

PRIORITIZE THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY CHILD: LEAD SERVICE LINES IN IOWA



EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER. THE LEGACY OF LEAD SERVICE LINES (LSLS) THREATENS THE BRIGHT FUTURES OF CHILDREN ACROSS IOWA, WITH IMPACTS ON THEIR EARLY DEVELOPMENT THAT LAST A LIFETIME. IOWA NEEDS TO ACT SWIFTLY TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM THE RISK OF CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER.

THE PROBLEM

Lead service lines (LSLs) and galvanized steel lines are pipes used to distribute water from a water service provider to a customer, such as a home, school, or business. These types of pipes were widely used prior to 1900 and well into the 20th century. Lead is a known contaminant in drinking water, contributing to serious health and developmental problems, especially for children and pregnant women. Exposure can cause developmental delays, damage to the nervous system, fertility issues, mental health conditions, and kidney failure.

More than half of children in the U.S. are at risk of lead exposure, often in their own home, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). LSLs are the leading cause of lead exposure in drinking water to individuals in the U.S. The federal government reports that “10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers are served by a lead service line or pipes and other fixtures.”



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 LSLs are expensive to replace. Often, water service providers are not the owners of these service lines, and the expense for a homeowner is daunting. The average cost to a homeowner for replacing an LSL ranges from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Regulation of service lines varies by community and often falls in a gray area of ownership and responsibility between public water distribution and private homeowners.

2 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) rule will result in more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold for action to protect people from lead exposure in water. The LCRI requires communities to develop a LSL replacement plan, adhere to sampling requirements, and change treatment plans if water samples indicate elevated lead levels.

3 All utilities and water service providers are required to replace LSLs by 2035. Iowa is on track to receive \$162 million in federal funding for LSL replacement; however, it is estimated that fixing Iowa's LSL problem will cost \$900 million.

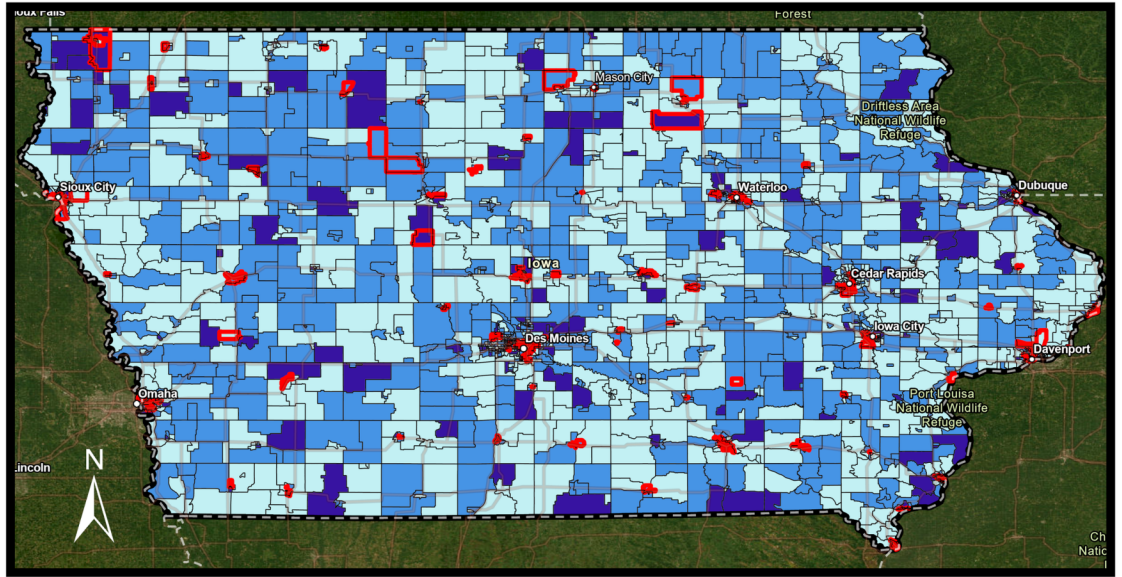
IOWA COMMUNITIES AT RISK



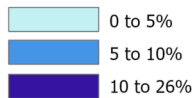
This map shows Iowa communities with children under the age of 5 (when they are most at risk for serious lead-related illnesses). It also shows areas impacted by poverty, where residents have the least capacity to pay for lead service line replacement.



To see a map of LSLs in Dubuque, scan the code below. Not all Iowa communities have made their LSL inventories public. However, as they do so, IEC will continue to update this map.

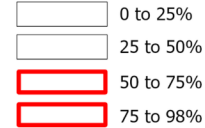


Percent of the Population Under 5 Years Old



0 50 100 200 Miles

Percent of Population in Households Where Income is ≤ to Twice the Federal Poverty Level



THE SOLUTION

Protect Iowa children from this health hazard. Allocate \$5 million per year in state funding to support the inspection, identification, and removal of LSLs in Iowa for the next 10 years.

Accelerate outreach to vulnerable families. Increase support for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to conduct outreach to impacted homeowners with young children.

By supporting LSL inspection, identification, and replacement, and bolstering outreach efforts to impacted families, homeowners who can afford to pay for LSL replacement may do so, reducing the overall impact to water rates across a service area, saving all customers money.

