



Tracking Success Stories



The top five hazards ranked by emergency preparedness officials participating in the JRA are:

1. Tornadoes
2. Floods
3. Earthquakes
4. Cyber Terrorism
5. Water System Failure

The guideline for Kentucky's JRA is the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Response Readiness Framework (RRF):

<https://www.cdc.gov/readiness/php/next-gen-phep/index.html>

Kentucky Jurisdictional Risk Assessment

The Kentucky Jurisdictional Risk Assessment (JRA) began in 2024 as a statewide collaborative project between the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), Division of Public Health Protection and Safety (PHPS) and Western Kentucky University (WKU). The JRA is a multifaceted framework designed to help healthcare agencies, public health departments and other stakeholder agencies across the state to prepare for, respond to, and recover from health and medical crises. The JRA process emphasizes collaborative planning, public health workforce engagement, and reviews public health and medical systems to assess risks to public health preparedness.

Virtual workshops for the JRA tool were created for those who work in emergency preparedness and disaster planning. 136 assessments were collected from 116 of Kentucky's 120 counties. These responses came from emergency preparedness personnel agencies, representatives from healthcare organizations and personnel from health districts and county health departments. Participants for the assessment tool were sent an introduction letter and asked to evaluate hazards based on specific criteria, including likelihood of occurrence, impact and preparedness capacity. The tool facilitated a comprehensive analysis of jurisdictional vulnerabilities and risks, tailored to Kentucky's unique context.

In addition to the assessment, WKU also provided links and resources to Kentucky Tracking's Access and Functional Needs (AFN) maps to assist respondents by providing critical insights into community demographics and data trends, allowing responders to identify where opportunities for growth could be made within different regions of the state. The AFN maps were developed by Kentucky Tracking in partnership with PHPS to enhance current emergency preparedness and response planning for the access and functional needs population. The datasets within these maps were created to make location-based community information easy to access by public safety officials across Kentucky.

Results from the JRA show that natural disasters should be a priority in public health preparedness and mitigation planning. Results also show that conducting planned exercises of written preparedness and mitigation plans will help Kentucky communities enhance readiness to save lives during emergencies that exceed the day-to-day capacity of public health agencies. Additionally, involvement of the private sector, transient populations, persons with behavioral needs and persons with limited English should be prioritized to improve mitigation and preparedness.

