



Bridging Silos

Local Environmental Health Collaborations
Leading to Primary Prevention

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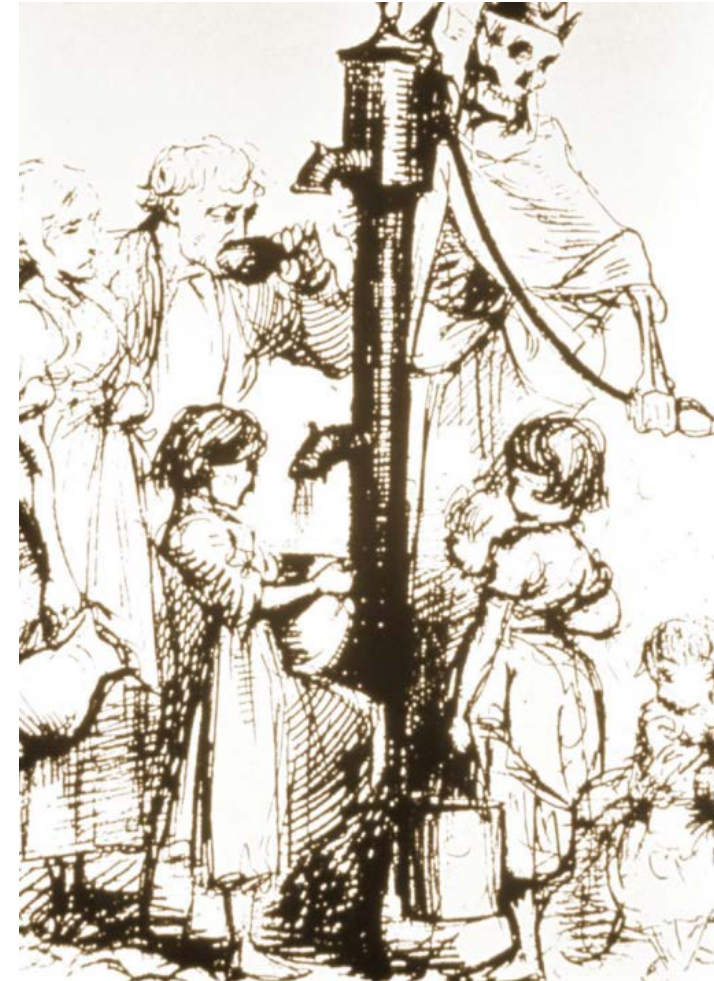
Bridging Silos: Local Environmental Health Collaborations Leading to Primary Prevention

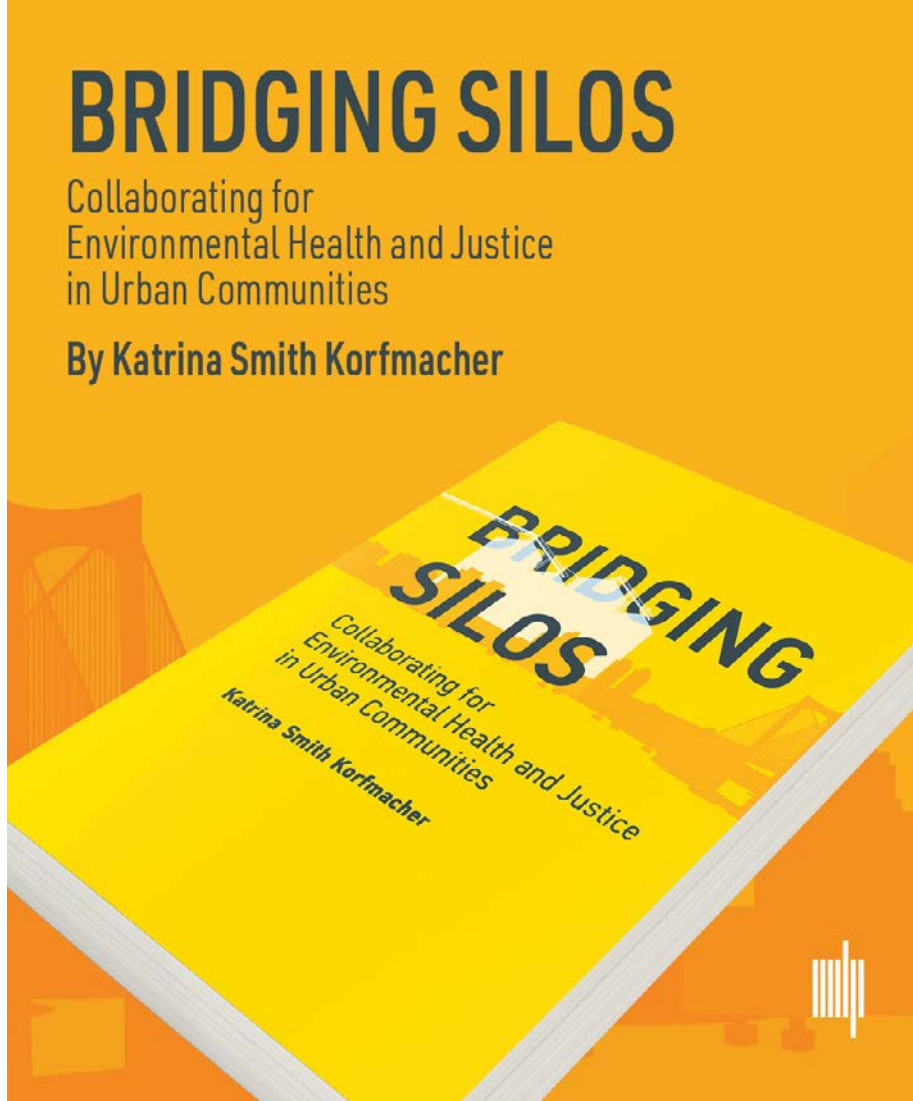
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**Introduction by
Amanda Reddy, MS
National Center for Healthy Housing
Columbia, Maryland**

How can we promote healthy environments when we manage “health” and “environment” separately?

- **1800s:** public health = environmental health
- **Today:** environment and health managed by separate “silos”
- Gaps between these silos contribute to environmental health inequity
- Local collaborations can bridge silos and improve management systems to promote environmental health equity





- Local collaborations to address environmental injustice arise all over the country
- Efforts are diverse in scope, scale, structure, and approach
- Some have successfully changed policies, systems, and environments
- Few opportunities to share lessons learned
- How can we better support local environmental health initiatives?



“Katrina has made it clear who the government works for and who it does not.”

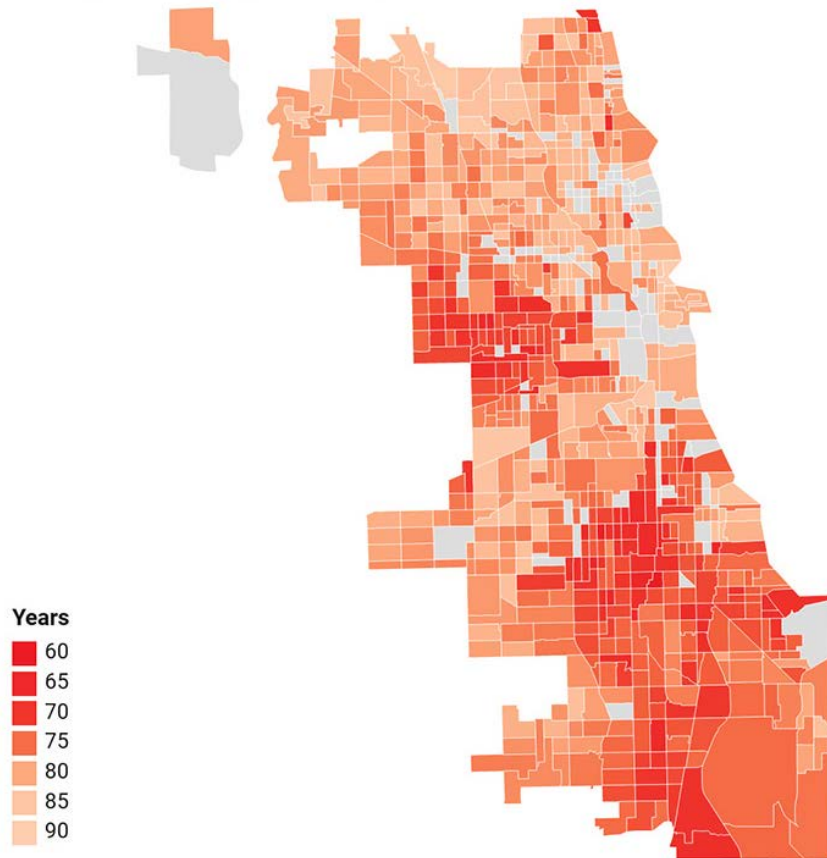






Your ZIP Code Might Determine How Long You Live—and the Difference Could Be Decades

Chicago: life expectancy



HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

People are exposed to risk factors in their homes, work places and communities through:



World Health Organization
#EnvironmentalHealth

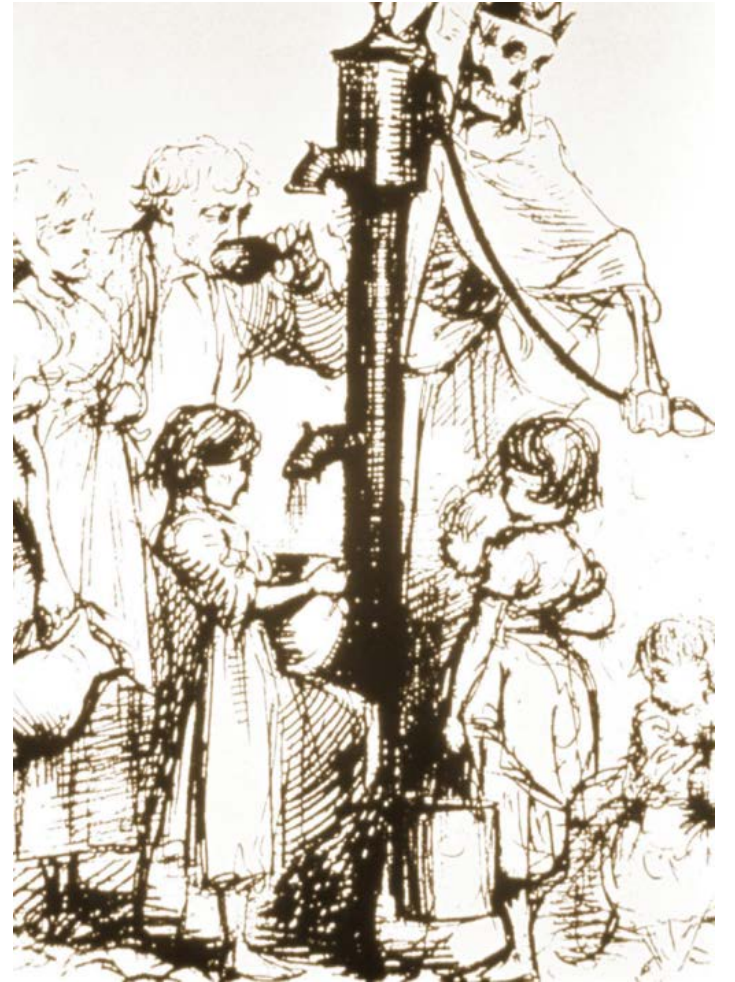
WHAT IF WE TREATED PUBLIC HEALTH LIKE AN ECOSYSTEM?

Lessons from
COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
for
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES



How can we promote healthy environments when we manage “health” and “environment” separately?

- **1800s:** public health = environmental health
- **Today:** environment and health managed by separate silos
- Gaps between these “silos” contribute to environmental health inequity
- **Local collaborations can bridge silos and improve management systems to promote environmental health equity**

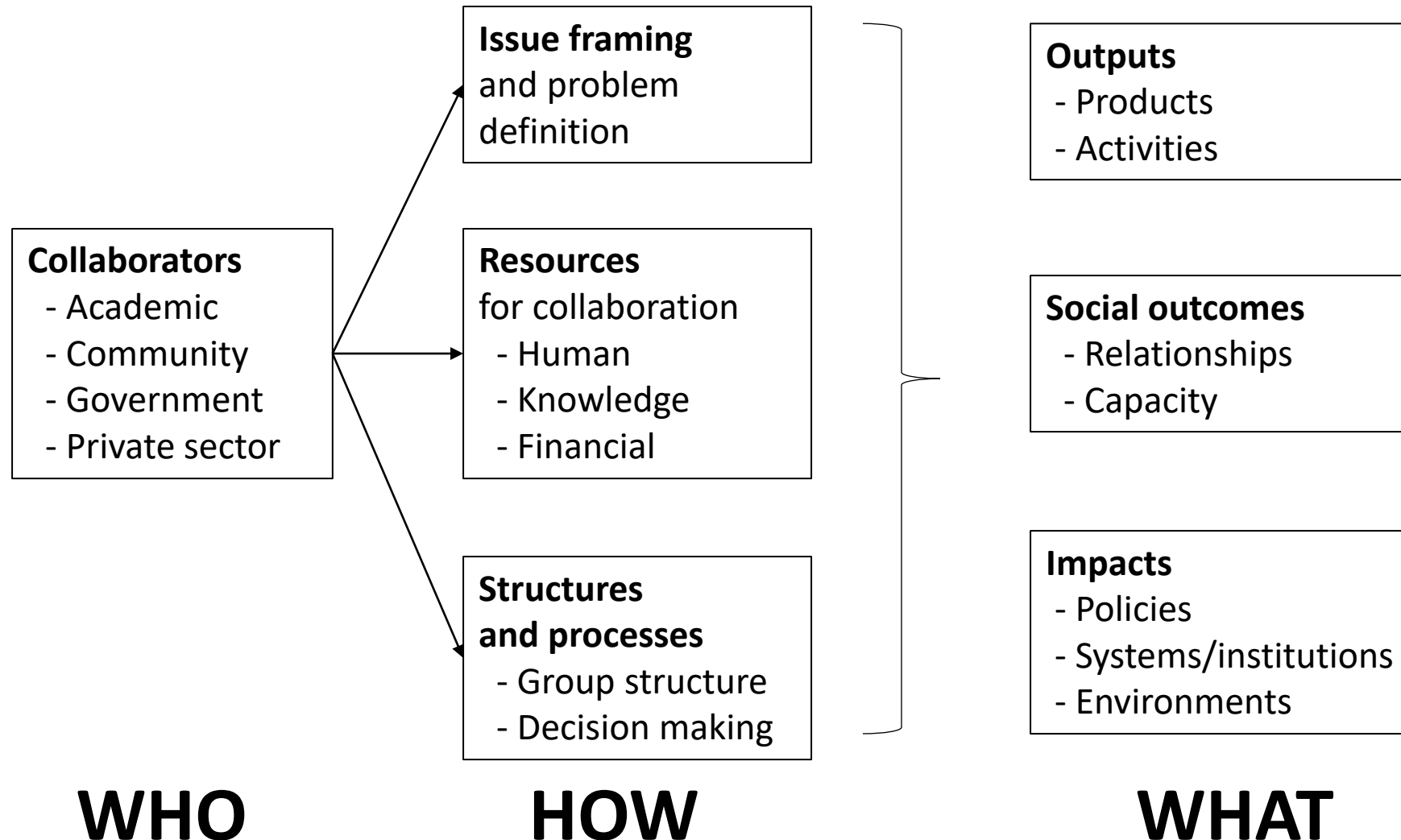


Three Case Studies

- **Rochester, New York: Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning** (reducing lead in pre-1978 private rental housing)
- **Duluth, Minnesota: Healthy Duluth** (promoting healthy and fair built environment [food/transportation])
- **Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach: THE (Trade, Health, Environment) Impact Project** (integrating health equity into port/transportation decisions)



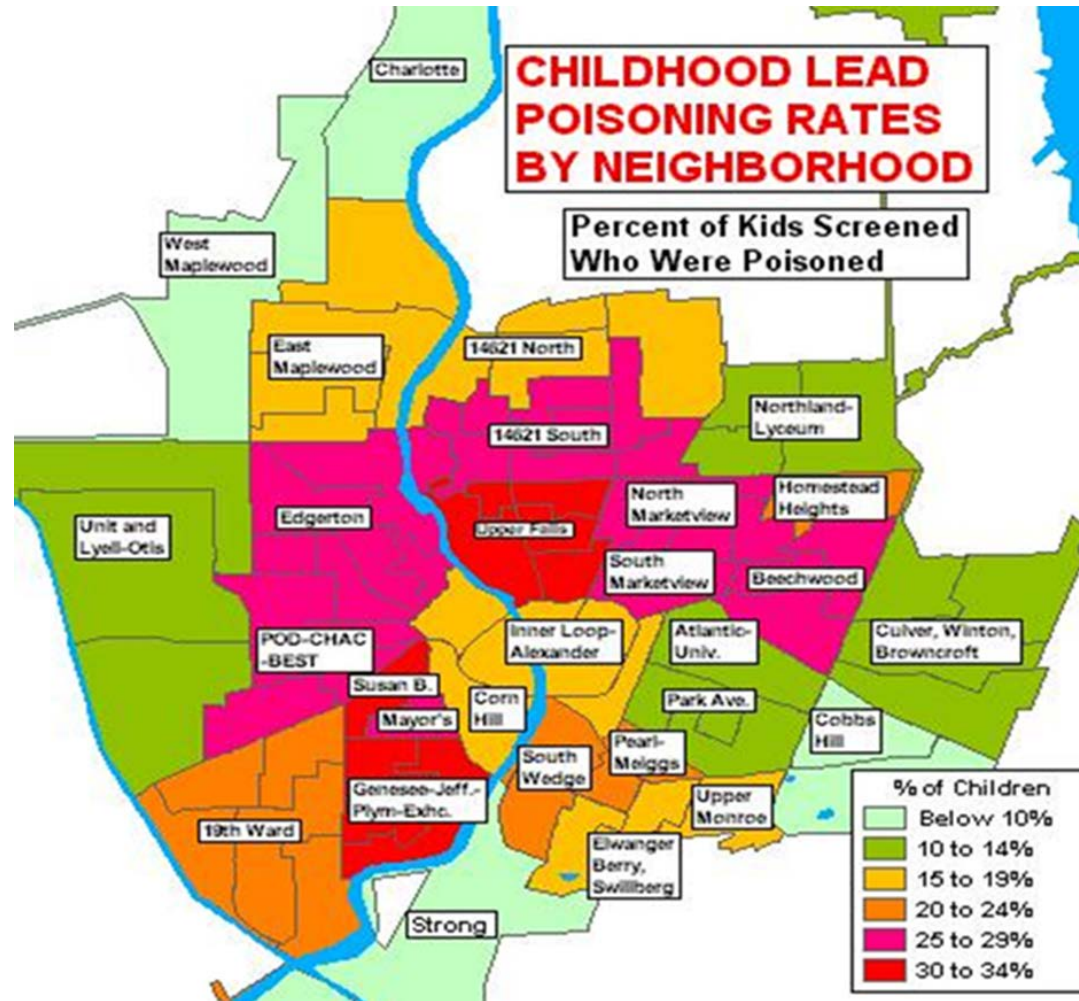
Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives



Case Study Rochester, New York

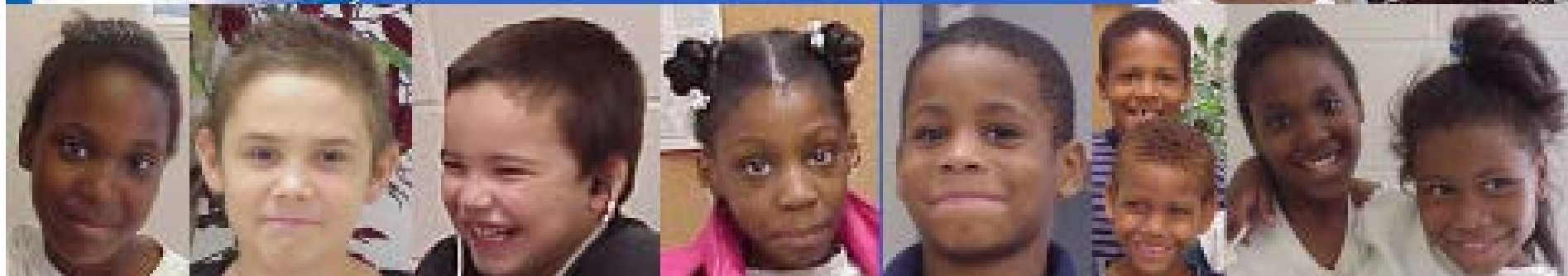
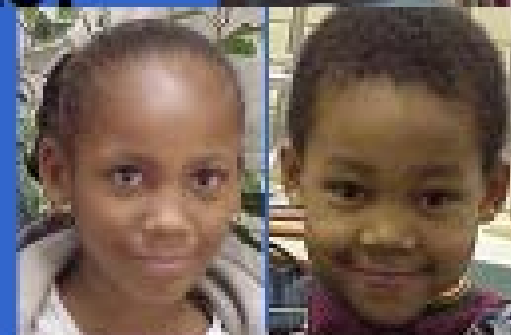
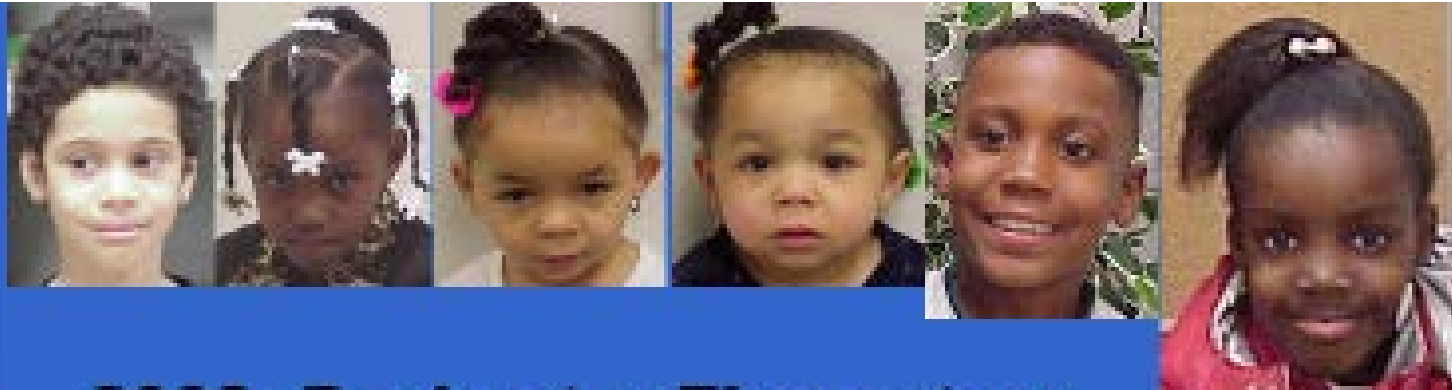


Rochester, New York 2002



**Let's
MAKE
LEAD
HISTORY**

**2002: Rochester Elementary
School 17:
41% of your kids
come to school with
a history of lead poisoning...
What are you going to do?**



Rochester, New York

Dr. Ralph Spezio
Former Principal
Rochester Elementary School #17



HOUSE HAZARDS: The former principal of a Rochester elementary school, Ralph Spezio began advocating for new lead safety rules after discovering that lead poisoning was common among his students, many of whom had been exposed to the toxin in their own homes. (Photo: Adam Fenster)

Rochester, New York

Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

- 2000: Rochester's lead poisoning rate = 10 times national rate
- Strong secondary prevention program
- Main cause = older private rental housing
- Formed Coalition to address causes
- Focused on “science-based systems change”



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

Reframing the Problem

- Lead as a “health problem with a housing solution”
- Communications campaign
- 2004 Community Lead Summit

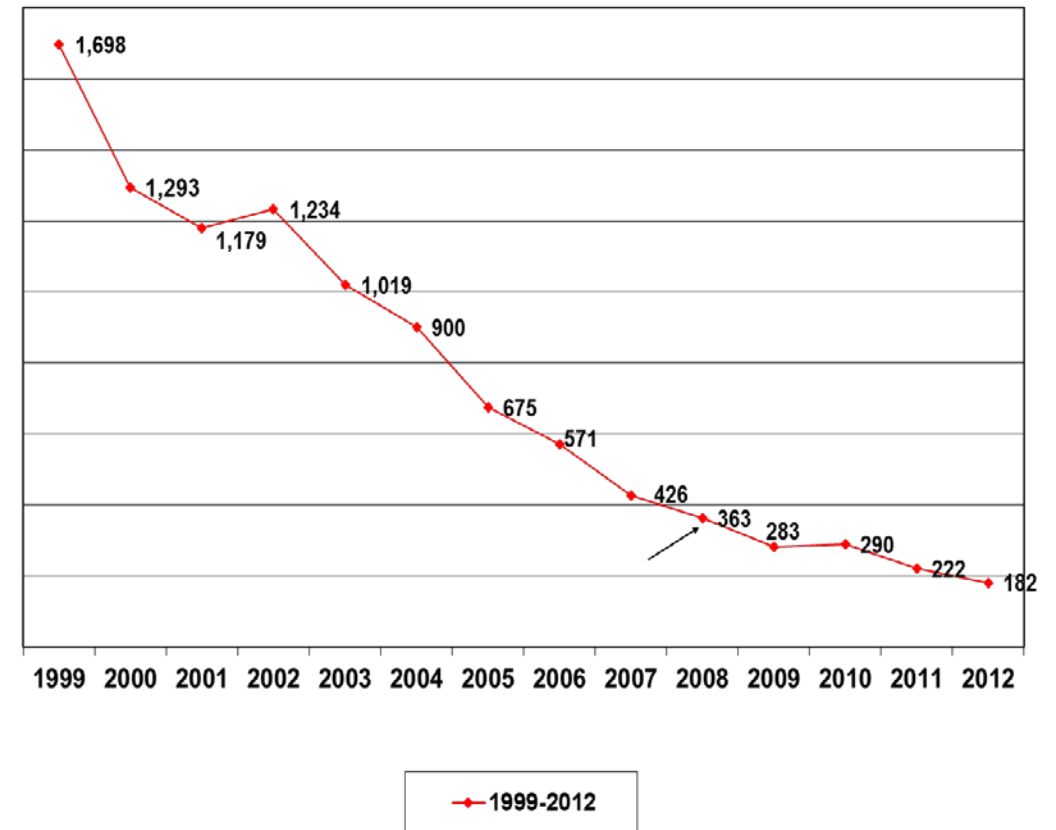


Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning Knowledge and Policy

- Expert input: science committee, speakers, reports
- Get the Lead Out: local pilot study
- Local lead law (passed 2005, implemented 2006)
- Requires proactive lead inspection of all pre-1978 units every three or six years
- 183,030 inspections completed as of June 2019
- EBLR rates down 2.4 times faster than rest of upstate New York (Kennedy, 2014 Am J Prev Med)

For more information, visit Cityofrochester.gov/lead

Number of Children Poisoned /
Lead Poisoning Prevention Efforts Timeline



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

Additional Impacts

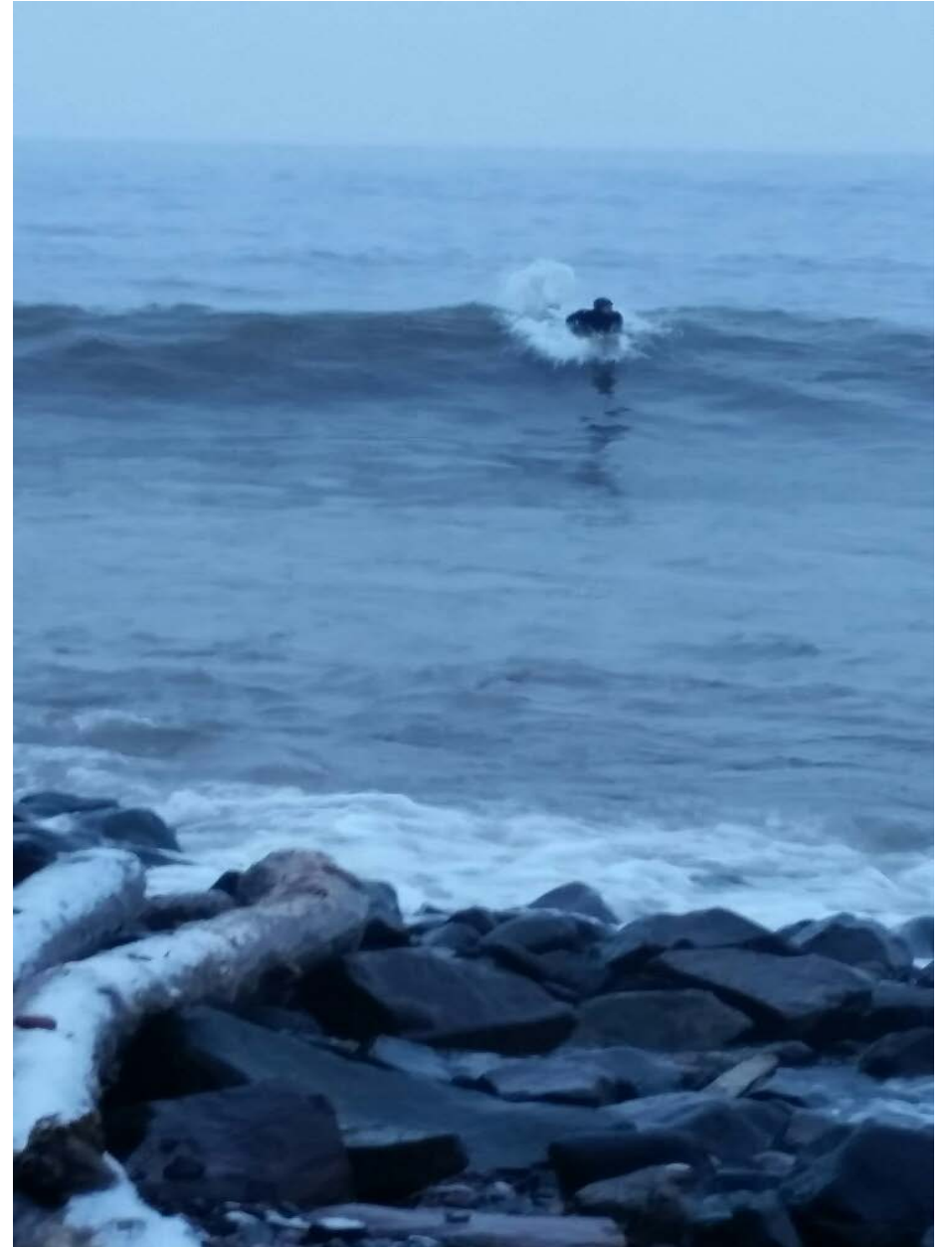
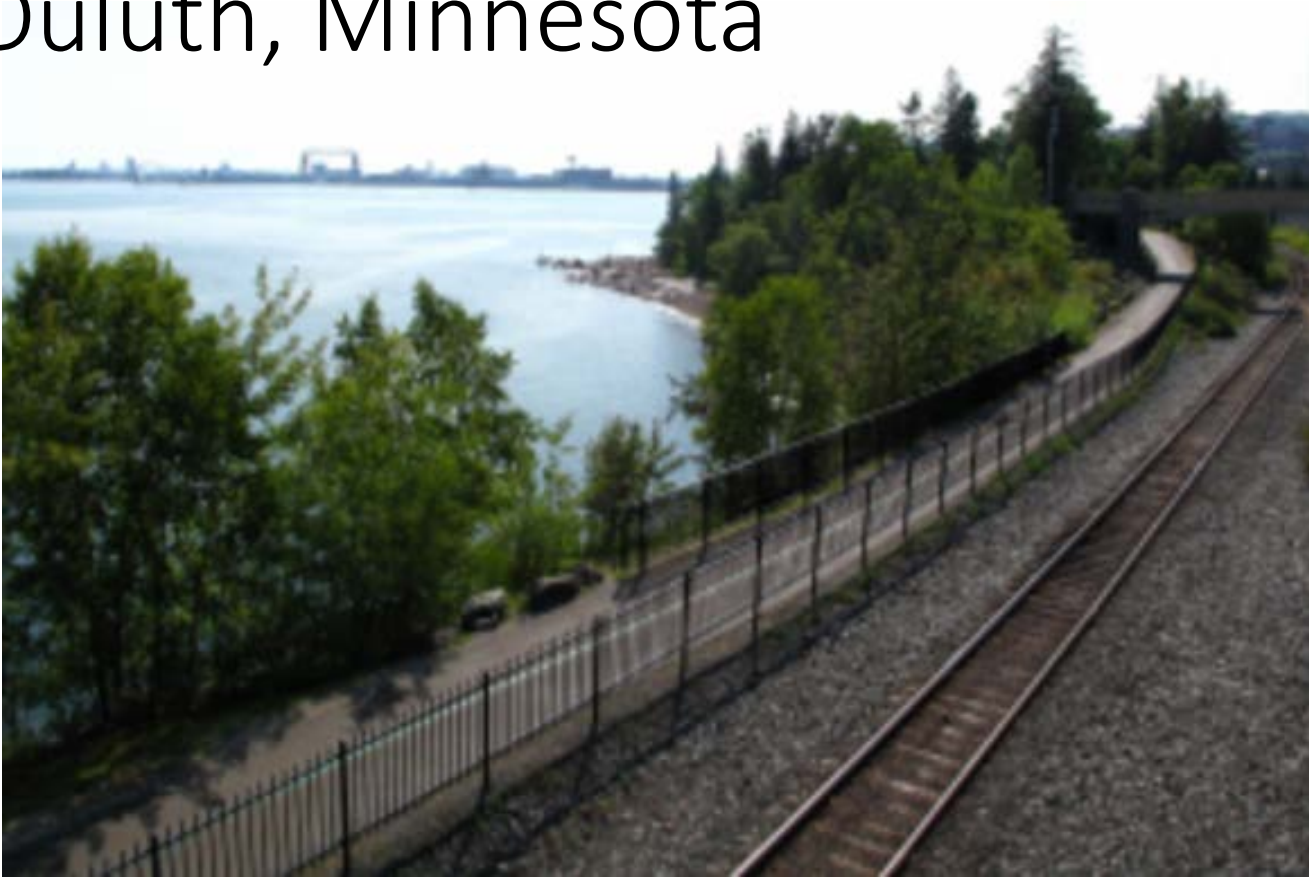
- Coalition served as model for local initiatives
- Ongoing support for implementation
- Evaluation of lead “system”
- Efforts to advise other cities
- Informing state/federal programs



Duluth, Minnesota



Duluth, Minnesota



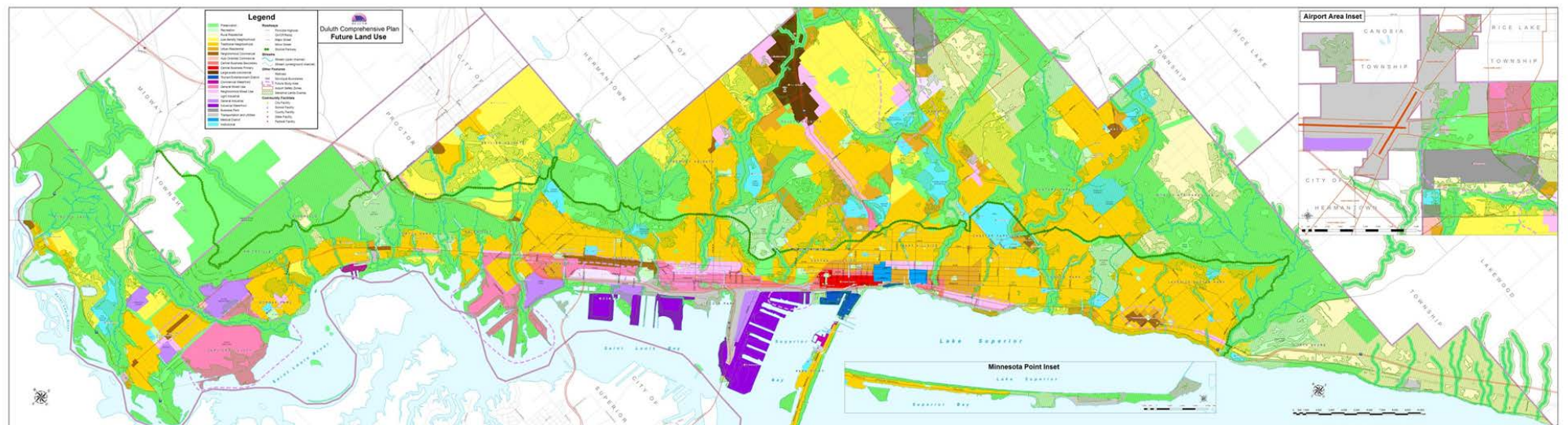
Duluth, Minnesota

Healthy Duluth

- Redeveloping after deindustrialization
- Strong recreation, health, other sectors
- “The tide is not lifting all boats”
- “Healthy Duluth” = multiple streams of action
- Involved multiple agencies and NGOs
- Evolving focus on health equity



www.dot.state.mn.us/historicbridges/L6116.html



Duluth, Minnesota

Healthy Built Environment Efforts



- Fit City Duluth
- Healthy Duluth Area Coalition
- Health impact assessments
- Brownfields redevelopment
- Transportation equity efforts



Duluth, Minnesota

Fit City Duluth (2007)

- Voluntary designation by governor initiated by city staff
- Initial city board transitioned to nonprofit
- “Pioneering Healthy Communities” conference
- Unnatural Causes DVD
- Focus on “systems change”



Duluth, Minnesota

Healthy Duluth Area Coalition

- Hosted by Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Culture
- Multiple community agency members
- Coordinating forum
- Projects
 - Fair Food Access
 - Active Transportation

healthyeating

It will be easier to get healthy food.

All Duluth residents will have convenient and affordable access to fresh, healthy, whole foods on a regular basis all year long.

activeliving

It will be easier to be active.

Duluth will have a planned community transportation system which promotes active living, a healthy environment, neighborhood pride, economic opportunity, and a high quality of life in Duluth. Residents will have convenient and safe access to facilities that provide physically active recreation – creating a culture of active living.



www.zeitgeistarts1.com/HealthDul/

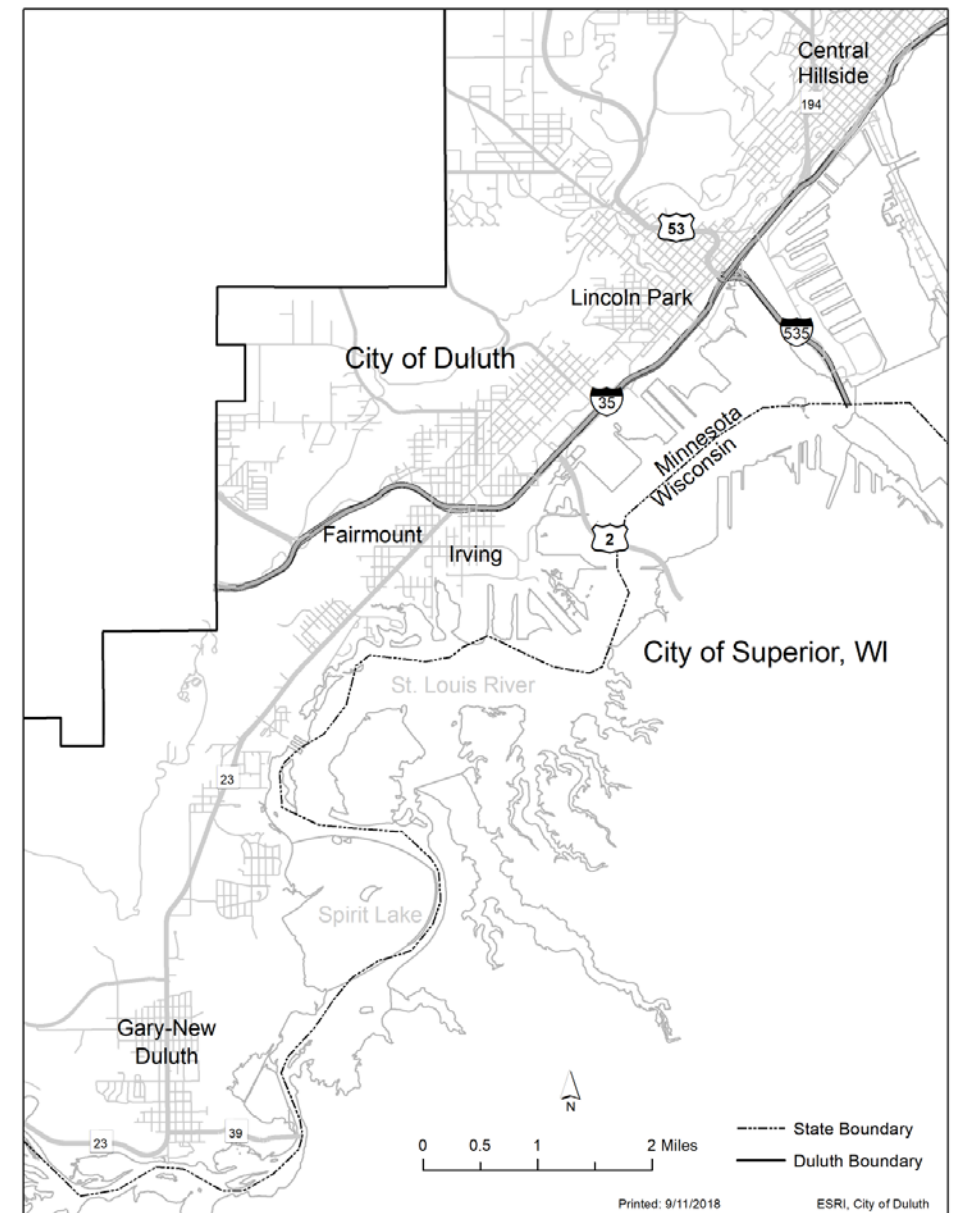
Duluth, Minnesota

Health Impact Assessment

- 6th Avenue Redesign (2013)
- Lincoln Park (2014)
- Gary/New Duluth (2014)



Midday on 6th Avenue East

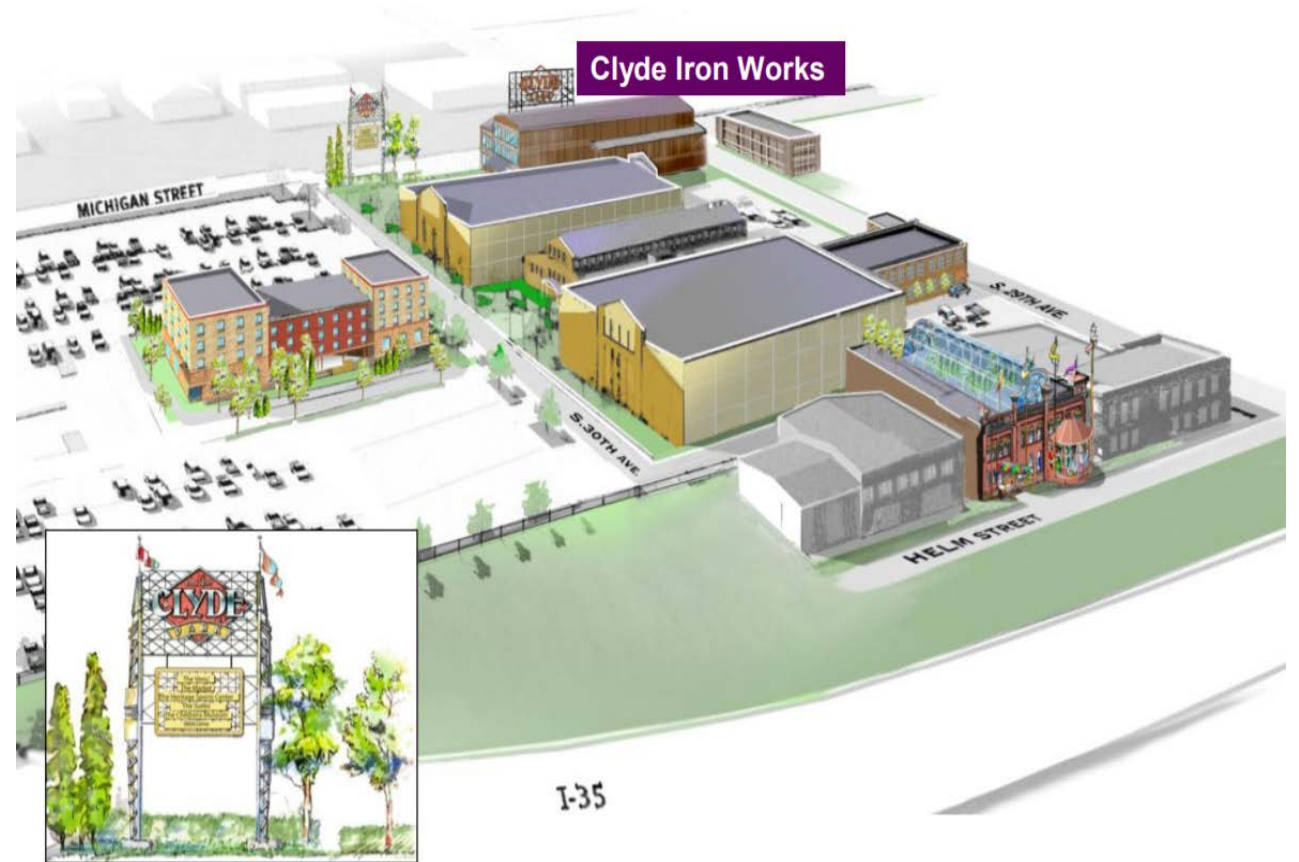


www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2011/06/20/6thavenueeastfinalreport.pdf

Duluth, Minnesota

Brownfields Redevelopment and Health Equity

- Extensive brownfield properties in Duluth
- Focus of Duluth Economic Development Authority
- EPA Brownfield grants encouraged public health assessment/benefits
- Redevelopment planning efforts integrated with HIA
- Minnesota Brownfields Health Indicator tool



Clyde Park

www.clydeparkduluth.com

Duluth, Minnesota

Transportation Equity

- Bike trail planning/prioritization
- Grocery bus
- Tactical urbanism
- Street redesign projects/
Complete Streets
- Public health representation
on Metropolitan Planning
Organization Technical Advisory
Committee



Duluth, Minnesota

Toward Health in All Policies?

- “Health” and “fairness” in 2018 Comprehensive Plan revision
- Healthy Duluth Area Coalition: Health Equity Collaborative
- Bridging Health Duluth
- Initiatives recognized by state and national organizations
- “Health in all policies”?

“Our right to a good and healthy life should not be determined by our ZIP code, or our income, education, race, gender, or religion.... My vision is of a healthy – prosperous – sustainable – fair – and inclusive community.”

– Mayor Emily Larson, 2016 State of the City address



Case Study Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California



Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California

THE Impact Project

- 2001 town hall meeting identified “goods movement” activities as health issue
- Major concerns = air quality for people living close to ports, roads, rail yards
- Predicted continued growth of shipping, trains, trucks, warehouses
- Ports seen as “economic engine”
- Reframed ports as regional environmental health and justice priority issue



Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California

THE Impact Project (LA/LB)

- Administered through University of Southern California
 - Environmental Health Sciences Center
 - Community Outreach and Engagement Core
- Partnership development (2002-2006)
 - Common local concerns about pollution from different transportation hubs
 - Reframing “goods movement” as a regional environmental justice issue
- Formed THE Impact Project (2007)
 - 4 local environmental justice groups from diverse communities
 - 2 academic partners
 - Equitable division of resources and decision making



Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California

THE Impact Project (LA/LB)



Jesse Marquez
Coalition for a Safe Environment
(CFASE)



Penny Newman
Center for Community Action
and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)



Angelo Logan
East Yards Communities
for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)



Elina Green
Long Beach Alliance for Children
with Asthma (LBACA)

Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California

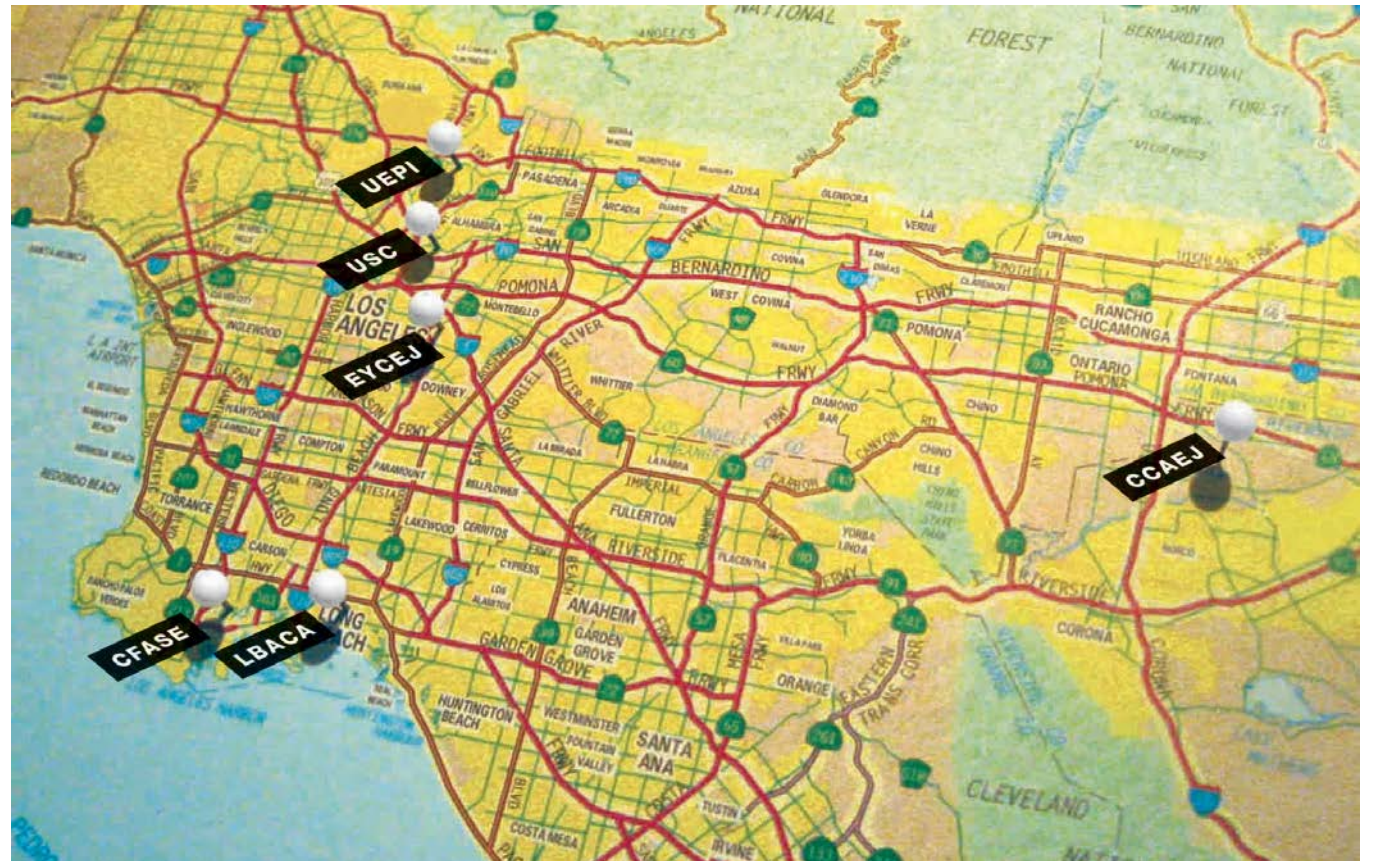
THE Impact Project (LA/LB)

Community-based partners:

- Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)
- Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE)
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)
- Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma (LBACA)

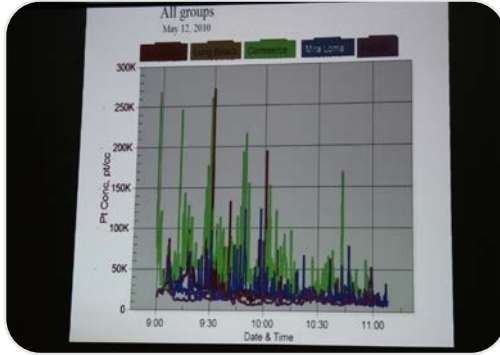
Academic/research partners:

- University of Southern California (USC)
- Urban and Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) at Occidental College



THE Impact Project

Highlights of Community-Based Efforts



Neighborhood Assessment Teams

Pollution monitoring and traffic counting in five different communities on same day at same time



A-Team Forum

Shared strategies, planned workshop for conference, and discussed future ideas for collaboration



Production of "Digital Stories"

Using a method that empowers members of community groups to write, edit, and produce their own stories

Driving Harm: Health and Community Impacts from Living near Truck Corridors

THE Impact Project Policy Brief Series, #3

October 2010



Trade, Health and Environment Impact Project
www.theimpactproject.org

THE Impact Project Policy Briefs

Storing Harm: The Health and community impacts of goods movement warehousing and logistics

THE Impact Project Policy Brief Series, #4

Tracking Harm: Health and Environmental Impacts of Rail Yards

THE Impact Project Policy Brief Series, #1

October 2010



Trade, Health and Environment Impact Project

Importing Harm: U.S. Ports' Impacts on Health and Communities

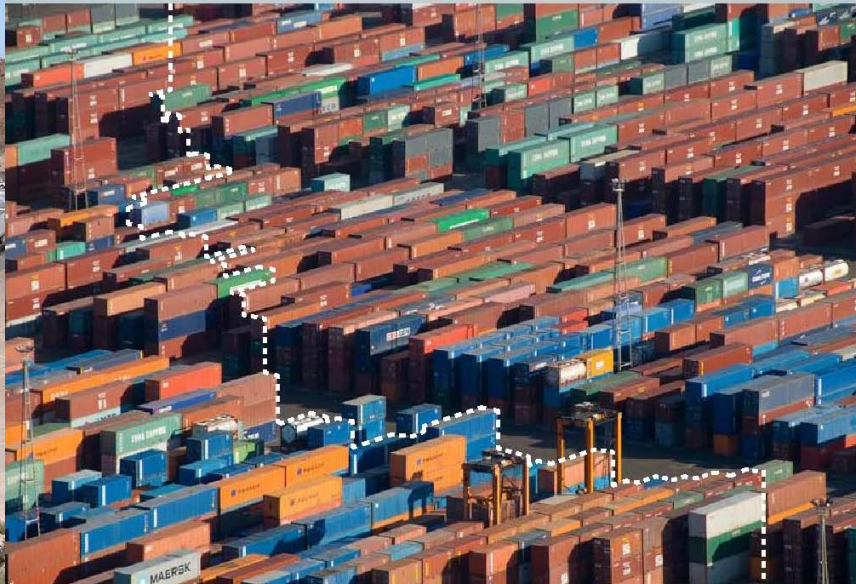
THE Impact Project Policy Brief Series, #2



Photo by www.water (where to coast?)

Escaping the Labyrinth

Questioning international trade and goods
movement expansion in an era of climate change



Mark Vallianatos

Trade, Health and Environment Impact Project



THE Impact Project

Moving Forward Together Conferences



THE Impact Project

Building Partners' Capacity to Act

- Increased academic partners' understanding of community issues
- Increased EJ groups' capacity to engage in policy
- Developed diverse outreach, education, video, media materials
- Engaged residents in collecting local data ("A-Teams")
- Local plans/decisions



THE Impact Project

Engaging in Decision Processes

- BNSF Southern California International Gateway
- Expansion of I-710 freeway
 - Commented on environmental impact review
 - Supported health impact assessment
 - Joined/educated members of committees
 - Testified at hearings



THE Impact Project. 2009. *Making the Case for Change*.
Matsuoka, M. 2014. *Democratizing Planning*.



THE Impact Project

National Impact

- Members of THE Impact Project on state/national committees
 - Clean Air Action Plan (CA)
 - National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- Featured in articles, reports, websites
- Spawned the Moving Forward Network



Photo credits for THE Impact Project: Andrea Hricko



REGISTER NOW!

**MOVING FORWARD NETWORK
4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13TH & 14TH, 2017 - LOS ANGELES**

Join us for this **FREE** two-day conference!

Conference topics will include: Ports and freight operations, pollution, and zero emission technology, environmental and climate justice, community organizing, public health, civic engagement, and community-based participatory research.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

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Info@MovingForwardNetwork.com
or visit our website:
<http://www.movingforwardnetwork.com/>

Moving Forward Network

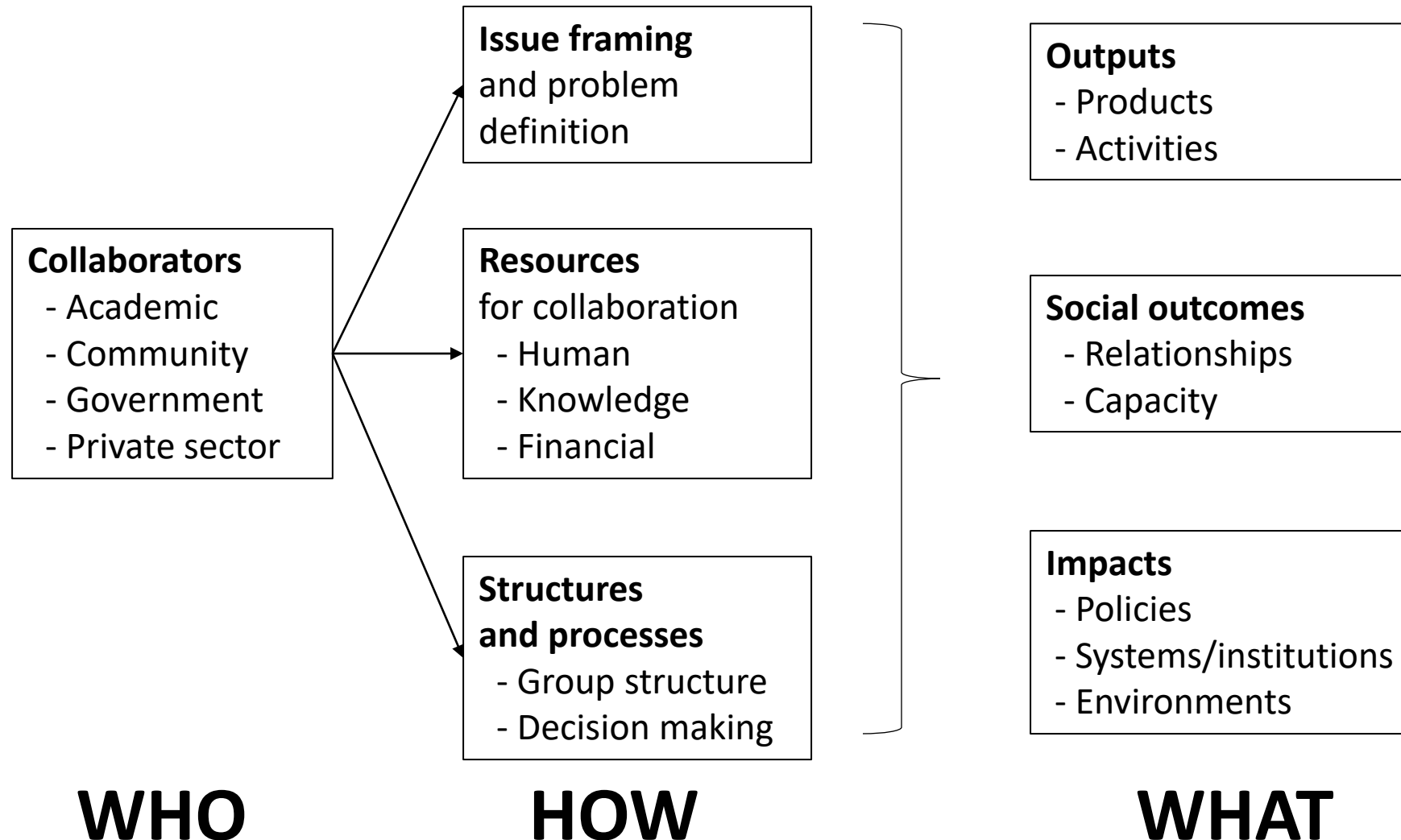
THE Impact Project

Key Accomplishments

- Built capacity of all partners
- Increased public/researcher participation in decisions
- Expanded health considerations in expansion of I-710
- Slowed BNSF Southern California International Gateway rail yard
- Spawned the Moving Forward Network
- Informed local ordinances and regulations
- Contributed to plans and policies at local, state, and national levels



Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives



Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives

WHO

- Different mixes of academic, community, government, private sector
- Initiated by local stakeholders “outside” the management system
- Supported by local management system “insiders”
- State/national organizations helped
- Different *kinds* of groups served as “conveners”
- Role of community members/groups varied (direct/indirect)
- Wide range of targets for system change
- “Target” for change = *partner* but does not = *leader*

Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives

HOW

- “Reframed issue” = longstanding issue, already improving, new focus on equity brought new energy and approaches
- Integrated health and environmental information and interests
- Each obtained human, knowledge, and financial resources differently
 - Financial resources
 - Multiple funders over time
 - All faced challenges supporting convening functions
 - Human resources
 - “Leveraged” from multiple organizations
 - “Supporting partnering” was part of someone’s job
 - Knowledge resources = multidisciplinary, credible, diverse partners
- Structure/organization of efforts varied, most informal and temporary

Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives

WHAT

- Varied outputs of activities, depending on goals (reports, education, media, policy proposals, testimony...)
- Social outputs were key to long-term impacts
 - Development of participants' capacity for action
 - Relationships had local effects beyond initial goal
 - Relationships outside community supported dissemination
- Impacts on policies, systems, and environments
 - Impacted decision-making process *and* outcomes
 - Difficult to measure impacts on environment – harder for health
 - Systems changes support future improvement in health equity
 - Impacts on other communities and national groups
 - Local effects beyond the initial issue

Framework for Local Environmental Health Initiatives

10 Key Themes

1. Health equity is a powerful idea to bring into environmental issues
2. Collaboration is a process, not an organization
3. Many kinds of groups can serve as conveners
4. Multiple ways to support, engage, build community partners
5. Boundary spanners are created, not born
6. “System” members = key partners, not leaders
7. Research can be helpful; translation is essential
8. Metrics: environmental versus health outcomes
9. Locals are listening, looking for national help
10. Local initiatives can have national impacts

“Bridging Silos offers hope at a time of federal inaction on pressing environmental and public health issues.”

*– Gina McCarthy, former administrator,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

For More Information

Community Engagement Core

University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center

www.urmc.rochester.edu/environmental-health-sciences/community-engagement-core.aspx

Katrina_Korfmacher@urmc.rochester.edu

Bridging Silos: Collaborating for Environmental Health and Justice
in Urban Communities. The MIT Press, 2019

Free pdf: <https://direct.mit.edu/books/book/4559/Bridging-SilosCollaborating-for-Environmental>

OR order with discount code MITPR

Bridging Silos

Collaborating for Environmental Health and Justice in Urban Communities

By Katrina Smith Korfmacher

How communities can collaborate across systems and sectors to address environmental health disparities; with case studies from Rochester, New York; Duluth, Minnesota; and Southern California.

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/bridging-silos>

