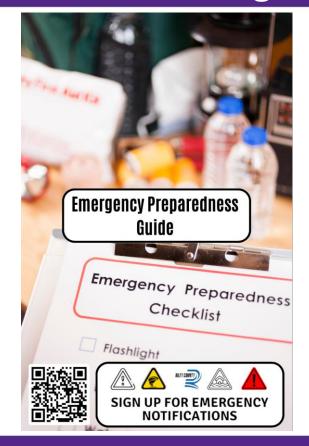
Demographi	c Information
Q1. Type of structure \( \text{Single family } \( \text{Multiple unit } \( \text{Mobile} \)	Q7. Since the tornado, how concerned would you say your HH is
home Other (please specify) DK DRF	about having enough money to buy nutritious meals?   Not at all
nonie Botilei (piease specify)Bok BKF	concerned  Slightly concerned  Moderately concerned  Very
	concerned DK DRF
02	
Q2. Including yourself, how many people live in your HH?	Q8. Does your homeowner's insurance policy cover
□DK □RF	<ol> <li>Flood damage □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
	Fire damage □Yes □No □DK □RF
	<ol> <li>Tornado damage □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
	<ol> <li>Straight wind damage □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
O3. Including yourself, how many people living in your HH are	Q9. Have you or a member of your HH ever been told by a
□Less than 2 years old □2-17 years □18-64 years □65+ years □DK	healthcare professional that he/she has
□RF	Asthma/COPD/Emphysema □Yes □No □DK □RF
	Diabetes □Yes □No □DK □RF
	3. Developmental disability \( \text{Yes} \( \text{DN} \) \( \text{DK} \( \text{DR} \)
	4. Hypertension/heart disease \(\text{Yes}\) \(\text{No}\) \(\text{DR}\) \(\text{RF}\)
	5. Immunosuppressed □Yes □No □DK □RF
	Physical disability □Yes □No □DK □RF
	<ol> <li>Psychosocial/mental illness □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
	*If yes, have you or a member of your HH noticed worsening of
	chronic conditions following the tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q4. What race does majority of your HH identify with?	Q10. Do you or does any member of your HH need
□American Indian/Alaska Native □Black or African American	Daily medication □Yes □No □DK □RF
□White □Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □Hispanic or	Dialysis □Yes □No □DK □RF
Latino DK GRF	Home health care □Yes □No □DK □RF
Laulio DDK DKI	Oxygen supply □Yes □No □DK □RF
	Wheelchair/cane/walker \( \text{Yes} \) \( \text{NN} \) \( \text{DK} \) \( \text{RF} \)
	6. Other type of special care □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q5. What is the main language spoken in your HH? □English	Q11. In the past 5 years, have you or anybody in your HH taken
□Spanish □Other (please specify) □DK □RF	training in
	<ol> <li>First aid □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
	2. CPR □Yes □No □DK □RF
	<ol> <li>CERT □Yes □No □DK □RF</li> </ol>
Q6. Since the tornado, how concerned would you say your HH is	Q12. Have the members of your HH received a tetanus shot in the
about having enough money to pay your rent/mortgage?   Not at	last 10 years? □Yes □No □DK □RF
all concerned  Slightly concerned  Moderately concerned  Very	lust to years. If the direct direct direct
concerned DK DRF	
	eds Assessment
Q13. Was anyone in your HH injured during the tornado?   Yes	Q17. Does your HH currently have a 3-day supply of drinking
□No □DK □RF	water other than tap? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q14. Have you or anyone in your HH become ill due to or since	Q18. Does your HH current have a 3-day supply of non-perishable
the tomado? □Yes □No □DK □RF	food? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q15. Are you or anyone in you HH having trouble getting the care	Q19. Does each person in your HH who takes prescribed
they need? □Yes □No □DK □RF	medication currently have a 7-day supply? □Yes □No □DK □RF
	Q20. Does your HH currently have a first aid kit? \( \text{Yes} \) \( \text{No} \) \( \text{DK} \)
Q16. Has there been an increase in insect bites/stings since the	DRF
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF	DRF Dications
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF Commu	nications
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commu  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the	nications  Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information?
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commu  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?	nications  Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information?  □Newspaper □TV □Radio □Internet/Online news
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commu  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF	nications  Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? □Newspaper □TV □Radio □Internet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth □social media □Text
Ormado? DYS DNO DDK DRF  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing DYS DNO DDK DRF  2. Impaired vision DYS DNO DDK DRF	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? □Newspaper cTV cRadio clatternet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth csocial media cText message/Cell phone alert Cchurch/Place of worship cOther
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commit  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF	nications  Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? □Newspaper □TV □Radio □Internet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth □social media □Text
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF  4. Difficulty understanding English ○Yes □No □DK □RF	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? c:Newspaper c:TV c:Radio c:Internet(Online news c:Friends/Family/Word of mouth c:social media c:Text message/C:El phone alert C:Durch/Pilece of worship :DOther
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF  4. Difficulty understanding English ○Yes □No □DK □RF	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? □Newspaper cTV cRadio clatternet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth csocial media cText message/Cell phone alert Cchurch/Place of worship cOther
tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commit  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information? □Newspaper cTV cRadio clatternet/Online news □Friends/Family/Word of mouth csocial media cText message/Cell phone alert Cchurch/Place of worship cOther
Tornado? □Yes □No □DK □RF  Commu  Q21. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF  4. Difficulty understanding English □Yes □No □DK □RF  5. Difficulty understanding written material □Yes □No □DK □RF  CRF	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information?  ::Newspaper::TV ::Radio ::Internet/Online news ::Friends/Family/Word of mouth ::social media ::Text message/Cell phone alert ::Church/Place of worship ::Other
Commit Option (2) Commit Opti	nications Q23. What is your HH's current source of important information?  ::Newspaper::TV ::Radio ::Internet/Online news ::Friends/Family/Word of mouth ::social media ::Text message/Cell phone alert ::Church/Place of worship ::Other

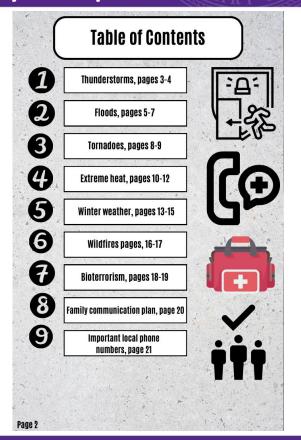
#### CASPER Survey 3: Flood Response

Survey to assess household needs following a flood.

Demographic Information	
Q1. Type of structure □Single family □Multiple unit □Mobile home □Other (please specify) □DK □RF	Q7. Since the flood, how concerned would you say your HH is about having enough money to buy nutritious meals? \(^\Delta\) Not at all concerned \(^\Delta\)Slightly concerned \(^\Delta\) Moderately concerned \(^\Delta\)Very concerned \(^\Delta\) RF
Q2. Including yourself, how many people live in your HH?DK DRF	Q8. Does your current homeowner's insurance policy cover  1. Flood damage □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Fire damage □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q3. Including yourself, how many people living in your HH are class stan 2 years old c2-17 years c18-64 years c65+ years cDK cRF	Q9. Have you or a member of your HH ever been told by a healthcare professional that he/she has  1. Asthma/COPD/Emphysema eYes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  2. Diabetes α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  3. Developmental disability α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  4. Hypertension/heart disase α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  5. Immunosuppressed α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  6. Physical disability α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  7. Psychosocial/mental illness α/Yes α/Nο α/DK α/RF  *If yes, have you or a member of your HH noticed worsening of erhonic conditions following the flood's α/Yes Ω/Nο α/DK α/RF
Q4. What race does majority of your HH identify with? αAsian cAmerican Indian/Alaska Native DBlack or African American a White □Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □Hispanic or Latino □DK □RF	Q10. Do you or does any member of your HH need 1. Daily medication DYEs of No CDM cRF 2. Dialysis □Yes □No □DK cRF 3. Home health care □Yes □No □DK cRF 4. Oxygen supply □Yes □No □DK cRF 5. Wheelchair/cane/walker □'Yes □No □DK cRF 6. Other type of special care □Yes □No □DK cRF
Q5. What is the main language spoken in your HH? □English □Spanish □Other (please specify) □DK □RF	Q11. In the past 5 years, have you or anybody in your HH taken training in  1. First aid DYS DNO DDK DRF  2. CPR DYS DNO DDK DRF  3. CERT DYS DNO DDK DRF
Q6. Since the flood, how concerned would you say your HH is about having enough money to pay your rent/mortgage? □Not at all concerned □Slightly concerned □Moderately concerned □Very concerned □DK □RF	Q12. Have the members of your HH received a tetanus shot in the last 10 years? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Situational Ne	eds Assessment
Q13. Was anyone in your HH injured during the flood? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No $\Box$ DK $\Box$ RF	Q19. Does your HH currently have a 3-day supply of drinking water other than tap? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q14. Have you or anyone in your HH become ill due to or since the flood? □Yes □No □DK □RF	Q20. Does your HH currently have a 3-day supply of non- perishable food? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q15. Are you or anyone in you HH having trouble getting the care they need? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No $\Box$ DK $\Box$ RF	Q21. Does each person in your HH who takes prescribed medication currently have a 7-day supply? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q16. Has there been an increase in insect bites/stings since the flood? □Yes □No □DK □RF	Q22. Does your HH currently have a first aid kit? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q17. Does your HH currently have a working toilet? □Yes □No □DK □RF	Q23. Does your HH currently have working electricity? □Yes □No □DK □RF
Q18. Does your HH currently have means of regular waste disposal? □Yes □No □DK □RF	Q24. Has your HH noticed an increase in the number of rats/mice? □Yes □No □DK □RF
To the following the second se	nications
Q25. Do you or does anyone in your HH have any of the following?  1. Impaired hearing □Yes □No □DK □RF  2. Impaired vision □Yes □No □DK □RF  3. Developmental/cognitive disability □Yes □No □DK □RF  4. Difficulty understanding English □Yes □No □DK □RF  5. Difficulty understanding written material □Yes □No □DK □RF	Q26. Does your HH currently have a working telephone? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No $\Box$ DK $\Box$ RF

#### RCHD Product 2: Emergency Preparedness Guide





#### Experience Part 2: KDHE

- Data sorting & review
- Online GIS trainings
- Preliminary study
  - Extreme Heat, Social Vulnerability, and Respiratory Health in Kansas: A Census Tract-Level Analysis



#### An introduction to the problem

## Extreme heat and respiratory illness.

US studies have shown that extreme heat events are associated with an increasing number of poor respiratory health outcomes, particularly in vulnerable populations (1).

# Social vulnerability and respiratory health.

Social vulnerability is a major determinant of health. In an analysis of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and chronic respiratory disease mortality in the US, high overall SVI was associated with increased mortality related to several respiratory diseases including asthma and COPD (2).

#### **Extreme heat frequency.**

The severity and frequency of extreme heat days are increasing, making it a crucial effort to fully understand the relationships between extreme heat, social vulnerability, and respiratory health (3).



#### An introduction to the problem: Specific to KS

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kansas temperatures have risen approximately 1.5°F, and are predicted to continue rising (4). There is a lack of heatrelated mortality reporting methodology in Kansas, making it difficult to understand the direct impact of heat on mortality in the state (5). Kansas asthma and COPD crude prevalence values are not significantly higher than the national averages but, these values have been continuously increasing, indicating that there is work to be done to decrease the burden of chronic respiratory disease in Kansas (6).

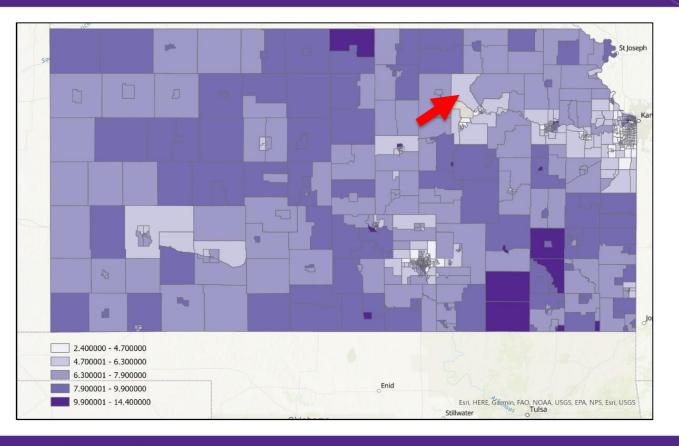
## KDHE Product 1: Kansas SVI by Census Tract



- What is SVI?
- Readily available data
- 50% of census tracts across Kansas have an SVI value that is greater than or equal to the average value of 0.5
- What is the significance?



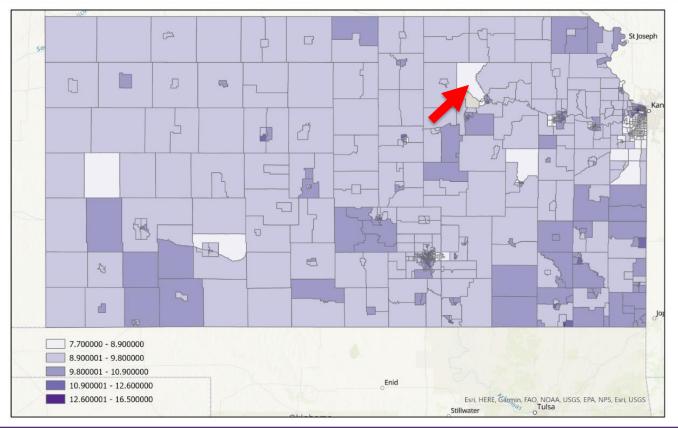
#### KDHE Product 2: Kansas COPD Crude Prevalence by Census Tract



- What is COPD?
- Out of all census tracts with a higherthan-average SVI value, 69.7% of these tracts also have an above-average COPD crude prevalence.
- What does this mean for public health?

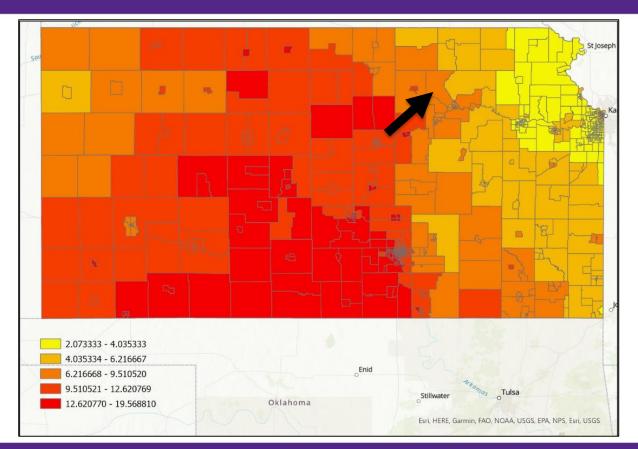


#### KDHE Product 3: Kansas Asthma Crude Prevalence by Census Tract



- What is asthma?
- 72.4% of census tracts
  with higher-thanaverage asthma crude
  prevalence rates for
  KS also demonstrated
  higher-than-average
  COPD crude
  prevalence
- What does this mean for public health?

#### KDHE Product 4: 20th Century Annual Number of Days with a Max Temperature >100° F

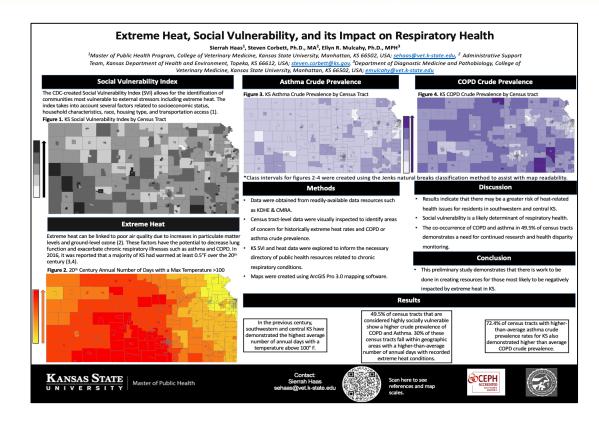


30.4% of census tracts that showed higherthan-average values for SVI, COPD, and asthma also fall within geographic areas with a higher-than-average number of annual days with recorded extreme heat conditions



#### KDHE Product 5: Research Poster

 Presented at Phi Zeta Day and Grad Forum



#### Discussion of Future Steps

- Continued research
  - Time-series analysis
- Statewide initiative for cooling centers
- Community outreach
  - Education
  - Supplies

Competency 1	Apply epidemiological methods to the
	breadth of settings and situations in
	public health practice.

GIS mapping was used to analyze and visualize the Kansas population and heat data to look for and identify potential relationships.

Competency 3	Analyze quantitative and qualitative
	data using biostatistics, informatics,
	computer-based programming, and
	software, as appropriate.

Using GIS computer-based software I was able to conduct spatial and descriptive analyses to allow for a visual understanding of chronic respiratory illness, social vulnerability, and extreme heat in Kansas. I combined several sources of data, chose variables of focus, and used quantitative techniques to identify potential census tract-level relationships.

Competency 4	Interpret results of data analysis for
	public health research, policy, or
	practice.

The maps created allowed me to identify patterns and interpret results to multiple audiences. These results were included in poster presentations to audiences from several different academic backgrounds. Visual representations, in this case, maps and a poster, allowed for results to be understood and applied for research, policy, or practice.



Competency 9	Design a population-based policy,
	program, project, or intervention.

- Creating an Emergency Preparedness Guide required that I understand the educational needs of Riley County in relation to this topic. Using county data, I identified topics and created the booklet to benefit the community's knowledge and safety practices.
- Conducting a spatial analysis of population data allowed me to assess the
  public health needs of census tracts in Kansas concerning extreme heat and
  chronic respiratory health resources. Including SVI in this analysis facilitated
  my understanding of potential factors associated with the high crude
  prevalence of respiratory illnesses.

Competency 18	Select communication strategies for
	different audiences and sectors.

When creating a research poster and an emergency preparedness guide, it was important to include easy-to-understand information. Both products were created with the intention of being reader-friendly regardless of background knowledge.



#### **MPH Capacities**

- Public health communication
- Public data use
- Software
  - R, Excel, NVivo, GIS



## Acknowledgements

- Major professor
  - Dr. Ellyn R. Mulcahy
- Preceptors
  - Skylar German
  - Dr. Steven Corbett
  - All RCHD staff
- MPH Committee
  - Dr. Robert Larson
  - Dr. Katherine Nelson



## Thank you!





#### References

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