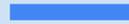


National Equity Atlas Showcase

Feliciano Ocegueda, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

March 29, 2024



LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

Introduction

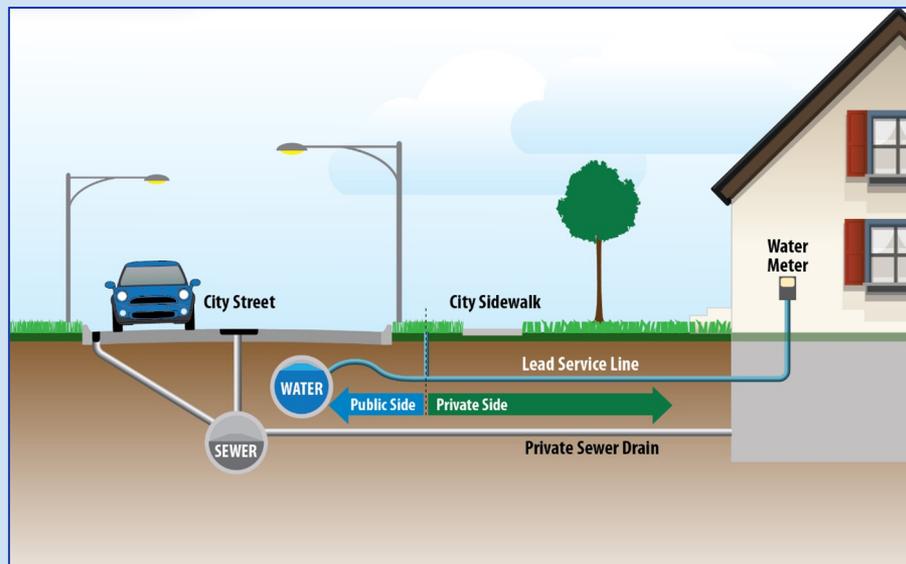
- Based in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood
- The mission of LVEJO is to organize with our community to accomplish environmental justice in Little Village and achieve the self-determination of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families
- The Water Justice program at LVEJO works with other EJ and water advocates to push for equitable water policy change



Photo Credit: Karen Canales Salas, Calavera Studios

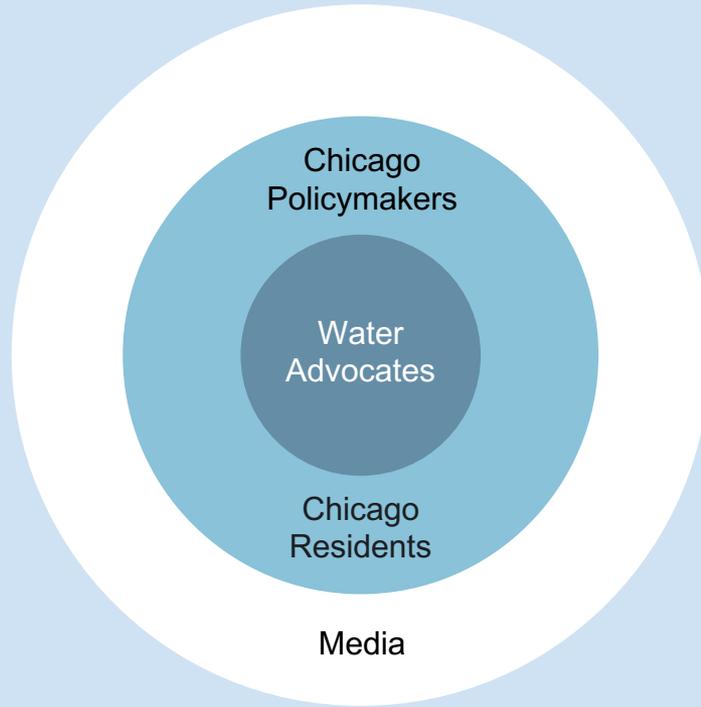
Getting the Lead Out

- Chicago has over 400,000 lead service lines providing drinking water to residents
- **There is no safe level of lead in drinking water**
- From 2021-2023, the city replaced ~4,500 lead service lines
- One recent study indicated that racial inequities exist in the city for childhood lead exposure and water testing



Source: Chicago Department of Water Management

Mapping Stakeholders



Key Audience: Water Advocates

- **Goal:**

- Create data tool that can support advocacy to remove lead service lines and protect water customers from unsafe drinking water

- **Major question:**

- Where are lead service lines in the city located?

- **Secondary questions:**

- What are the public health impacts of the current state of lead in drinking water?
- What communities need additional water testing and filter distribution services?

Data

- Two geographic levels: Community Area and Ward
- Public data included American Community Survey and Chicago Health Atlas
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests were used for access to the Chicago Department of Water Management's Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Program data

CHI | DWM Water Service Line Inventory
Department of Water Management

Select Language
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KNOW YOUR WATER

About Our Service Line Inventory

Service lines are the pipes that transport water from the water main in the street into homes. If you live in a house or two-flat or a small building built before 1986, there is a high likelihood that your water service line is lead. Lead service lines are not usually found in larger buildings.

City Street City Sidewalk

Helpful Information

 CONFIRM YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIAL	 FLUSH YOUR WATER	 GET A FREE WATER TEST
 CLEAN YOUR	 GET A FREE WATER	 LEAD SERVICE LINE

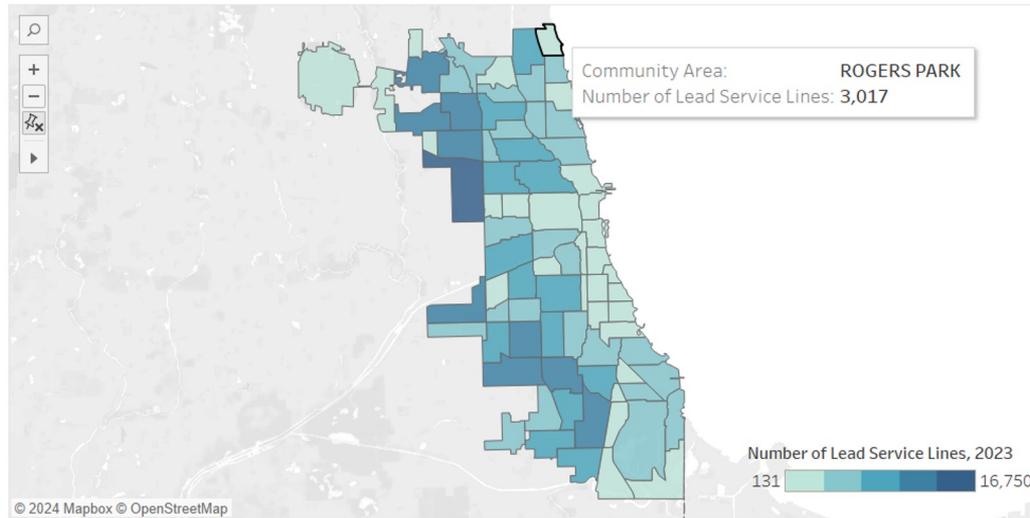
Source: Chicago Department of Water Management

Tableau Story

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Chicago Requires Getting the Lead Out

Drinking water is the second largest source of individual lead exposure	Lead poisoning can lead to serious developmental and health effects, especially in children	The burden of child lead poisoning falls on communities of color	Since 2021, Chicago's lead service line replacement programs have only made small progress	Water testing and filter distribution can help protect public health while replacements continue	See how your ward compares to the rest of the Chicago
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Lead service lines are the main culprit of lead exposure in drinking water. Over 400,000 lead service lines continue to provide water to Chicagoans.



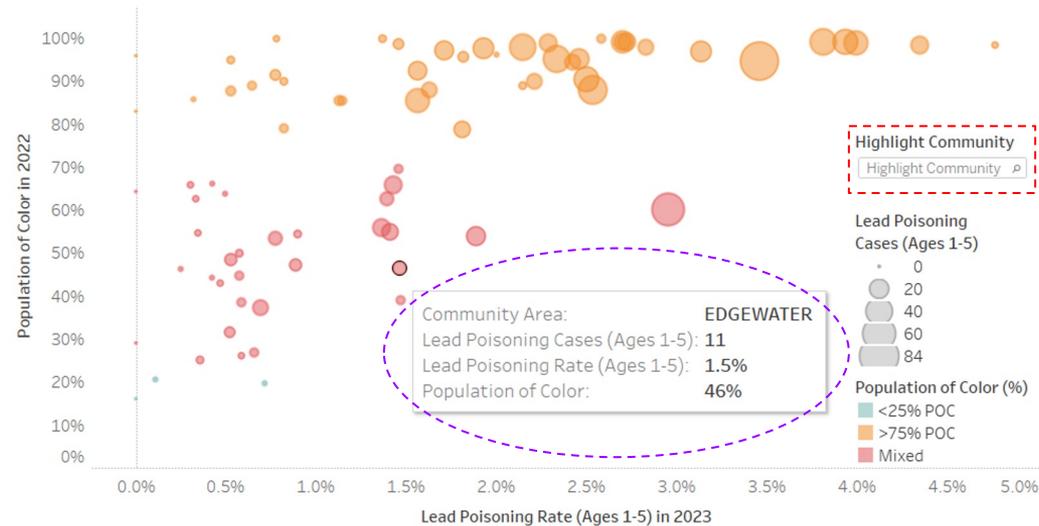
Source: Chicago Department of Water Management (2023). FOIA Request T062840 Responsive Document. MuckRock. <https://www.muckrock.com/foi/chicago-169/2023-chicago-water-service-line-inventory-155656/>

Tableau Story

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Communities with larger populations of color experience higher rates of lead poisoning



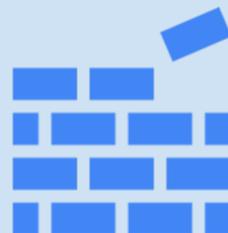
Source: American Community Survey (2022). *Demographics* [Map]. Chicago Health Atlas. <https://chicagohealthatlas.org>. Chicago Department of Public Health (2023). *Lead Poisoning* [Map]. Chicago Health Atlas. <https://chicagohealthatlas.org>

Design Considerations

- Tableau Story allows for narrative in combination with interactivity
 - Progression of visualizations drills down what communities are affected most
 - Users interested in specific community areas/wards can hover over or highlight those geographies
- Default view provides visualization of FOIA'd dataset
- Possibility of quick future updates with new data

Ongoing Work

- Tableau Story requires more feedback and editing before publication on LVEJO's website
 - Share with partner organizations for their feedback and use
- Spanish translation to assure language accessibility
- Promote through newsletter, social media, and LVEJO events



Final Reflections

- Learned the do's-and-don'ts of submitting FOIA requests
- Gained appreciation for working with large datasets and how arduous data cleaning can be
- Centering the needs of my key audience meant this tool is not complete, but will have more of an impact once it is
- Appreciated the feedback and insights of National Equity Atlas staff and fellows



Myself in awe at the amazing work of my fellowship colleagues!

Contact



LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

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