

# WATER POLICY IN FLINT, MI

*Understanding the broad health ramifications of policy*

**April 24, 2014**

City switches from Detroit to Flint water system

**May 2014**

Flint residents complain about water quality; are assured it is safe

**January 15, 2015**

State official declines invitation to rejoin Detroit water system

**August 20, 2015**

Lead level samples excluded to show Flint's water was safe

**September 2, 2015**

Virginia Tech water expert finds water corrosiveness as cause of lead levels

**October 1, 2015**

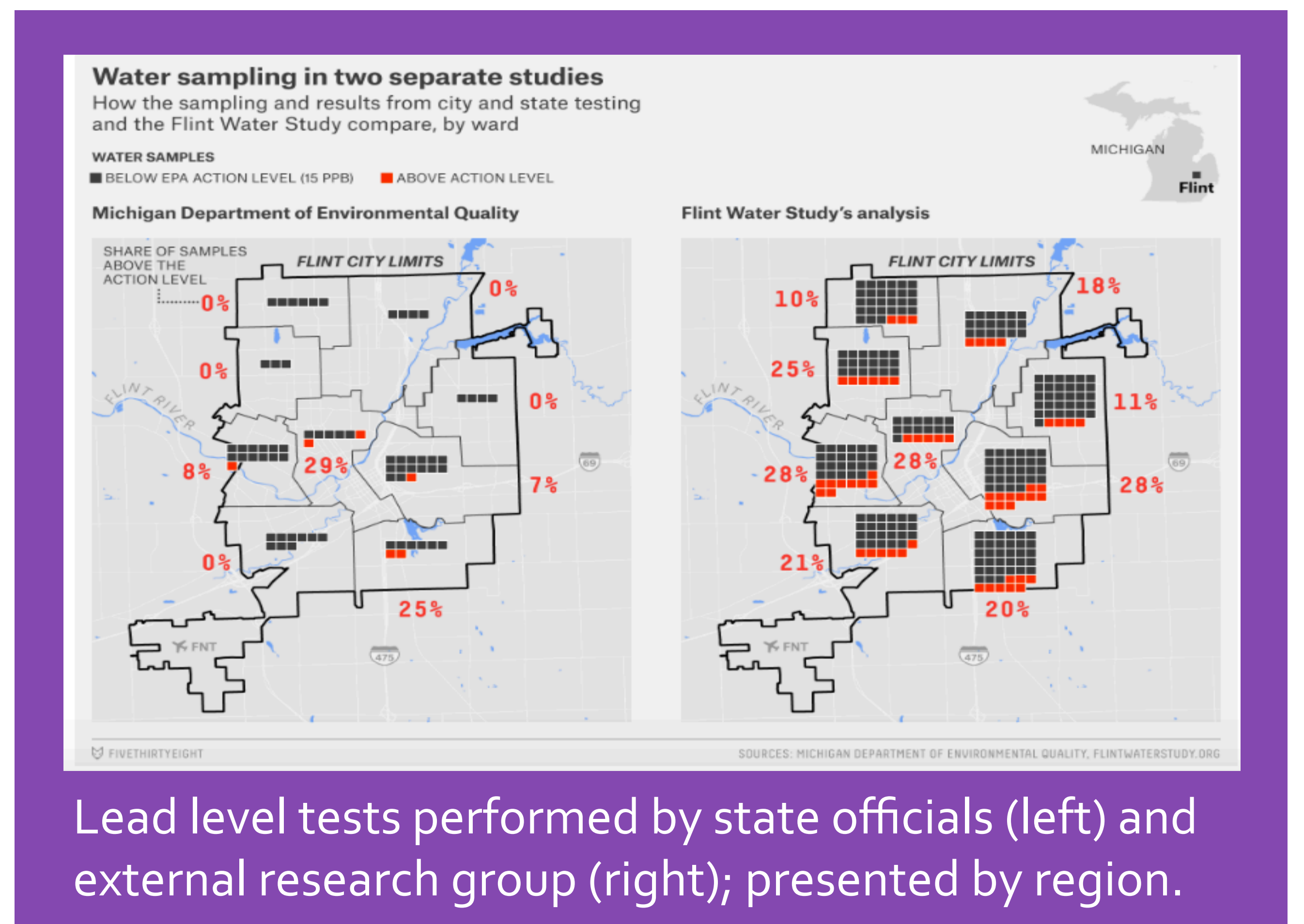
Residents urged not to drink water after federal agency finds high lead levels

**January 2016**

President Obama declares state of emergency; FEMA provides \$5 million in aid.

**Today**

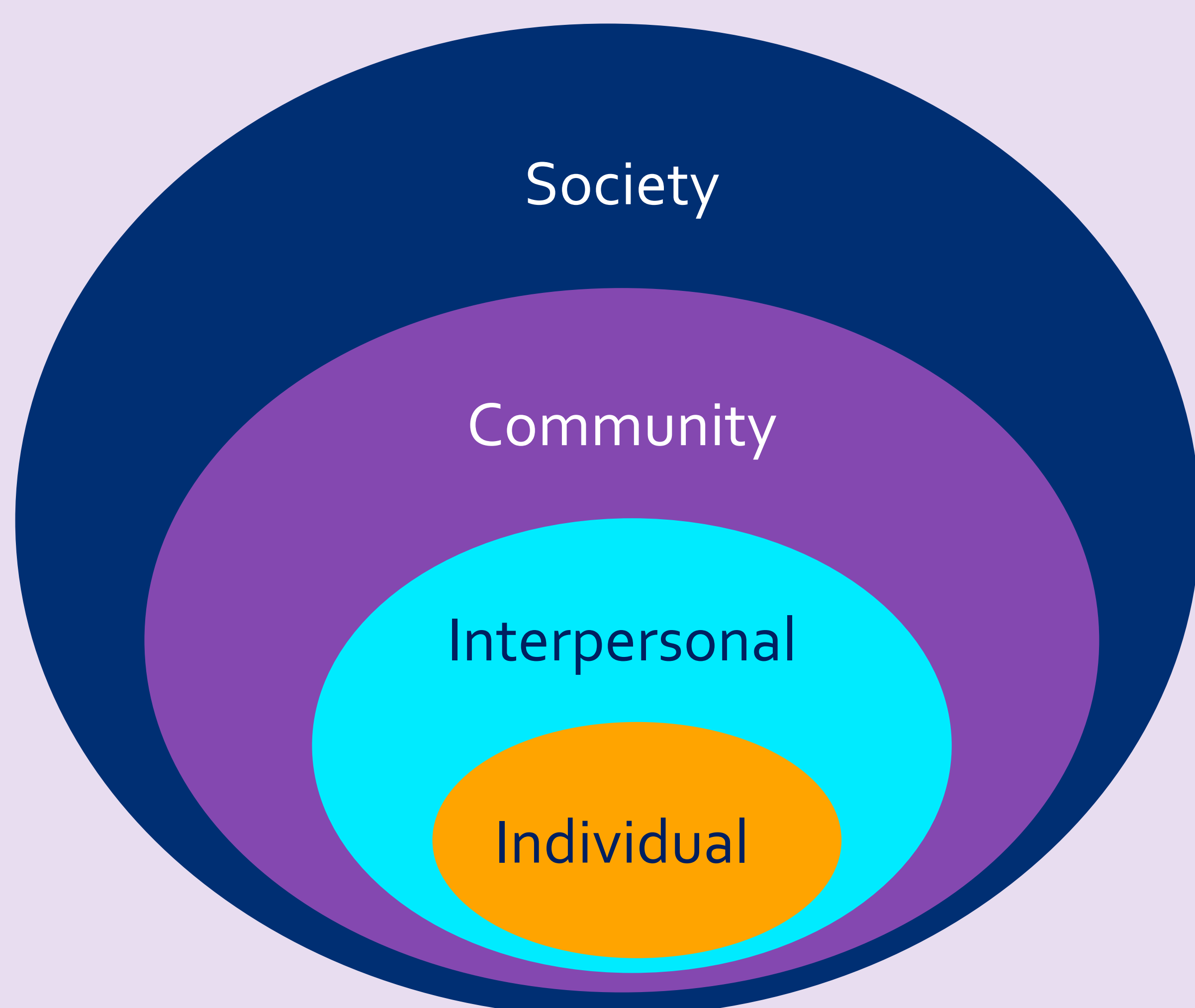
As pipes are replaced, lead levels decrease; residents still unable to drink water



## Ripple Effect

One small policy decision about water in Flint led to:

- Water insecurity
- Long-term physical illness
- Stress-related mental illness
- Systemic inequity
- Systemic corruption



**In contrast, policy needs to take into account broad health impacts.**

- Policies impact many aspects of people's lives, including their health.
- When making decisions, policymakers can alter health outcomes by considering
  - Prevention
  - Equity
  - Social determinants of health
  - Community and individual well-being
- The socio-ecological model can be used to assess effects at multiple levels including individual, community, and national.