



Advisory Board

Environmental Justice At MWRA





EJ Contacts for the MWRA

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MWRA EJ Task Force



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Environmental Justice (EJ)

- Environmental justice (EJ) is based on the principal that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency.
- Environmental Justice is a priority of the Commonwealth. In September 2020, the EEA Environmental Justice Task Force (under the EEA EJ Policy and EO552) convened a Secretariat-wide task force on EJ.
- To promote environmental justice, members of the environmental justice task force developed EJ strategies tailored to their agencies' mission. A Secretariat EJ Strategy would consolidate the strategies



Timeline





Promote environmental, energy, and climate justice across the Commonwealth

- MWRA develops first (EJ) strategy
- MWRA incorporates the following EJ principles
 - Expanding public outreach
 - Translating documents
 - Mitigating impacts
- MWRA hired EJ Community liaison
- EEA - Secretariat-wide task force for language access forms



In February 2024, Massachusetts unveiled its first EJ Strategy. As part of this Secretariat wide initiative.



MWRA EJ Strategy Overview

As part of our commitment to our member communities, MWRA developed an EJ strategy that aligns with our mission. Further, our EJ strategy includes the following principles that outline MWRA's actions and visions for promoting EJ considerations across MWRA's programs, policies, and activities.

- Communication and Outreach
- Public Engagement and Participation
- Trainings
- Hiring
- Grant and Zero Interest Loan Opportunities
- Environmental and Public Health





Incorporating our principles

MWRA has taken a number of steps in order to implement this strategy. In support of the identified pathways, EJ principals are incorporated into all programs and projects, including but not limited to:

- Compliance with new education and outreach requirements associated with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations
- Compliance with Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP's) new Sewage Notification Regulations
- Looking at the associated costs and benefits for each project to our communities (specifically EJ populations)
- Review of all new engineering design and construction projects for their impacts and benefits to surrounding EJ populations
- Looking at the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and include a discussion about impacted EJ populations in the CIP





Language Access Plan

“Everyone in Massachusetts, regardless of what language they speak, deserves equitable access to government services and resources, but we recognize that language often poses a major barrier,”
~ Governor Healey.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Language Access Plan
January 2024



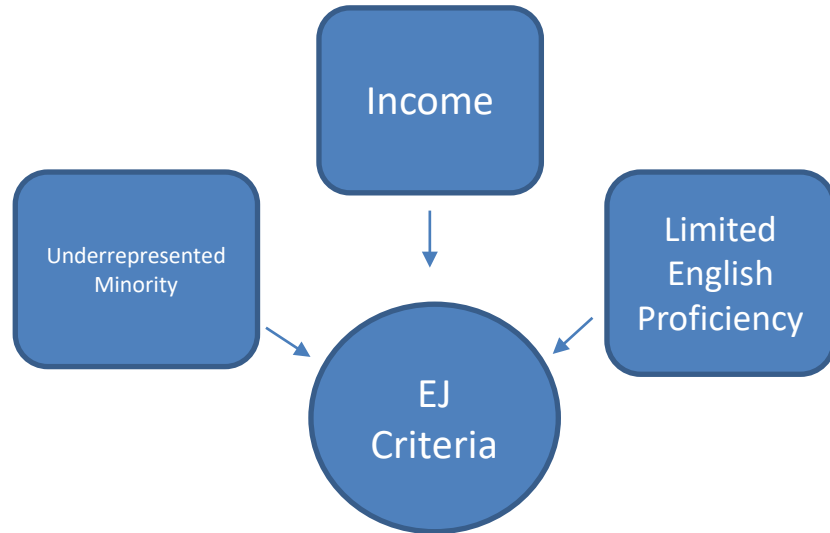
Purpose

Language Resources

Monitoring and Review



Environmental Justice Populations In Massachusetts



- EEA defines Environmental Justice Populations as neighborhoods that meet one or more of the following criteria (based on Census and American Community Survey data):
 - the annual median household income is not more than 65% of the statewide annual median household income;
 - minorities comprise 40% or more of the population;
 - 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
 - minorities comprise 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income.



Translations

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY - PUBLIC NOTICE The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), pursuant to its authority under St. 1984, c.372, §§ 6 and 8, as amended, and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to its Sewer Use Regulations, 360 CMR 10.000. These proposed amendments:

- a) incorporate changes required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to bring MWRA's Sewer Use Regulations in conformance with EPA's Pretreatment regulations;
- b) increase annual charges paid by permit holders; and
- c) clean up minor typos

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear at 10:00 am on Friday, May 3, 2024 at the MWRA, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150. An electronic copy of the proposed amendments has been posted to MWRA's website:

<https://www.mwra.com/trac/2024/proposedamendments.html>. An electronic copy of the proposed amendments may be requested by sending an e-mail to TRAC@mwra.com.

MWRA will accept oral and written comments at the hearing. In addition, MWRA will accept written comments until 5:00 pm on Friday, May 10, 2024, by mail or hand delivery to:

Matthew Dam
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Toxic Reduction and Control
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

or by e-mail to: TRAC@mwra.com.

马萨诸塞州水资源管理局 - 公告

根据经修订的 1984 年第 372 章第 6 和 8 节的授权，以及遵守马萨诸塞州法典第 30A 章 (M.G.L. c. 30A) 的规定，马萨诸塞州水资源管理局 (MWRA) 将就拟议修订其《污水使用条例》 (360 CMR 10.000) 将召开公开听证会。拟议的修订内容包括：

- a) 将美国环保署 (EPA) 要求的更改整合到 MWRA 的《污水使用条例》中，以符合 EPA 的处理法规要求。
- b) 提高许可证持有者每年的费用。
- c) 修改次要的印刷错误。

希望提供口头证词的人士请于 2024 年 5 月 3 日 (星期五) 上午 10:00 准时出席位于马萨诸塞州 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 的马萨诸塞州水资源管理局 (MWRA) 听证会。拟议修订内容的电子副本已经在 MWRA 的网站上发布：

<https://www.mwra.com/trac/2024/proposedamendments.html>。您也可以发电邮至

TRAC@mwra.com 来索取电子副本。

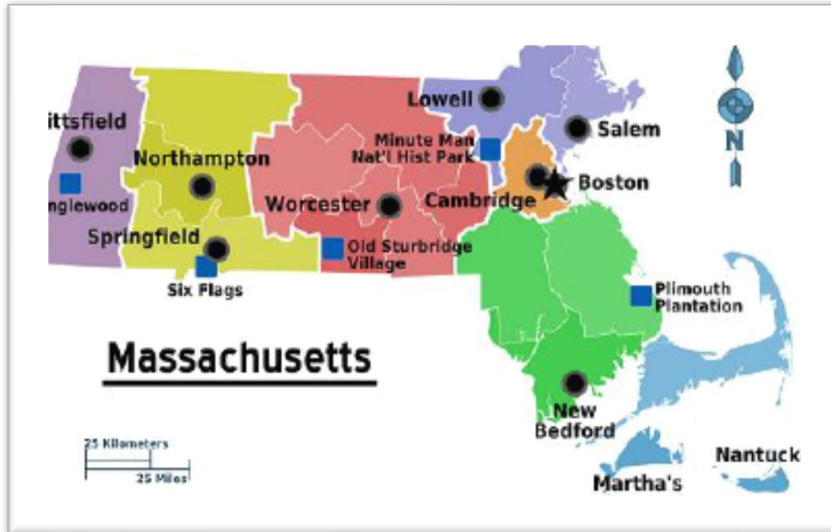
在听证会上，MWRA 将接受口头或书面形式的意见。另外，您也可以在 2024 年 5 月 10 日 (星期五) 下午 5:00 之前，通过邮件或亲自送交的方式提交书面意见至以下地址：

Matthew Dam
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Toxic Reduction and Control
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

或发电邮至：TRAC@mwra.com。



Fun Fact



Massachusetts is one of the most linguistically diverse states in the country.

24.4% of Massachusetts residents speak a language other than English. This is higher than the national average of 21.7%

The Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimate 2021

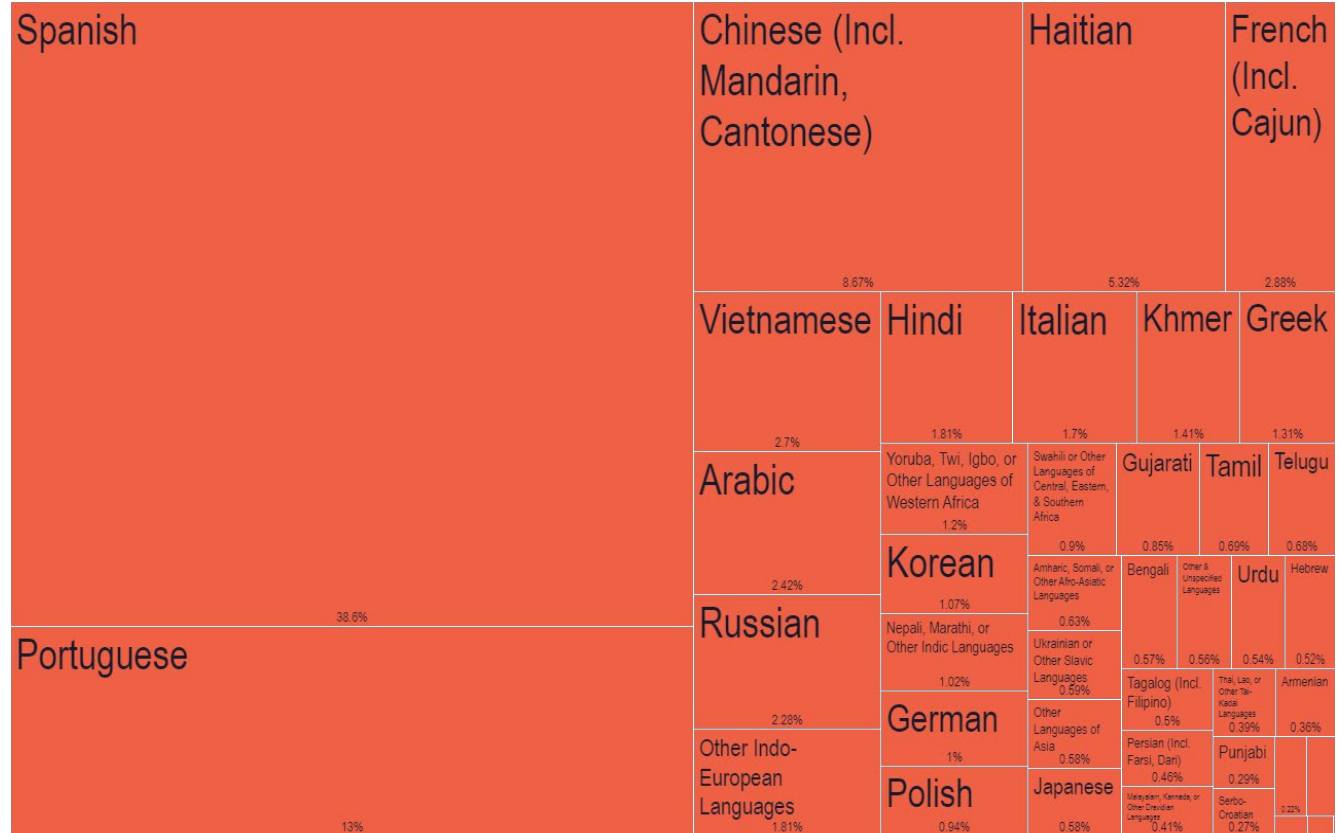


Non- English Households

MOST COMMON NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES

- 1.Spanish 627,748 households (38.6%)
- 2.Portuguese households 211,156 households (13%)
- 3.Chinese (Incl. Mandarin, Cantonese) 141,112 households (8.67%)

Data from [the Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimate](#).

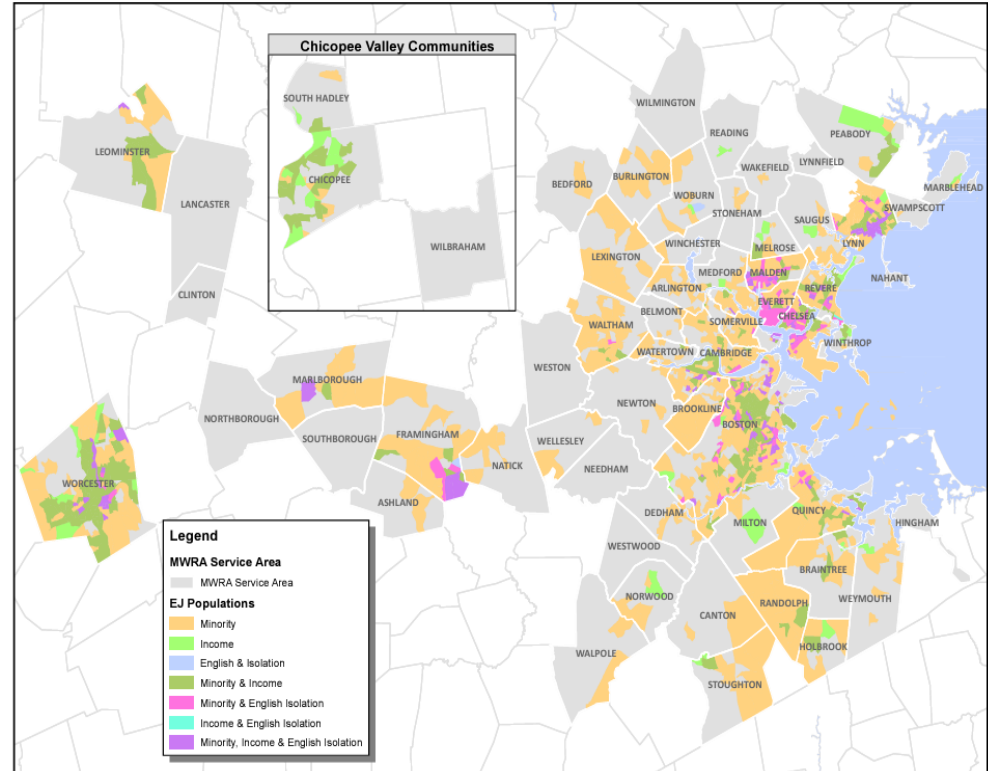




EJ Populations in MWRA Service Area

- Approximately 60% of residents in MWRA's service area live in Environmental Justice populations as defined and identified by EEA.

MWRA Service Area & Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations





MWRA Environmental Justice Webpages



External MWRA.com Page: <https://www.mwra.com/02org/html/EJ.html>

Internal Pipeline Page: <https://pipeline.mwra.net/htm/AandF/EnvJustice/EJ.htm>



EJ milestones to date

- **Public facing EJ web page**
 - Page includes a variety of resources, including links to other MWRA web pages, construction project summary pages and the job posting page
- **Internal EJ web page (Intranet)**
 - Page provides MWRA staff with EJ resources, trainings, mapping tools, and templates for construction design contracts, among other things
- **Factsheets and outreach materials**
 - Tailored for specific projects and working with translation services to translate these key documents into languages spoken in the geographic area impacted by the project
- **"Google Translate."**
 - Visitors to www.mwra.com are able to translate all of the web pages



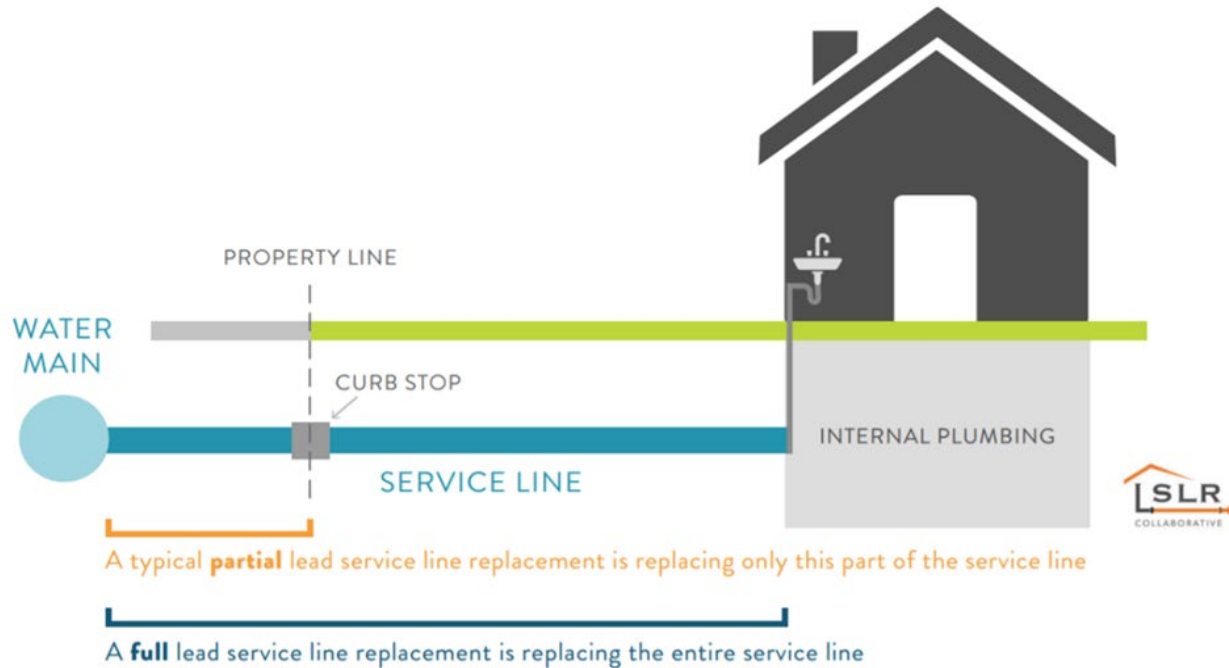
Environmental Justice Considerations in Lead Service Line Replacement Programs

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi
Director of Planning and Sustainability



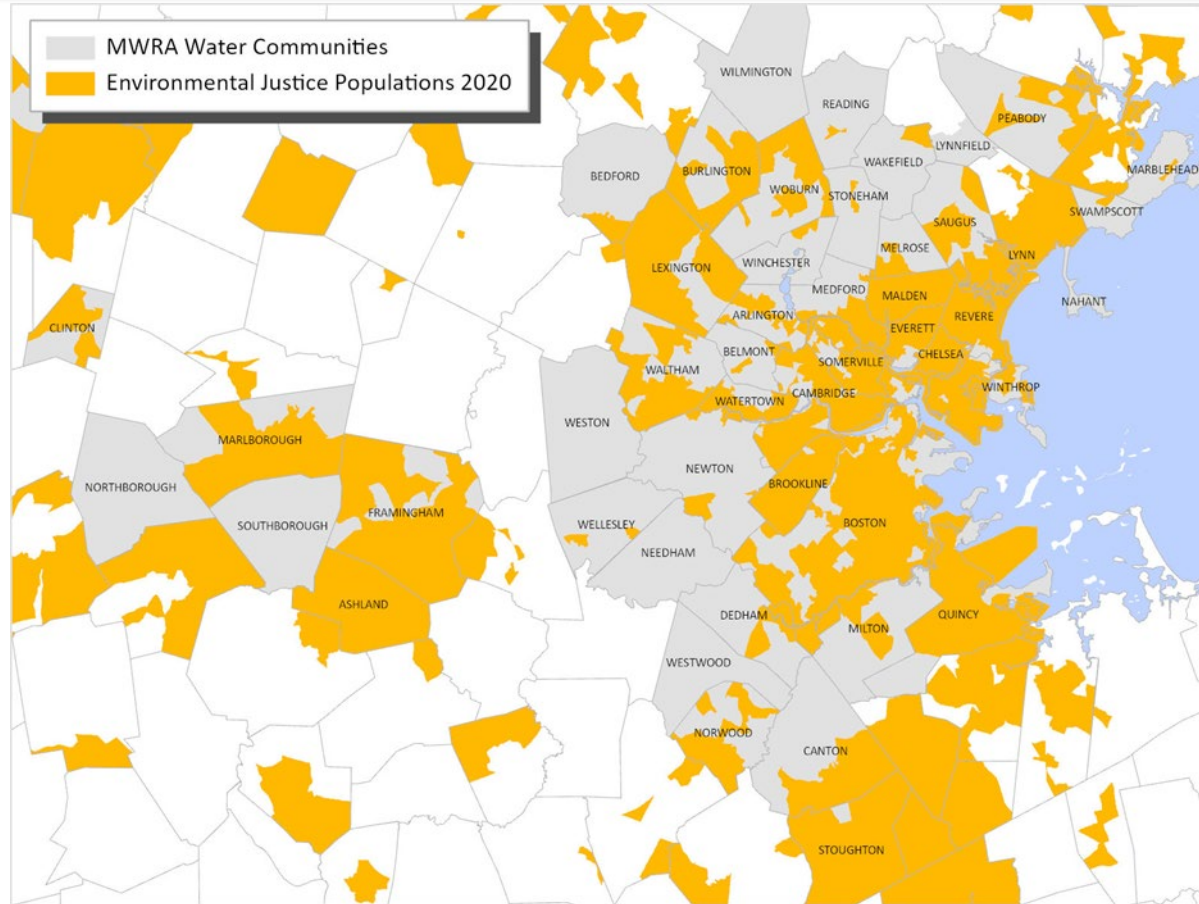
Who funds the private side replacement matters

- A key impediment to LSL replacement is the cost of the private side
- Studies show significant disparity between wealthy and less advantaged households





Environmental Justice areas within metro water service area

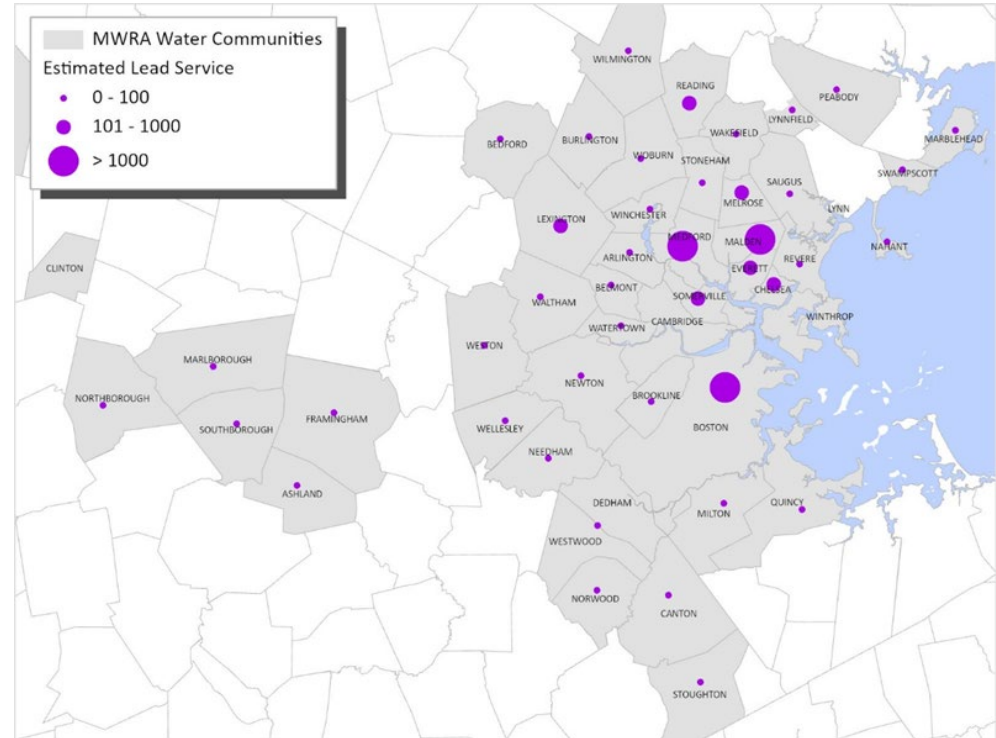




Lead Service Line (LSL) prevalence

Based on current data:

- Over 20 communities have some LSL
- Five communities have over 5% LSL
- Several MWRA communities have substantial numbers of LSL
- Will have more complete data after October





Opportunities to do better

- Substantial overlap with EJ areas
- Some communities are prioritizing
 - EJ areas
 - High proportion of children
- New MWRA 25% grant if fully fund private side replacement
- Some other grant opportunities for prioritized efforts

