

Flint, Michigan



WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

Flint, Michigan, a city where 54.1% of residents are black and 38% are in poverty, is a prime example of environmental injustice and racism (US Census). To save money, the city began to pump water in from the Flint River in 2014. The water was highly corrosive and eroded the old pipes, leaching high concentrations of lead into the water supply. There were also issues related to chlorine and other contaminants. The city connected back their original water source in 2015. A federal state of emergency was declared in 2016 (Ruckart et al. 2019).

THE FACTS

There is no "safe" level of lead, especially in children. It can result in brain and nervous damage and other development problems (Ruckart et al. 2019).

Fecal coliform bacteria was discovered in the water supply in 2014. Increased chlorine to treat the issue resulted in trihalomethanes, a carcinogen (NRDC).

As of the end of 2020, the city has replaced their pipes, has a clean water source, and will be paying residents over \$650 mil. But the damage has already been done (Politico).