

THE FACTS ON LEAD IN SOIL

WHAT IS LEAD?

- Lead is a metal that naturally occurs in the earth's crust. While lead can be useful in certain circumstances, it can be extremely toxic to organic life, causing health problems in both humans and animals.
- While exposure to lead can come from lead pipes, most lead exposure is from tainted soil and dust, not water.
- Lead pollution can remain in the soil for hundreds and sometimes even thousands of years.

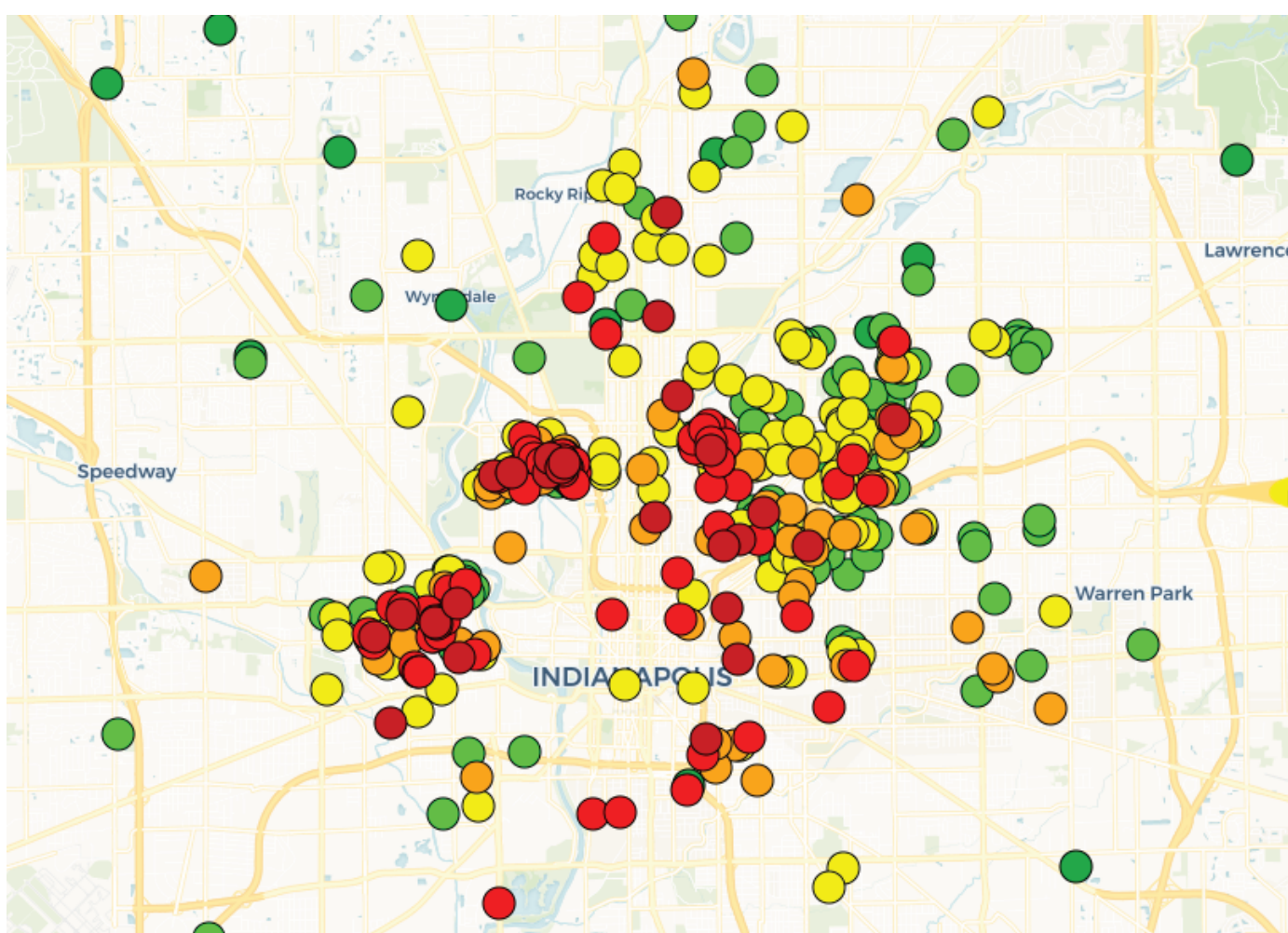
DO YOU KNOW

- Lead was used by ancient Romans ... to make water pipes.
- The chemical symbol for lead (Pb), comes from the Latin word "plumbum," which translates as "lead pipe."
- The word "plumber" is also derived from this root.

HOW DO I KNOW IF LEAD IS HIGH WHERE I LIVE?

You can ask folks at IUPUI to test the soil.

You can see on the map: iupui-earth-science.shinyapps.io/MME_Indy/



- Safe
- Use caution
- Unsafe for gardening
- Unsafe for outdoor play

THE PROBLEM

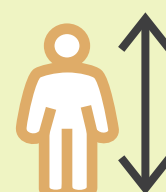
Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in:



Behavior & learning problems



Permanent decreases in intelligence



Slowed growth



Hearing problems



Anemia



Kidney damage

If lead is too high, it may not be safe to garden directly in the soil or even to play outdoors!

WHAT IF LEAD IS HIGH WHERE I LIVE?



Wash your hands after working or playing outside.



Take off your shoes immediately when entering the home.



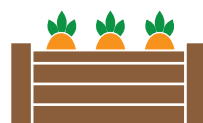
Wash your feet if playing outside barefoot.



Add mulch or native plants or even gravel to add a protective barrier.



Wash your pet's paws.



Build raised vegetable beds with fresh, clean topsoil and compost.

NEXT STEPS

If your home has elevated lead levels and if you have small children who live with you or regularly visit you, please have your children tested immediately. Contact the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) at (317) 221-2155 and request a blood test.

If your property needs remediation, MCPHD may have resources available, depending on your circumstances and needs and depending on what is available at the time of your request. Contact the MCPHD at (317) 221-2155.

WHY KEEP INDIANAPOLIS BEAUTIFUL?

KIB GreenSpaces turn vacant lots into vibrant community gathering spaces.

We add new protective layers when we install:

- Trees and mulch
- Raised vegetable beds
- Nature play areas
- Native plants
- Walking paths
- Shelters

This lowers the availability of lead in the surface soil!

