

HEALTH SCHOLAR SHOWCASE

Using COPEWELL to Build Community Resilience in Texas

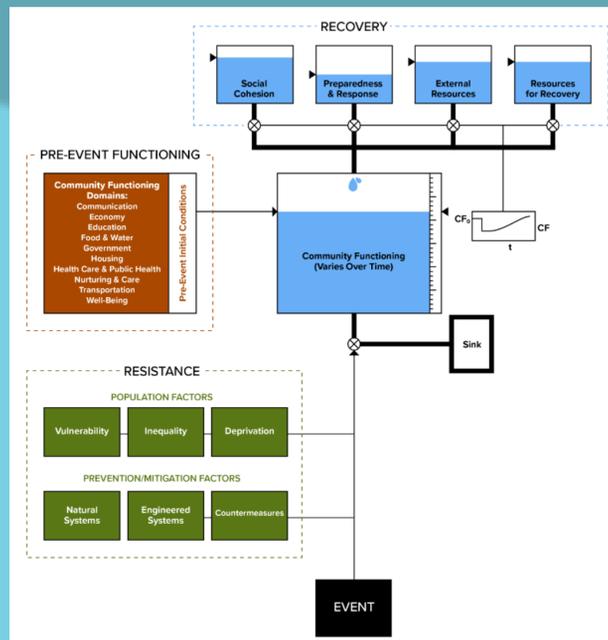
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TEXAS STATE

TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

What is COPEWELL?

Developed by a team from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Delaware, **COPEWELL is comprised of a suite of evidence-based tools** that leverage county-level data to help communities identify gaps and “improve community functioning before, during, and after disasters.”



The COPEWELL framework shows the primary domains of Community Functioning, Recovery, and Resistance.

COPEWELL in Central Texas

In Spring 2022, Rex Long partnered with the COPEWELL team and the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) to assess:

- Whether COPEWELL fit area needs for emergency management preparedness.
- Whether COPEWELL would significantly impact existing data collection procedures.

This resulted in a **crosswalk** between COPEWELL measures and CAPCOG’s Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), identifying areas of gap or overlap.

		COPEWELL			
		Healthcare and Public Health (Measure)			
		THIRA	# of Hospital Beds	Population with Health Insurance	PHAB Accreditation
Community Resilience	Community Awareness and Networking				
	Economic and Environmental Health				
	Messaging (before and during)				
	Preparedness Campaigns				
	Partnerships with NGOs, CBOs, FBOs (help identifying populations)				
	Partnerships with other Government Partners				

The COPEWELL by THIRA crosswalk

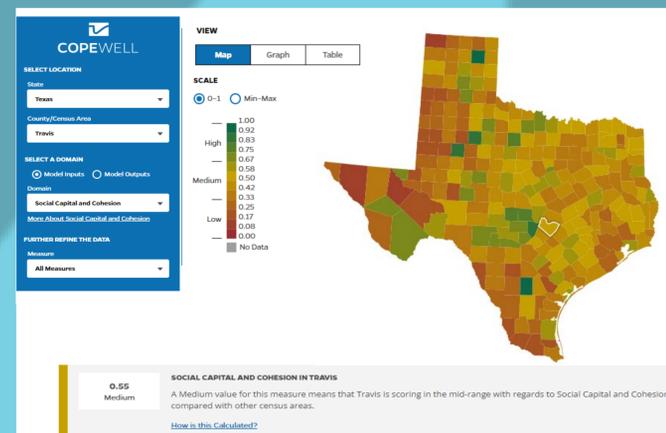


Rex Long presents on the CAPCOG project on the Town Hall Day 2 webinar.

COPEWELL and the Translational Health Research Center Webinar

In Summer 2022, the Translational Health Research Center (THRC), led by Dr. Melinda Villagran, funded Rex as a doctoral research assistant to continue COPEWELL work in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. This partnership enabled Rex, Dr. Villagran, and the THRC team to **develop a COPEWELL webinar** to spread awareness of the framework among Texas public health, emergency management, and community-level partners.

- In Fall 2022, this two-day, virtual webinar:
- **Introduced audiences to the COPEWELL framework**, as explained by key members of the COPEWELL team.
 - **Showcased past and current COPEWELL projects** from practitioners.
 - **Solicited interest from the audience** to partner with THRC on COPEWELL implementation.



The COPEWELL computational model

THRC Partnering with TSLAC

Following the COPEWELL webinar, our THRC team has **partnered with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC)** and Maria Freed to explore the use of COPEWELL in rural libraries.



Dr. Elizabeth K. Eger (the principal investigator) and Rex Long (the doctoral student co-investigator) **designed a pilot study examining the role of libraries as conveners** to strengthen community resilience and public health in rural Texas.

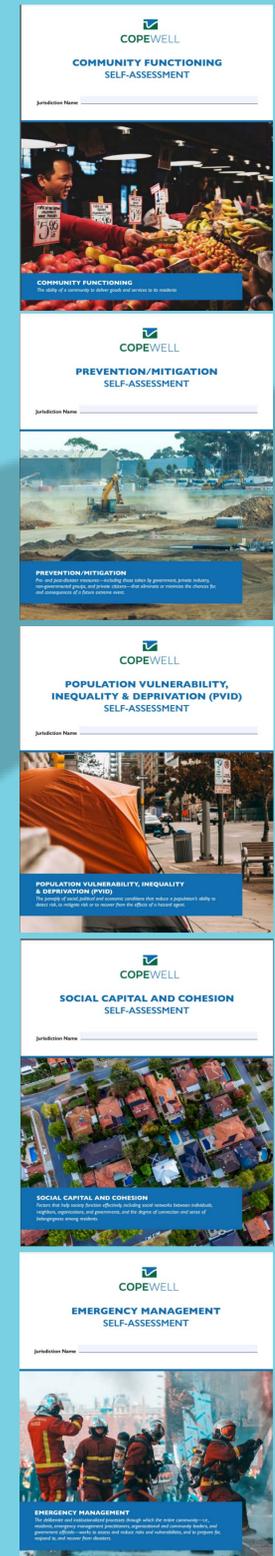
Britney Treviño (THRC Intern) and Dr. Eger’s TXST M.A. students from COMM 5303 are co-researchers on this study including: Mikayla Amason, Victoria Diaz, Rowan Lampert, Miracle Leveston, Hector Manriquez, Allister McNally, Gavin Thomson, Anca Tonciu, Cassidy Trim, and Johnny Vasallo.

Qualitative Pilot Study with Rural Texas Libraries

In Spring 2023, our current pilot study will:

- **Partner with two TSLAC-affiliated library partners** located in rural Texas.
- **Conduct two focus groups:**
 - Asking community stakeholders about their community challenges and strengths, perception of community resilience, and their library’s role as facilitator/convenor in their community.
 - Engaging community stakeholders in a facilitated self-assessment based on COPEWELL rubric(s), pictured to the right.
- **Solicit community stakeholder feedback** around the process of participating in the pilot study via exit interviews.

The pilot study will result in reports and publications meant to **support an effort to scale up** librarians and libraries as conveners for resiliency planning in Texas.



COPEWELL self-assessments