



BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

2008 National Healthy Homes Conference

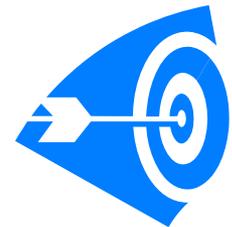
Partnering for Progress

**Working with Environmental Justice & Faith –
Based Groups in Georgia**

Forrest Staley, MUP, MCPH, Director
Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Georgia Department of Human Resources

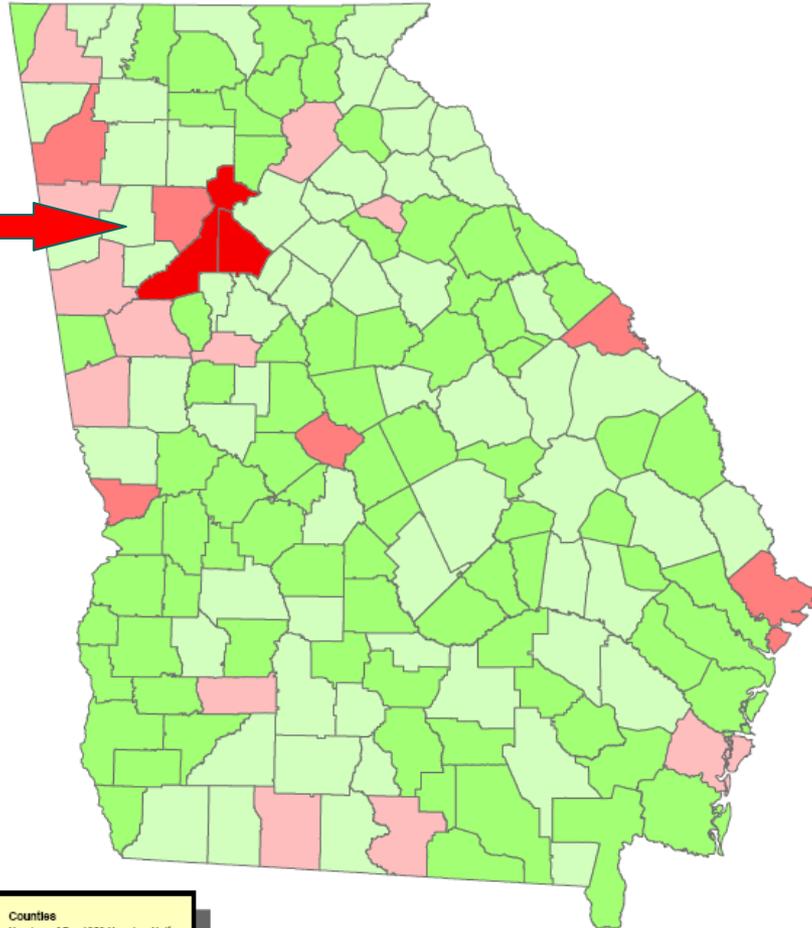
Blood Lead Testing in Georgia

- Much older housing in Georgia is dispersed – contained in “hot spots” that have high percentages of pre 1950 property and children in poverty
- Although these areas lend themselves to targeted testing there are obstacles to increasing community participation in a targeted outreach plan

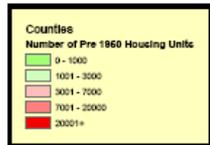


Number of Pre 1950 Housing Units by County

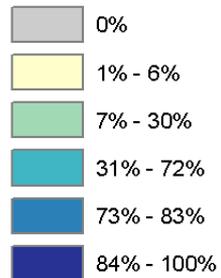
Atlanta



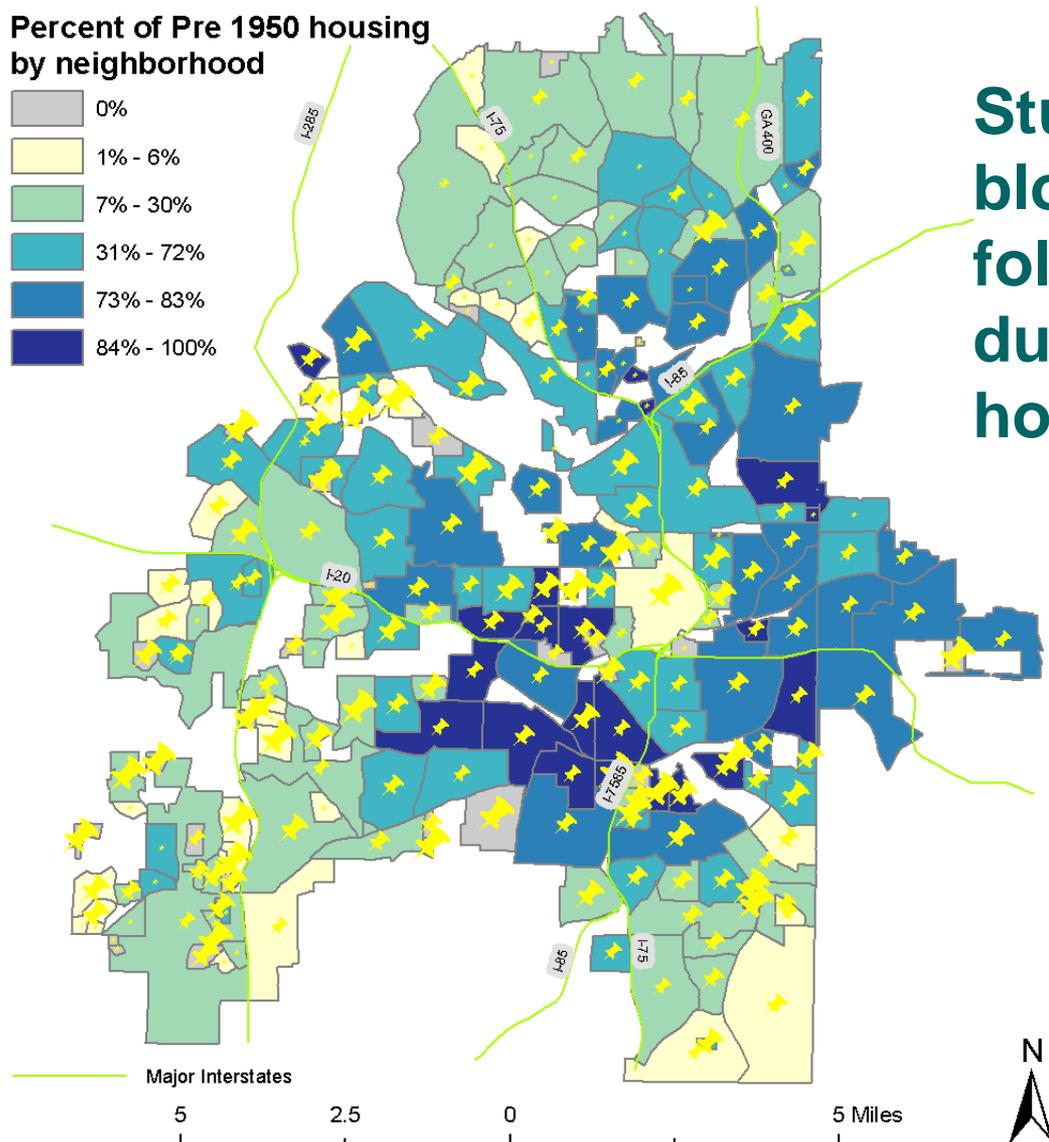
Savannah



Percent of Pre 1950 housing by neighborhood



Studies have shown that blood lead testing is not following children at risk due to occupying older housing (*Atlanta Study)



Percent of children aged 0-3 tested by neighborhood -- Tests / Total Children (0-3)



*Tentatively accepted by Pediatrics





Region 4: Pre-1970 housing

- Florida-9th
- Georgia-18th
- Tennessee – 20th
- Alabama-24th
- Kentucky- 25th
- South Carolina-30th
- Mississippi- 35th



Housing - Georgia ranks 18th nationally in homes built prior to 1970!

- Georgia has approximately 337,036 housing units (10.3% of total units) built prior to 1950
- Georgia has more than 620,460 housing units (19% of total units) built prior to 1960
- Georgia has approximately 1,036,507 housing units (32 % of total units) built prior to 1970

Housing Units by Year Structure Built, Georgia

Housing Built	Housing Units	%
Prior to 1940	192,972	5.9
1940 to 1949	144,064	4.4
1950 to 1959	283,424	8.6
1960 to 1969	416,047	12.7
1970 to 1979	608,926	18.6
1980 to 1989	721,174	22.0
1990 to 2000	915,130	28.0
Total	3,281,737	

Source: 2000 census data



Distribution of Old Housing in Georgia

Year	State	Coastal	Chatham	Savannah
1950	10.3%	13.4 %	19.3 %	28.0 %
1960	19.0 %	23.9 %	34.1 %	47.5 %
1970	31.6 %	35.2 %	48.0 %	64.4 %

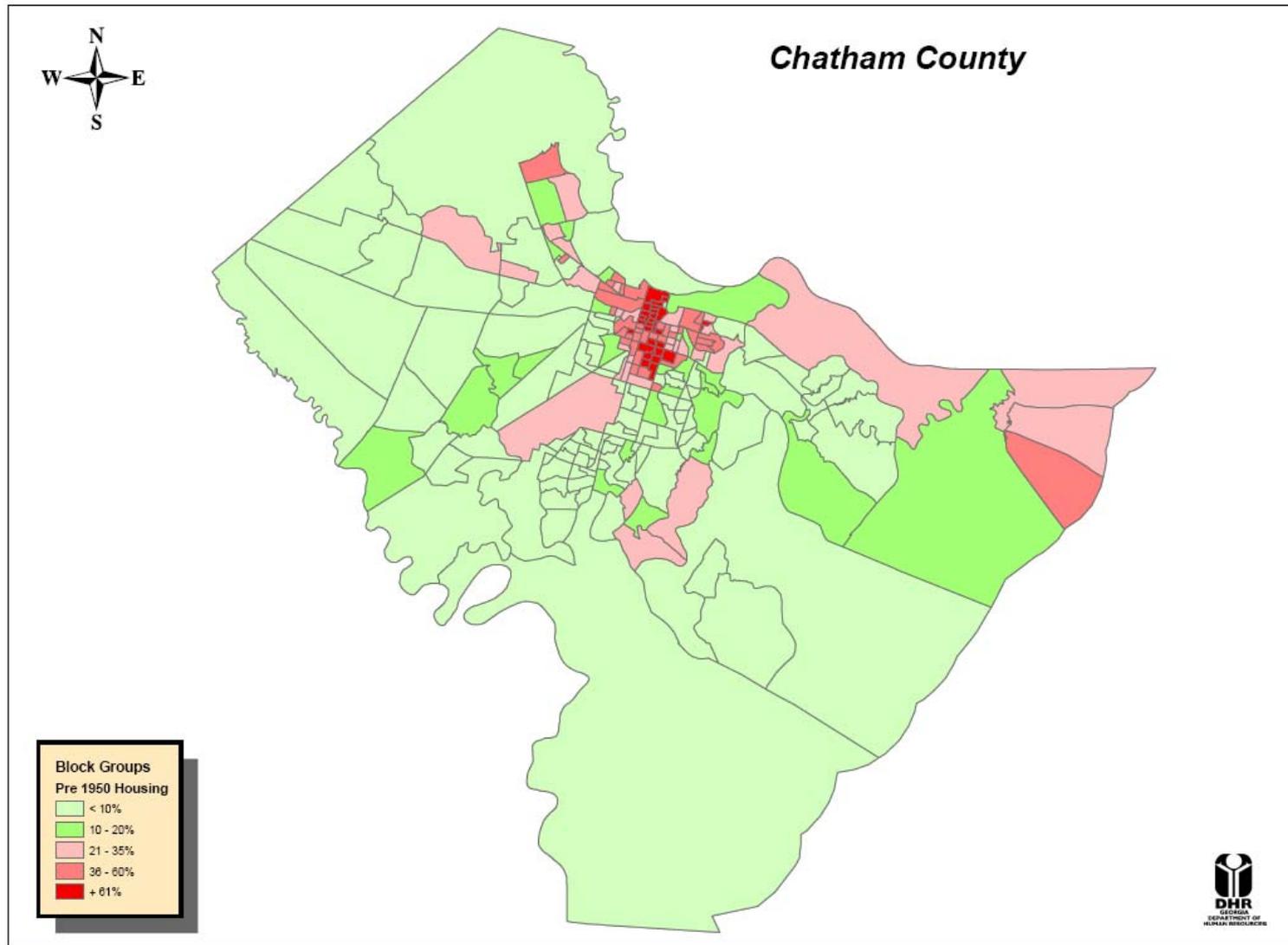


Distribution of children at risk under 5 in Georgia

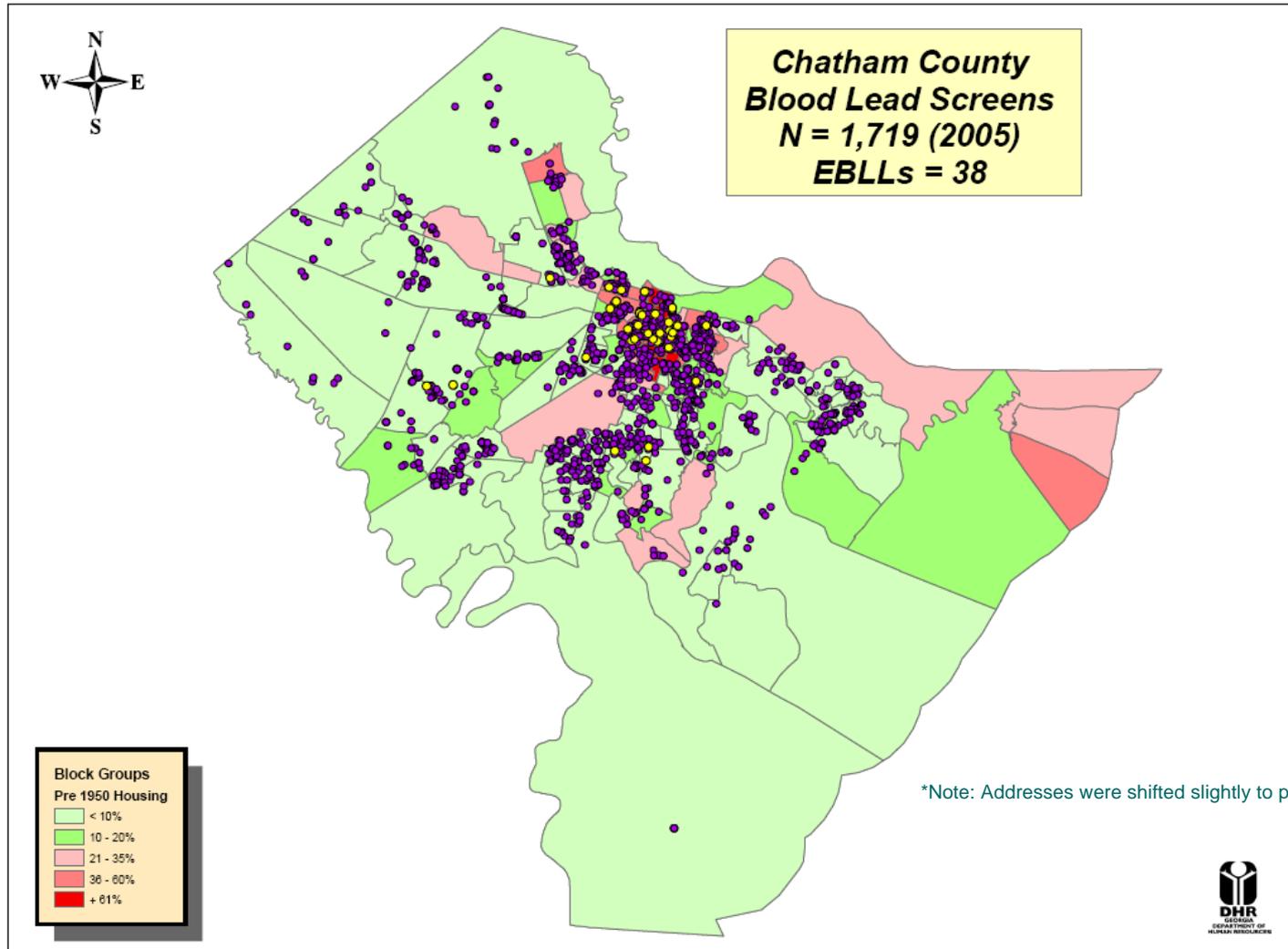
	State	Coastal	Chatham	Savannah
Poverty	22%	20%	29%	34%
African American	33%	37%	50%	68%
Hispanic	8%	5%	3%	3%

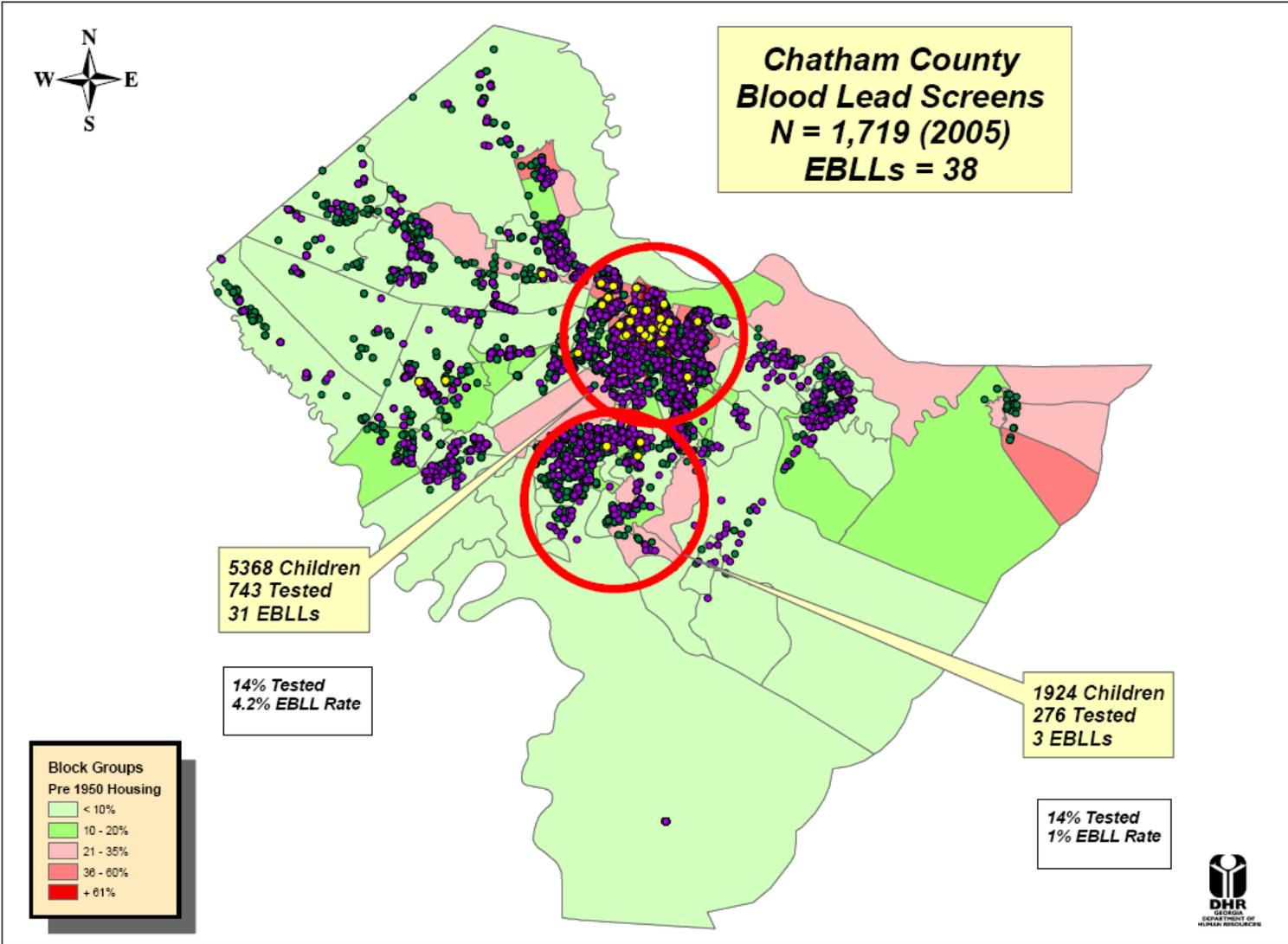


Savannah – Distribution of Older (Pre – 1950) Housing



Testing in Savannah





Challenges

- **Need to test more children in identified high- risk areas**
- **Need to train community and outreach leaders to reach residents with educational materials in high – risk areas**
- **Need to build a rapport with residents in order for them to assist in getting children tested**
- **Need an initiative to address policy changes in local ordinances**



Advantages of partnering with EJ and Faith Based groups

- **These groups have an established community connection**
 - a) **Trusted by the community**
 - b) **Understands the methods and venues needed to communicate the message**
- **These groups have experience in advocating and training the community in environmental issues**
- **Established networking channels throughout the community**



Local Health is ideally positioned to address the lead poisoning problem in Savannah

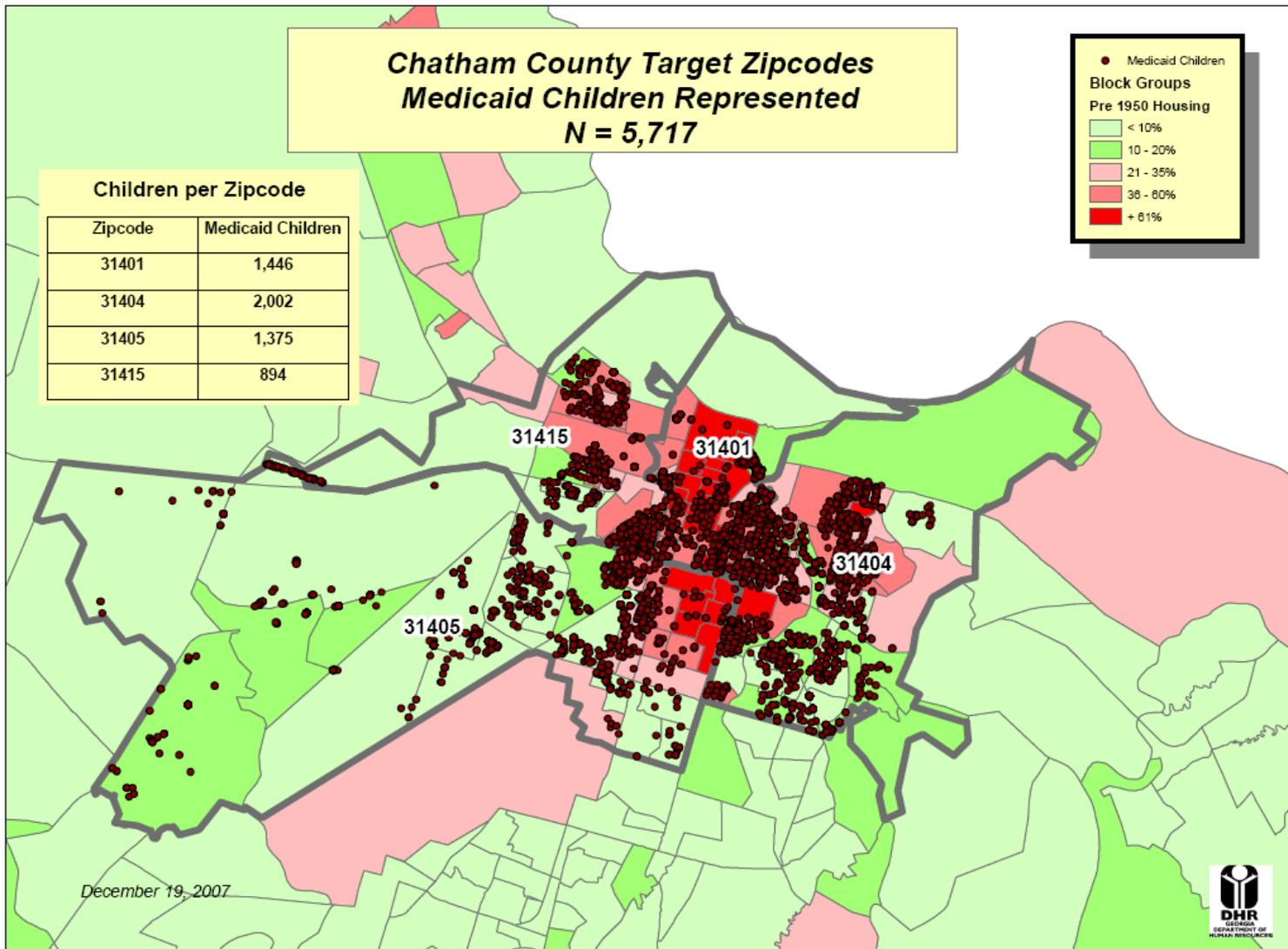
- **The Chatham County Health Department (CCHD) has staff and equipment devoted to the local Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
- **CCHD receives resources from the state to help support the local lead program directly**
- **The County has a local laboratory to support testing and give rapid turnaround of samples**
- **The County has local ordinances that address lead hazards in Savannah properties**



EJ Groups provide the community support needed to get the children tested

- **Community outreach worker training – “train the trainer” sessions addressing the lead threat to the communities’ children**
- **Sessions before the city council to discuss policy changes**
- **Organize community “events” during which children can be tested**
- **Liaisons to other community entities (Head Start, Day Care Centers, Churches, etc.)**





* Addresses have been shifted slightly to preserve confidentiality



Lead Awareness Church Collaboration

Pastor Vernell Cutter
Prepared for Healthy People Conference
September 2008

Overview – Achieving Environmental Justice With Church Based Collaboration

- **Historical Perspective**
- **Project Purpose**
- **Goals**
- **Objective**
- **Outreach Activities**
- **Outreach Deliverables**
- **Pre/Post Questionnaire**
- **Advancing the Church Collaborative**
- **Questions and Answers**

Historical Perspective

In Understanding the Role of African American Churches and Clergy in Community Crisis Response, Dr. Karyn Trader-Leigh notes that “in addition to their spiritual mission, Black clergy and churches have long stood ready to meet pressing human needs in the community. They are fully aware that social conditions all too often mean the difference between good health outcomes or chronic illness among their parishioners.”

Historical perspective

Dr. Trader-Leigh notes that, “The legacy of struggle against oppression, mistreatment, and neglect gives the church a role that is as important today as ever. Black church life, which starts with the community, continues to be shaped by the African American experiences and the encounters with two different Americas: (1) the ‘haves’ and (2) the ‘have-nots’.” She calls for, “The Black church to remain vigilant in confronting the nature of inequality in this country of social and economic disparities.”

Historical Perspective

In The Shape of Zion: Leadership and Life in African American Churches, Michael Dash refers to a survey of African American churches conducted by the Interdenominational Theological Center. This survey affirmed that African American churches are strongly involved in addressing social needs. Dash states that, “African American congregations are primarily devoted to serving the community.”

Project Purpose

Since its inception, Citizens for Environmental Justice/

Harambee House, Inc. has partnered with the church to improve the health of the community.

The purpose of the Lead Awareness project is to establish a tactical partnership that will cultivate childhood lead poisoning awareness in Savannah, Georgia for hard-to-reach populations

Goals

- **Increase the community's lead knowledge**
- **Identify and test high-risk children under the age of 6**
- **Develop and implement community's ability to detect lead in individual houses**
- **Provide a strategic design to address policy modification in Savannah**

Objective

The partnership will seek to build the community's capacity to engage in developing solutions to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010 through enhancing their levels of education and awareness.

Outreach Activities

- Lead Awareness Kickoff – October 19, 2007 at Abyssinia Baptist Church. The guest were: Forest Chapel Baptist Church of Atlanta; Congressman John Barrow; State Representative Lester Jackson; LaToria Whitehead, CDC Project Officer; Forrest Staley of the State Lead Prevention Program; Pastor Shannon Smith of the State Baptist Youth Council; Dr. Ja Jahannes of Savannah State University
- Black Earth Watch Radio Broadcast
- Savannah College of Art and Design Poster Exhibit
- Hudson Hill Health Fair
- Chatham County Council Presentation
- City Council Referendum – Alderperson Mary Osborne
- Hungry Club Forum
- Equal Opportunity Association Head Start Orientation

Outreach Deliverables

- The Citizens for Environmental Justice will develop and conduct a Train-the-Trainer session for parents, daycare teachers/workers, heads of neighborhood associations, and other community leaders. These key community leaders will in turn expound on what they have learned by teaching the curriculum to their constituents.

Pre/Post Questionnaire

- **A Pre/Post Questionnaire was developed to assess the community participants knowledge of lead.**

Advancing the Church Collaborative

Needs:

- 1) Training and skill-building assistance aimed at improving the availability of volunteers**
- 2) Faith-based funding to build infra structure for community participation**
- 3) Acceptance of church as full partner**
- 4) Recognition of church ability to provide spiritual care**

Question and Answer

Thank You



Engaging Faith-Based & Community Organizations (FBCO's) in preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning

Rose Pue, Public Health Advisor, FBCI Project Officer
National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services
Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch
September 2008



“CDC’s partners are critical to achieving our public health goal of eliminating lead poisoning by 2010.”

Mary Jean Brown ScD, RN
CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch Chief

Why is FBCO's important to Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention?

- The responsibility for childhood lead poisoning prevention involves many different entities. FBCO serve as one of the most effective avenues to engage partners in the science and practice of interventions involving collaborations between places of worship, communities and the public health system.

Rationale for Partnering: Why Partner? Why Now?

- In addressing one of the nations number one environmental hazard to children, agencies and organizations realize that we simply must do more with less
- No one group, agency, organization or business, "owns" the problems or has the resources to solve it
- Effective Partnerships can overcome these challenges.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session you will:

- Understand the purpose of the Faith-Based /Community Initiative & the value of collaboration
- Understand Separation of Church and State relevant to this Initiative
- What science has discovered regarding the influence of faith on health – The science supporting work with Faith Communities
- Have a visual example for prevalence data driving a Faith Based Initiative Process
- Have information on Best Practices & Promising Practices
- The Emerging role of Faith-Based Organizations in the Low-Income Housing Market

What is the Faith-Based and Community Organization Initiative (FBCOI)?

- Executive Order
- HHS has charged CDC
- Growing confluence of faith and health.....

Understanding separation of church and state

An important consideration for effective collaboration between public health and faith

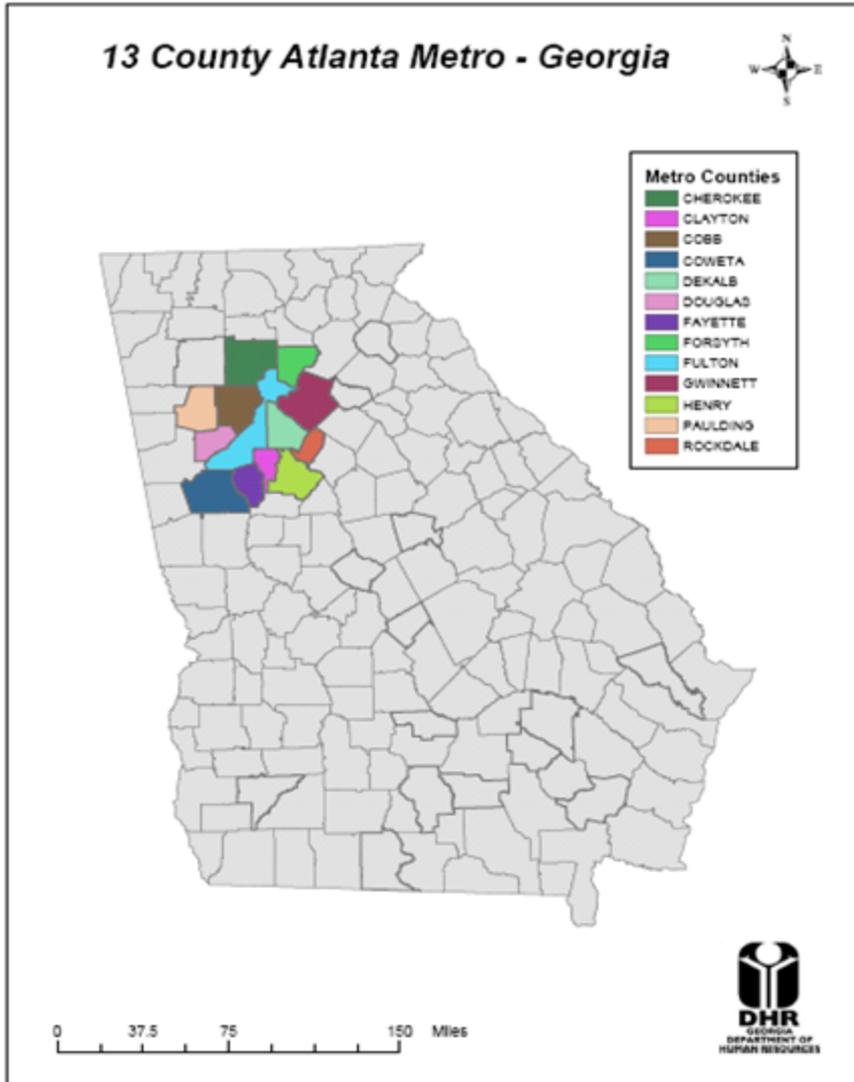


What science has discovered...

The influence of faith on health at the individual and community levels. Four main aspects are:

1. Relationship between individual spirituality and individual health
2. Religious structures acting for the express purpose of improving and contributing to the health of those communities
3. A broad-scale realignment of social responsibilities and a new understanding of enduring accountability for community structures; and
4. Places of worship vitality, occurring in strong active worship places, the root from which the faith community's involvement with public health must be generated.

Know your area.

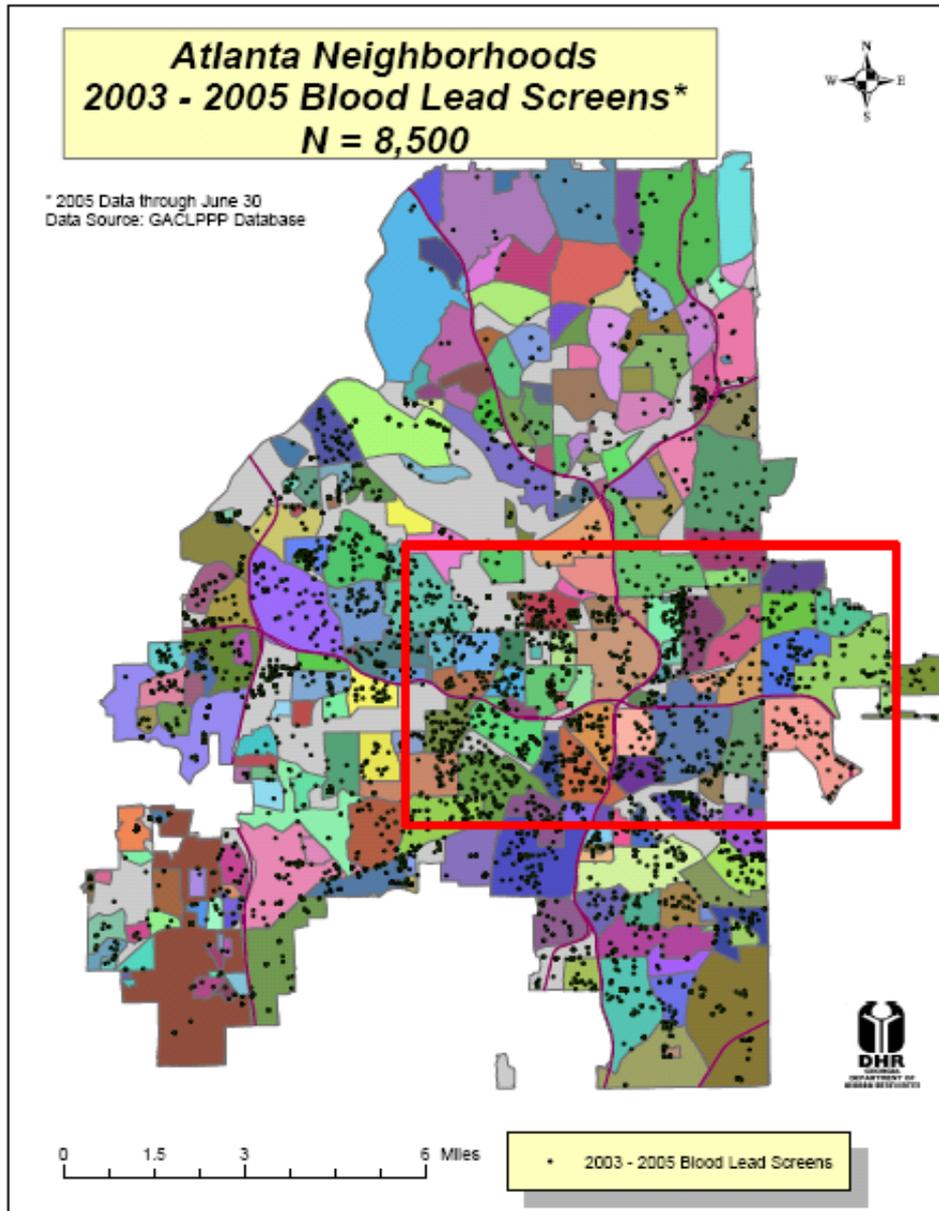


An **Example** of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevalence Data Driving a Faith Based Initiative Process

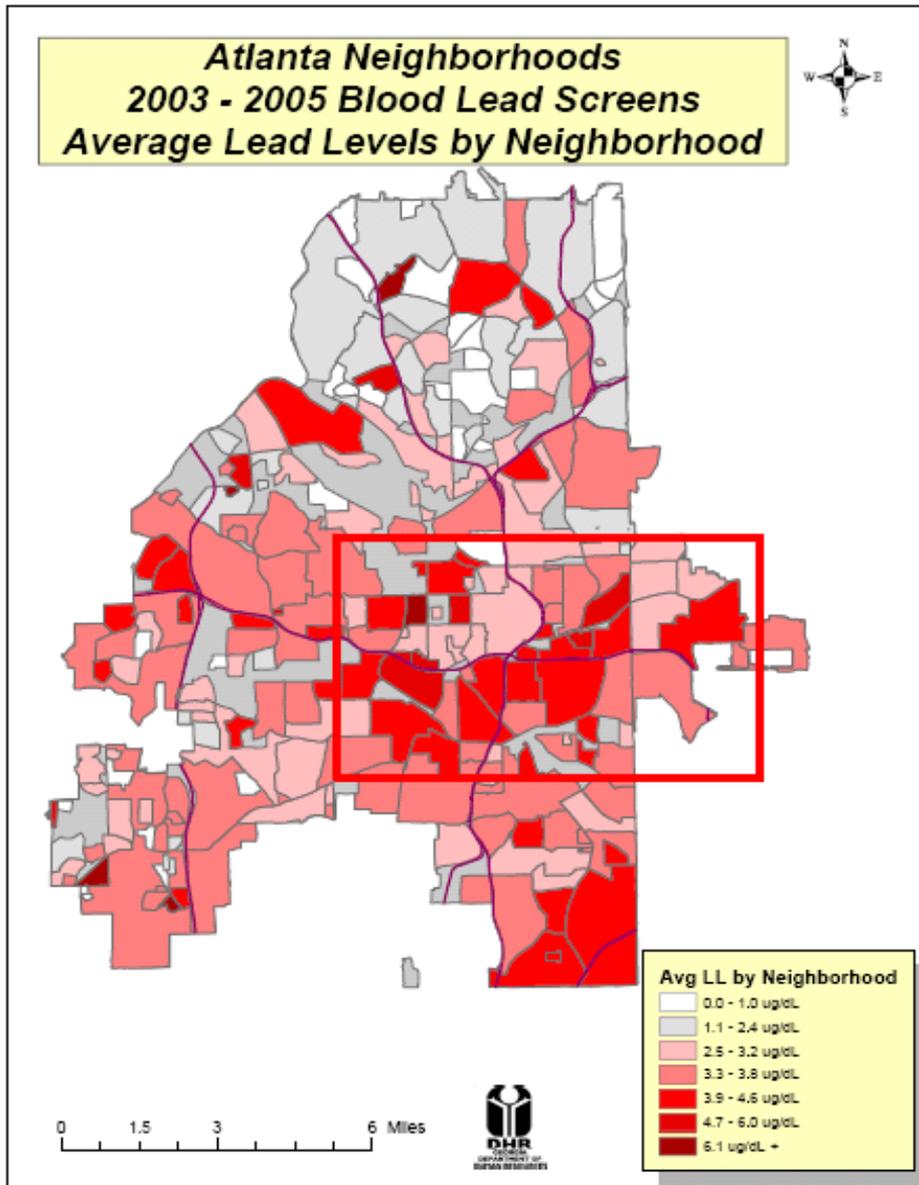
Analysis done using GIS and Lead Prevalence Data

Modify it to match your data through GIS.

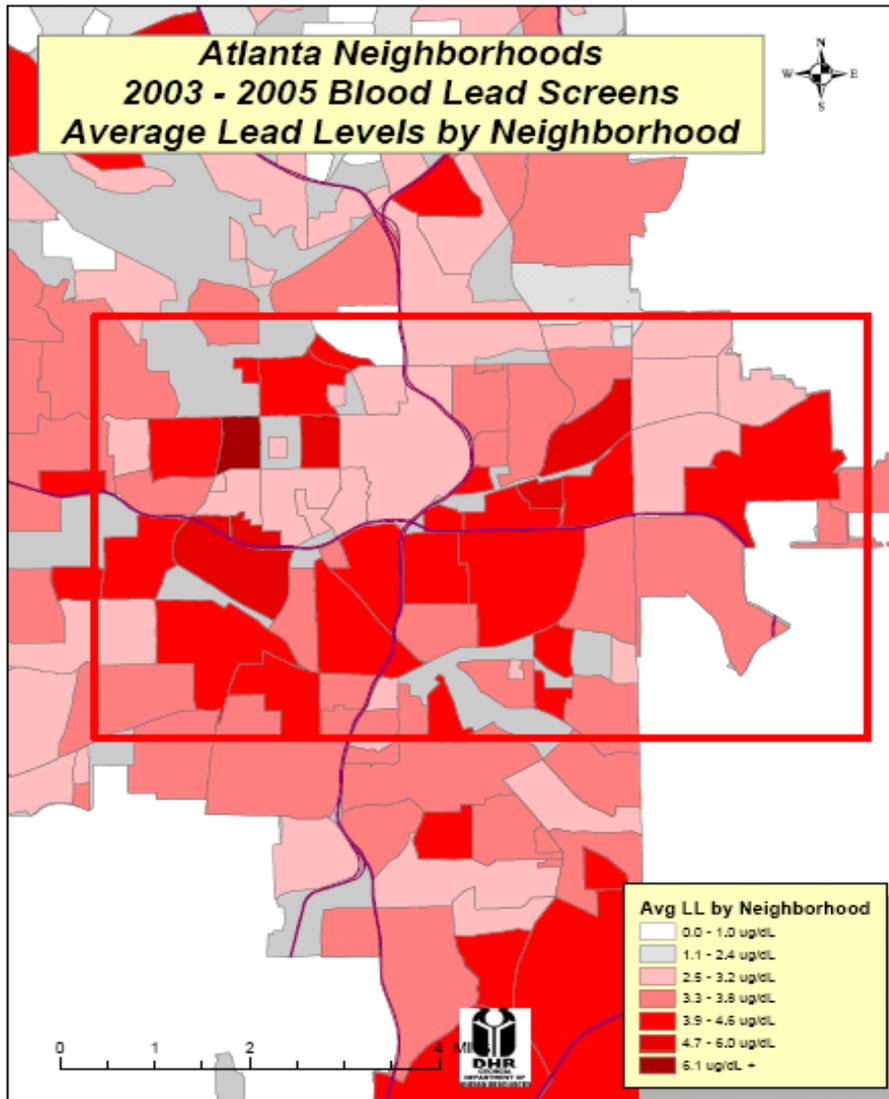
Data from The Georgia Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Compiled by Forrest Staley, MUP, Epidemiologist



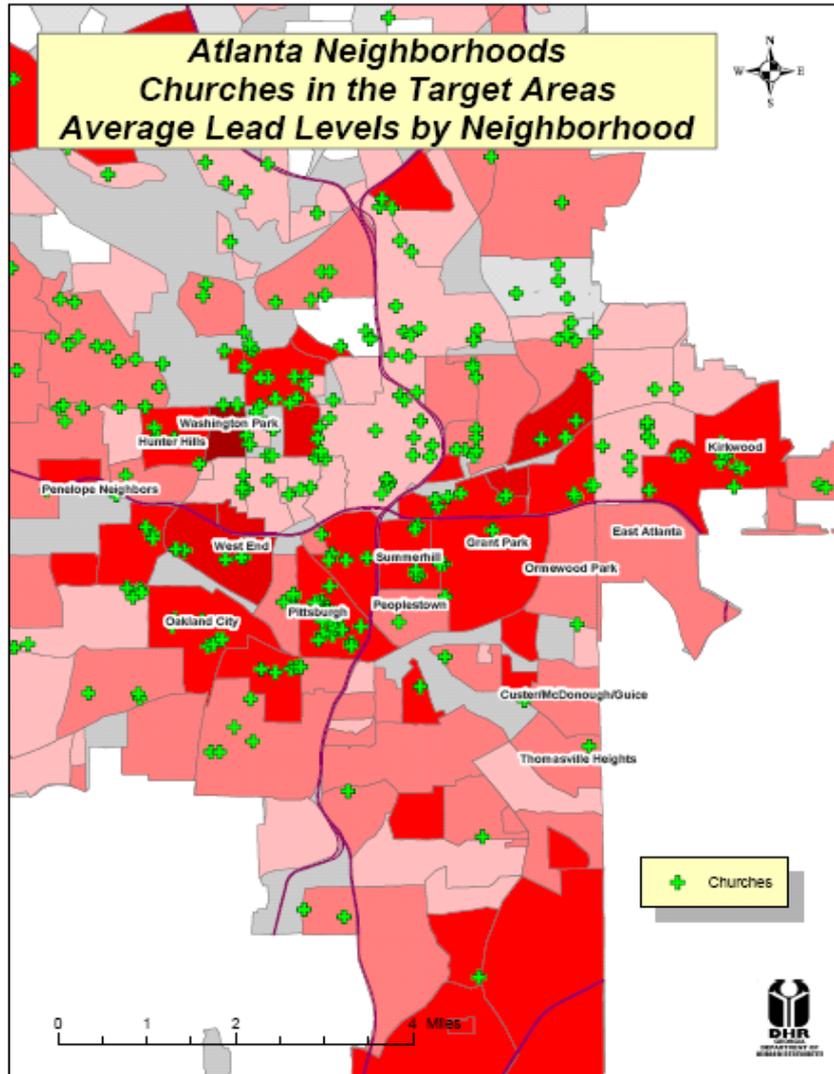
A significant number of screens in the target area will indicate what the prevalence is in the evaluation of problem neighborhoods



The rectangle marks an area of high average lead levels.



They begin to look at specific neighborhoods by doing a close-up



They added places of worship to the target area to observe which places of worship are in the high lead prevalence areas

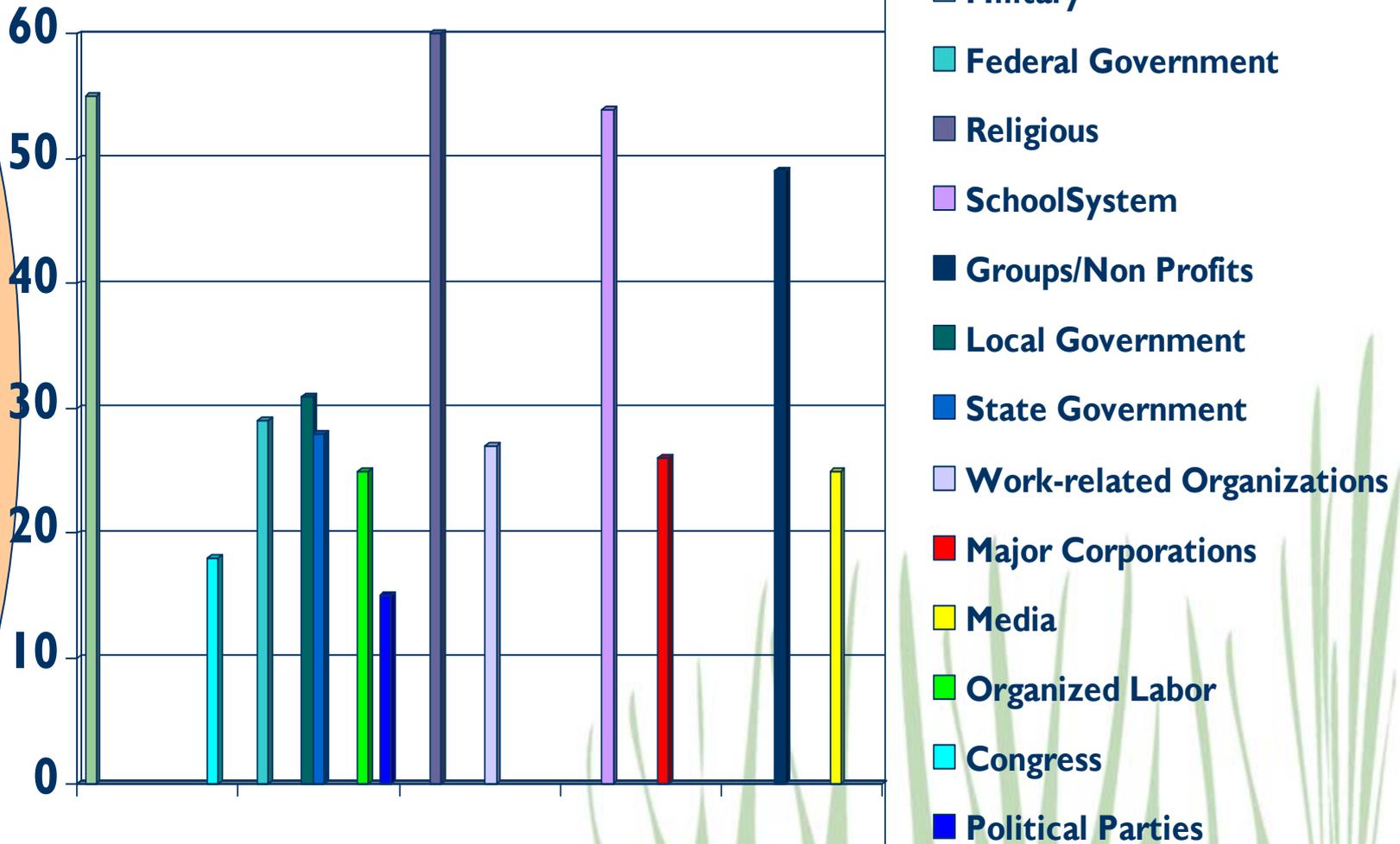
Updated Survey

- U. S. Adult population of 225 million survey showed 189 million have an religious affiliation – (Source: US Religions Landscape Survey. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Pew Research Center. Washington, DC. 2008)
- Out of 189 million adults– how many have children under six and are residing in the targeted population of lead hazards?

Objective: Include FBCL in the comprehensive strategy to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

Where Americans Place Their Confidence

Source: Independent Sector, 1999
% of respondents



Best Practices / Promising Practices

A description of current Best Practices of partnerships and Promising Practices of faith and health collaborations involving CDC or other federal agencies.



Emerging Role of FBCO in the Low-Income Housing Market

■ Highlights

- The relationship between faith-based and secular nonprofit in providing housing services
- Institutions engaged in and the arrangement used for delivering those services
- Implications for the future
- Explore the role of FBO's providing housing in inner cities

The partnership objective is often ambitious but not impossible...

- Create a Plan of Action – Ensure to involve the stakeholders
- Structure the Action Plan – May involve a MOU
- Organize (decide on task, timeframe, follow-up and completion date)
- Execute Plan
- Evaluate Plan / Survey
- Sustainability

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