



THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

JACKIE LANNING
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

WOMENNC
CSW64 / BEIJING+25
FEMTOR:BRITTN I HOWARD,RTI GLOBAL GENDER CENTER

The third guiding principle
of reproductive justice is
**the right to parent
children in safe and
healthy environments.**

– WOMEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT FOR REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE, 1994

Environmental Toxins

SOURCES

- Lead in Tap Water
- Cadmium Paint
- Arsenic in Soil
- Mercury Air Pollution

EFFECTS

- Premature Birth
- Birth Defects
- Low-Birth Weight Deliveries
- Miscarriage
- Delayed Neurodevelopment

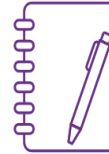
DISPARITIES

- Pregnant women carry higher burden of disease than men and non-pregnant women

METHODS



**Survey on Awareness and
Attitudes towards
Environmental Toxins and Health**



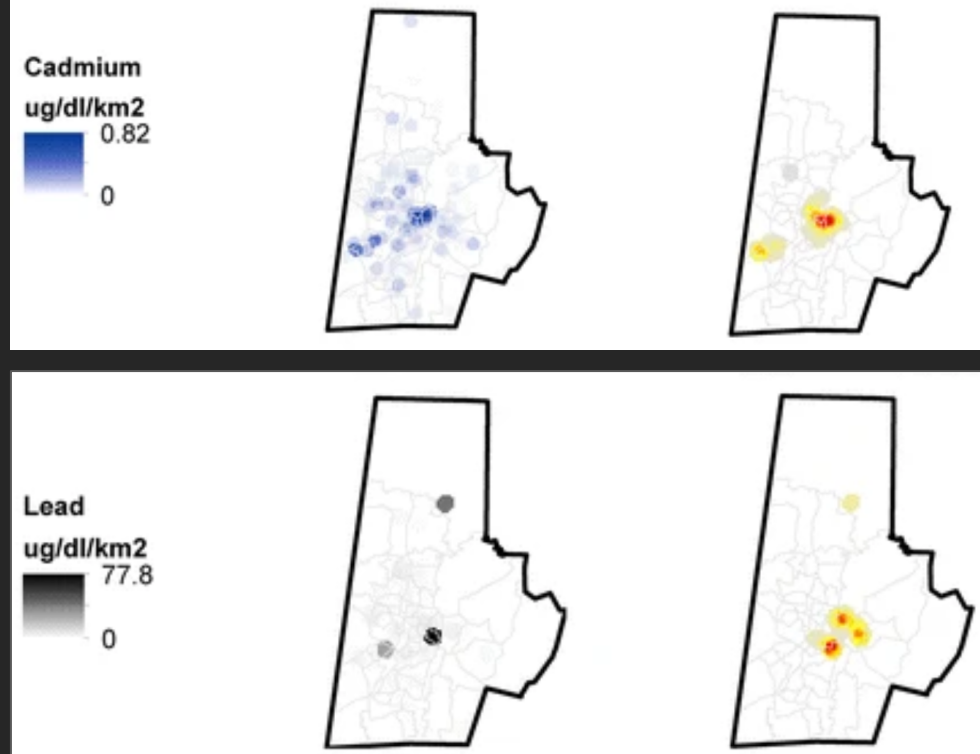
**Partner with Durham nonprofit,
Partnership Effort for the
Advancement of Children's
Health (PEACH)**



Review of Literature

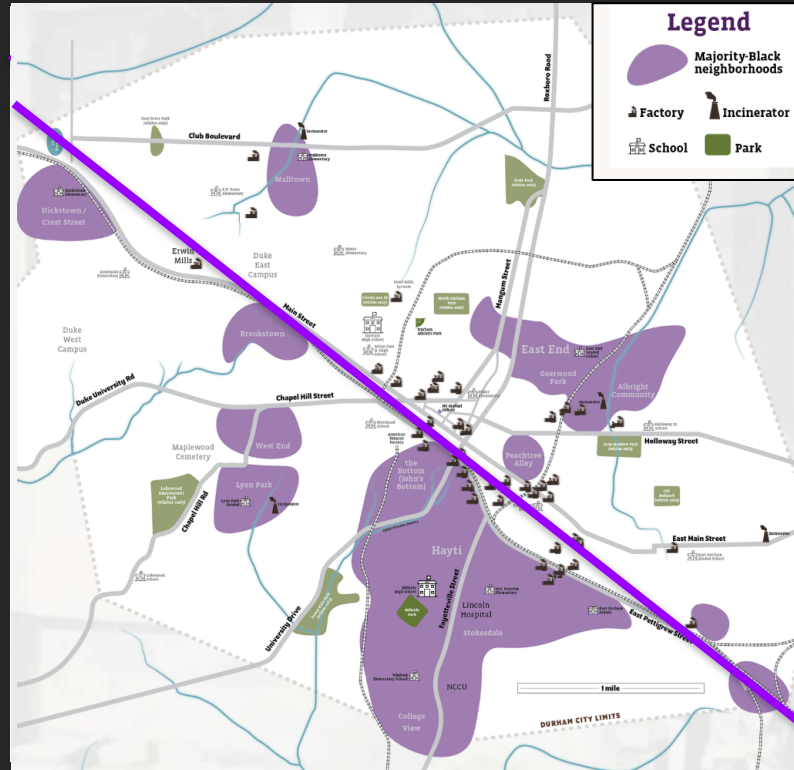
FINDINGS

MAPPING THE ISSUE



Blood cadmium levels and blood lead levels were taken from 239 pregnant women and mapped using their home address

MAPPING THE ISSUE



Predominately Black
Neighborhoods in Proximity to
Factories and Incinerators, 1937

48%

Female-Headed
Households with Children

Attitudes and Awareness Towards Environmental Toxins

20%

**were well informed
about environmental
toxins**

47%

**were concerned
about their exposure
to environmental
toxins**

19%

**recalled having a
blood test for
environmental
toxins**

44%

**reported practicing
preventive cleaning
habits more than
once a week**

(16 Survey Participants)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Implement **Public Health Campaign** Targeted in Communities with a High-Risk of Exposure



Encourage Health-Care Providers to **Recommend Blood-Testing** for Pregnant Women Living in Areas with High-Risk