



Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

Just-In-Time Training

CASPER Community Assessment
Public Health Emergency
Response **Toolkit**



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for
Environmental Health

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

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**

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

Goals of CASPER

Obtain

Rapidly obtain information about the needs of a community

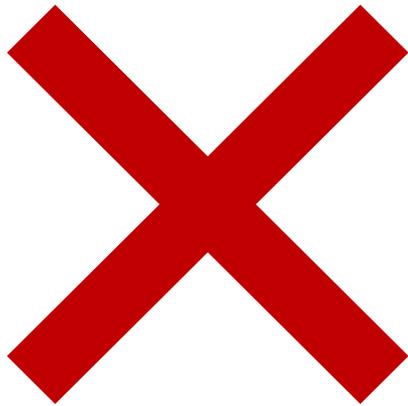
Produce

Produce population-based estimates for decision-makers

Assess

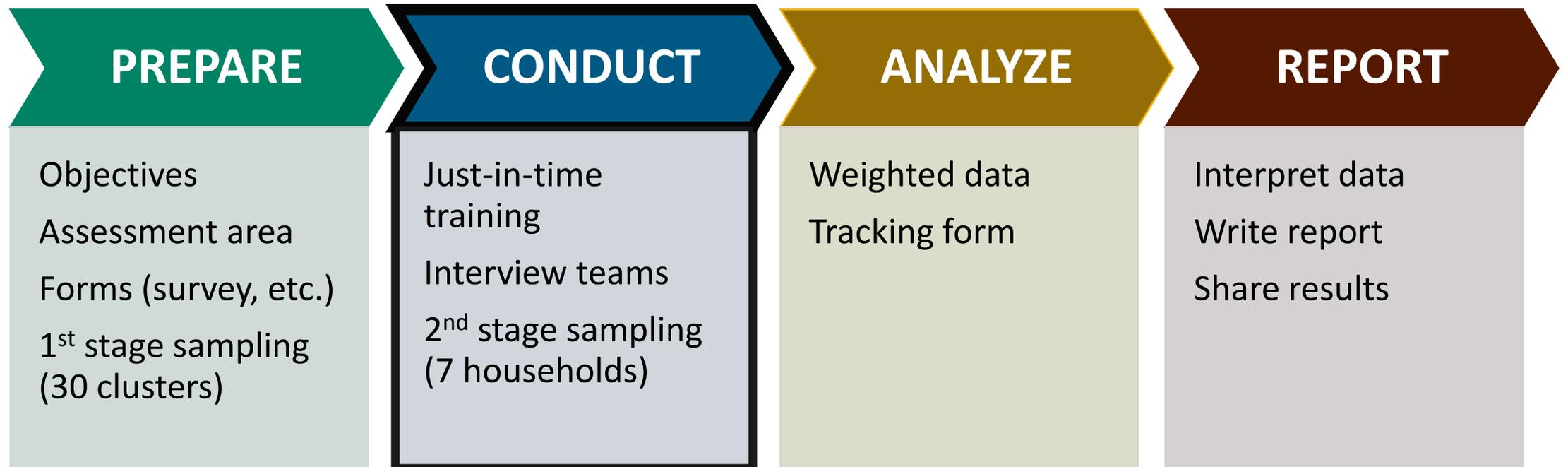
Assess new or changing needs

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



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

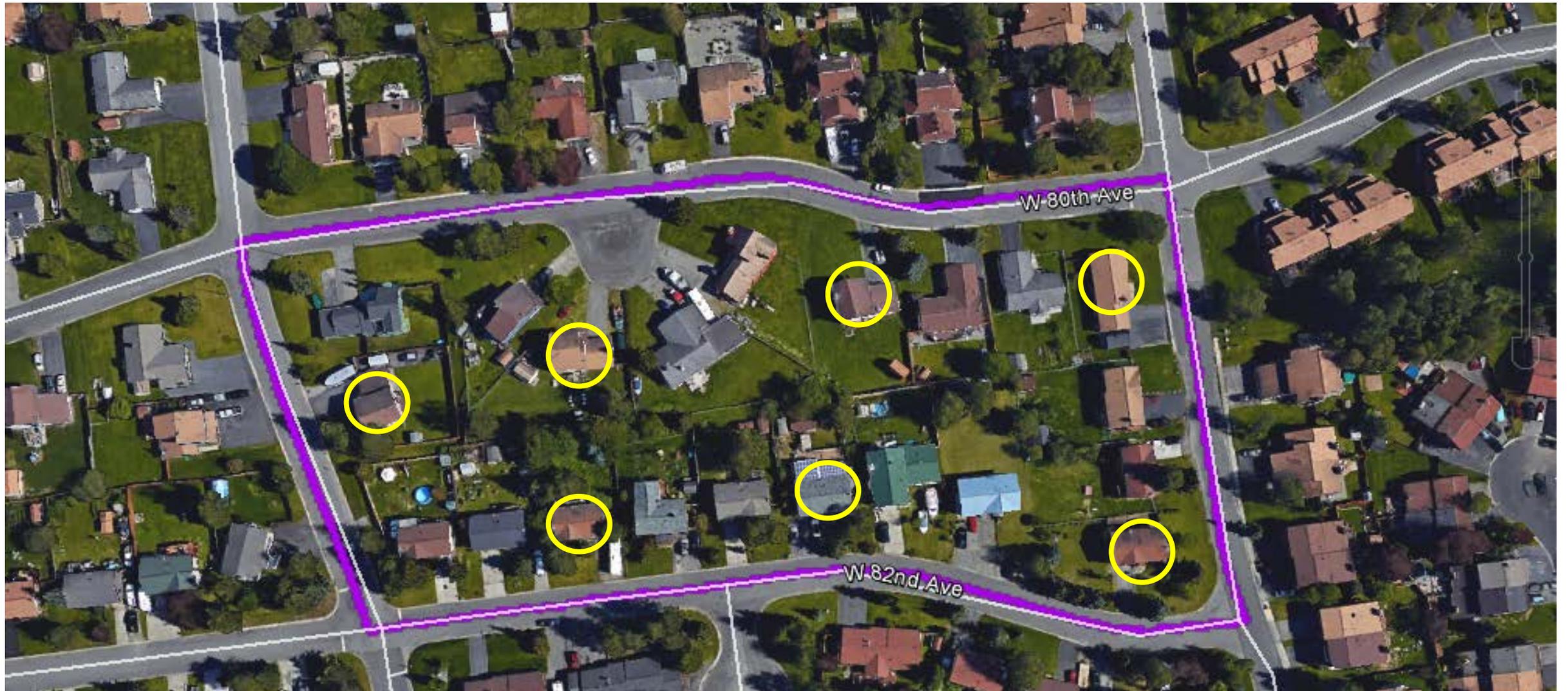
- Randomly choose a starting point (e.g., intersection) prior to heading into the field
- Select the nearest house, then every n th house after
- Choose n based on the size of the cluster
 - Look at the approximate number of households found on the map
 - If 23 households, $23/7=3$... select every 3rd 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

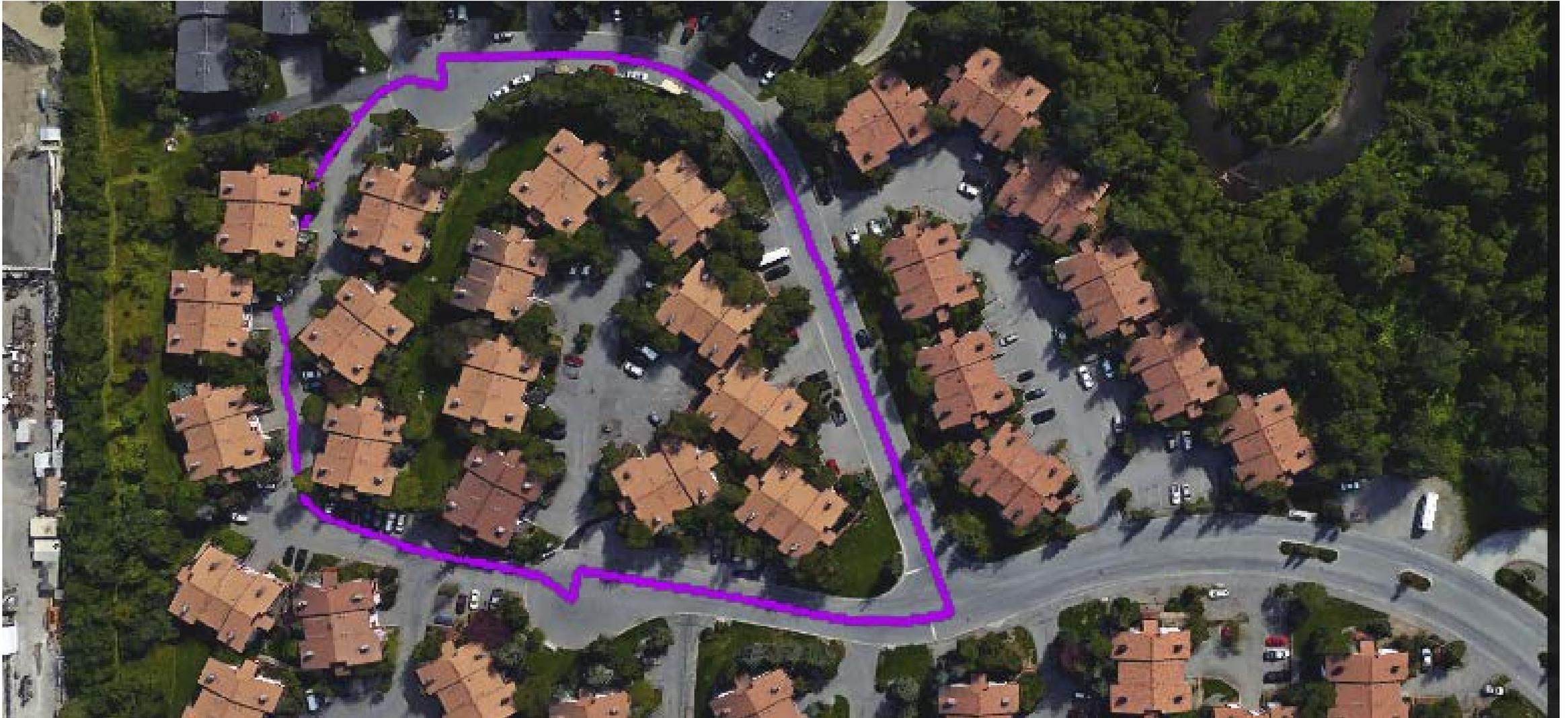
- 24 chocolates in the box
- You want to randomly eat 7
- $24/7 = 3.3$
- $N = 3$



Example: Selecting Households to Interview



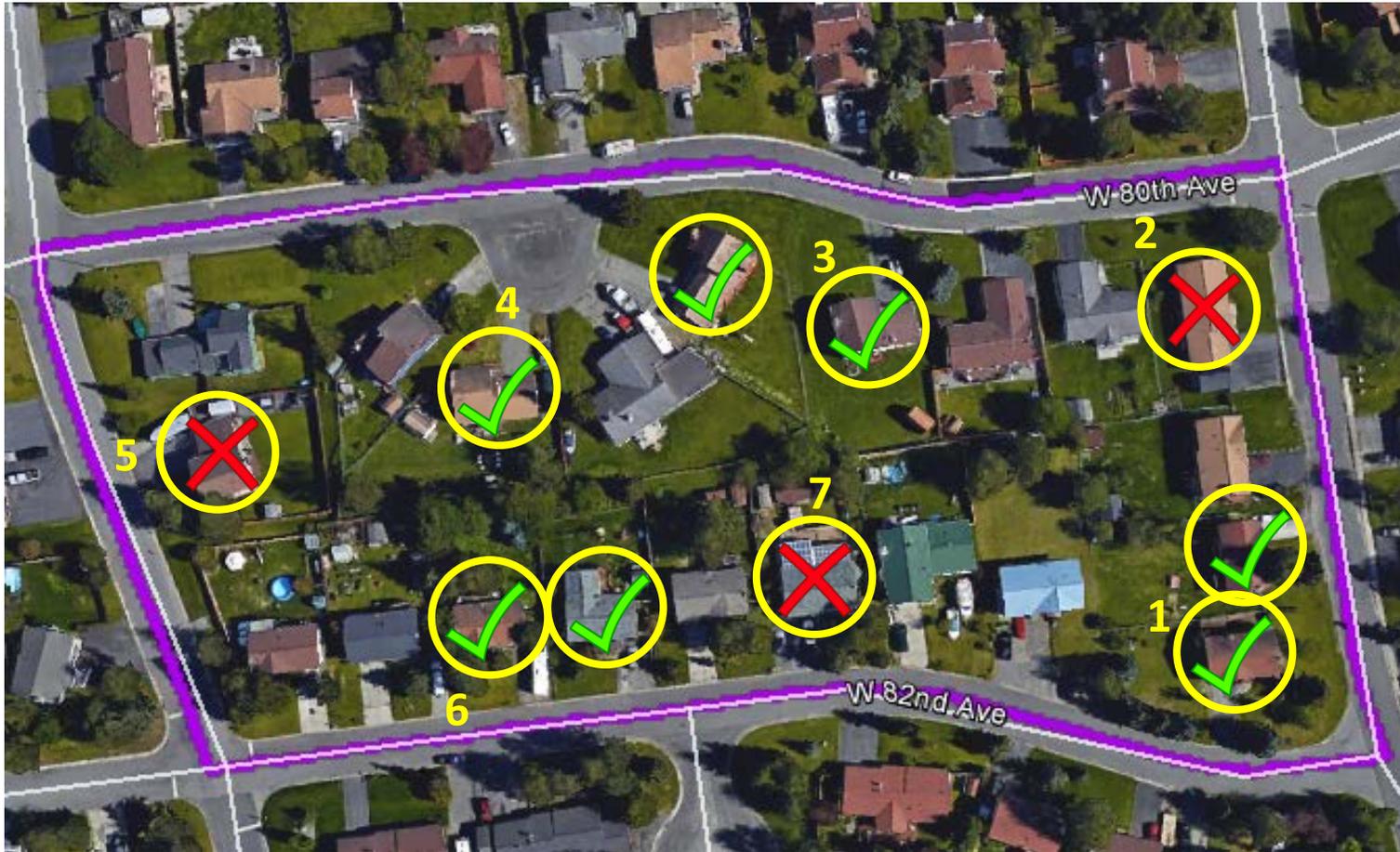
Example: Selecting Households to Interview



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!!!**





- **ONLY** replace households if
 - VACANT,
 - REFUSES, or
 - no answer after THREE attempts

Tips: Replacing Households

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

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*
- 3.
4. *CALL TONIGHT 9:00pm - 123.555.4356*
5. *Red door, large gnome on the porch*
6. *McMansion on the corner*
7. *Dark brown with white awning*
- 8.
9. *Unique house w/columns in front & Christmas decorations still up*
- 10.
11. *12 flag in window (go hawks!) bamboo garden on side*
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

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

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response
[Disaster name]

Confidential Referral Form

Date: __/__/____ Time: __:____
Cluster No.: ____
Interviewer's Initials: ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information:

Home telephone: ____ - ____ - ____

Cell phone: ____ - ____ - ____

E-mail: _____

Summary of Need:

Referral Made: Yes No

Referred to: _____

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

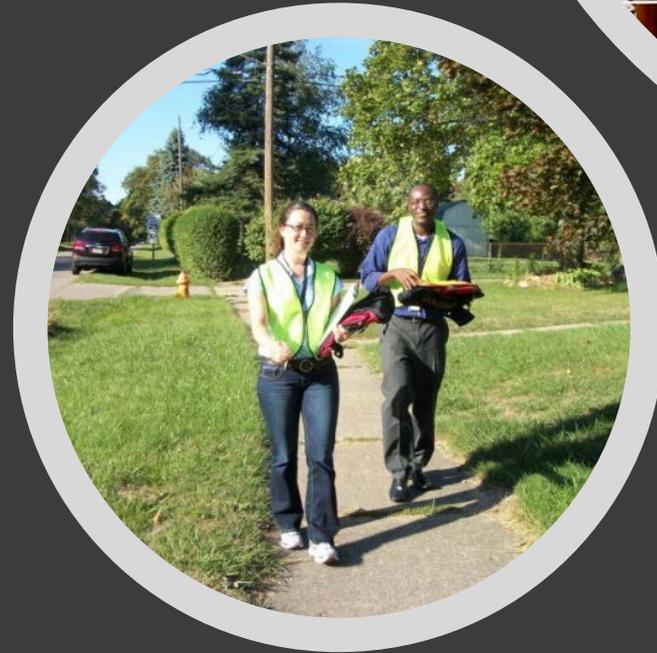
Departures from standardization

- 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

