

Lead in Drinking Water Prevention Act

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Flint Drinking Water Crisis

- In 2014, Flint switched its water source to the Flint River because of financial issues with its water department.
- The water from the Flint River was 19 times more corrosive than water from Lake Huron, its previous water source.
- Lead levels were found above 5,000 ppb, which is considered hazardous.



There is no safe level of lead in
our children's drinking water.

Lead exposure in children

- Children and infants are far more at risk than adults because of different physical qualities in the blood to brain connection, increased absorption in the digestive system, and hand to mouth behavior.
- Even low levels of exposure have been linked to central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells as well as linked to violent behavior.

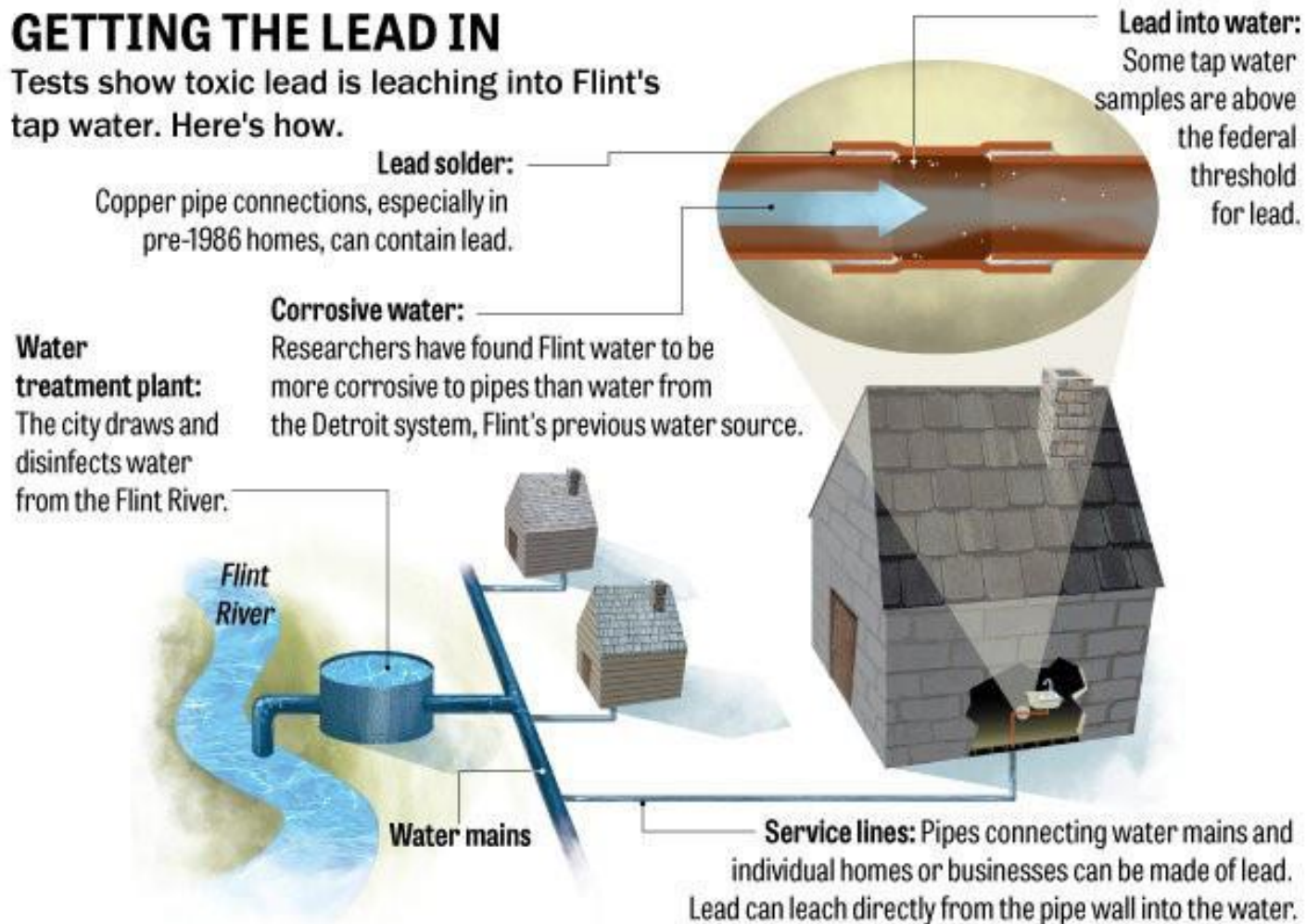
Sources of lead

- Lead accumulates in the body.
- 80% of exposure in children is from paint. The CDC estimates that 20% of the exposure is from lead in drinking water.
- In children under 18 months, 40-60% of lead exposure is from drinking water.

Rep. Robyn Gabel passed SB2300, which requires mitigation of lead based paint in rental properties.

GETTING THE LEAD IN

Tests show toxic lead is leaching into Flint's tap water. Here's how.



Source: <https://micondolaw.com/2016/01/20/failing-infrastructure-how-to-handle-common-element-lead-pipes-in-your-condominium/>

Chicago School Testing

- **526** schools have been tested.
- **192** schools have found one fixture above the federal action level,
- **334** additional schools have found lower levels of lead.
- **~58,985** samples have been taken, about **1.37%** have had lead above the action level.

SB550

- School and child care testing
- Lead service line inventory
- Notice



SB550 – School testing

- Requires all primary schools with children under 5th grade in the state built before 1986 to have all drinking water sources tested for lead before the end of 2017.
 - Schools build between January 1, 1987 and January 1, 2000 will need to test by the end of 2018.
 - IDPH can later require testing of schools built after 2000.
- Requires that parents be notified of testing results by individual letter if results are above 5ppb, via web if below 5ppb.

SB550 – School testing

- Sampling protocol - The testing must consist of two samples, the first conducted with no flushing of the system within at least 8 hours, and the second timed to capture problems with different portions of the water system serving the school.
- There is an exception for schools that have already conducted lead testing voluntarily, which may apply for a waiver.

Mitigation

By mid-April, the Department of Public Health must post on its website guidance on mitigation actions for lead in school drinking water, as well as water management practices at schools.

- The CDC recommends that all sources of lead be controlled or eliminated.
- Corrosion control works to protect lead from leaching, but stagnant water, corrosion of lead solder, in home lead fixtures, can all pose significant risk.
- Flushing water and total lead filters can bring lead down to zero.
- Replacing lead pipes and fixtures should be the ultimate goal.

How's all this funded?

- Schools will pay for testing and mitigation themselves.
- The state did give schools access to their life, safety, and health bond funds and also tort funds to fund both testing and mitigation.

Still, there are gaps in funding for some schools that may need to be addressed long term.

Child Care Centers

- By the beginning of 2018, the Department of Child and Family Service, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, must adopt new rules laying out procedures and standards for assessing levels of lead in water at licensed day care centers, day care homes, and group day care homes constructed prior to 2000. The rules must include testing parameters, notification of results, and training requirements for lead exposure and mitigation.

Inventory and notification

- Requires water systems, both public and private, to begin to maintain a lead service line inventory.
- Requires notification of planned construction that may disturb services lines, including information about the lead risk.

The future

- Environmental Defense Fund estimates that nearly a quarter of lead pipes in the nation are in Illinois.

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