

Freshwater Future All About Water Webinar Series

Equity and Water Affordability

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June 24, 2020



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A Local View

Lucas County, Toledo and the Junction Neighborhood

Resident Perceptions and Spatial Analysis



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO

Background

- Toledo, Ohio
- Water Crisis
- Is there an issue with access and affordability?
- Focus Groups

Questions

- What is the perception in our more challenged neighborhoods?
 - Are there issues with water quality and affordability?
- What can we say about water affordability at the city and county scale?
 - Are there any spatial trends for disconnection notices within Junction and Lucas County?
 - Do hotspots exist?
 - What are the overall trends in the data?
 - Owners & Renters
 - Access to assistance (social services)
 - Water infrastructure
 - What might we learn about the relationship between equity and water affordability and other dimensions of peoples' lives?



Methods

Survey

Students in University of Toledo class in Urban Planning conducted this water-equity study (focus group and survey) in the Junction Neighborhood, Toledo

Door-to-door to investigate water access and perceptions within the Junction neighborhood

- Disconnection notices

- Household characteristics, income, age

- Issues with water bills?

- Water quality/safety

Analysis of shut-offs

Shut-off notice data, city and county, 2008-2017

Study Area



87% African-American
Median household income: \$20,335
27% population decrease since 2010

Understanding Toledo

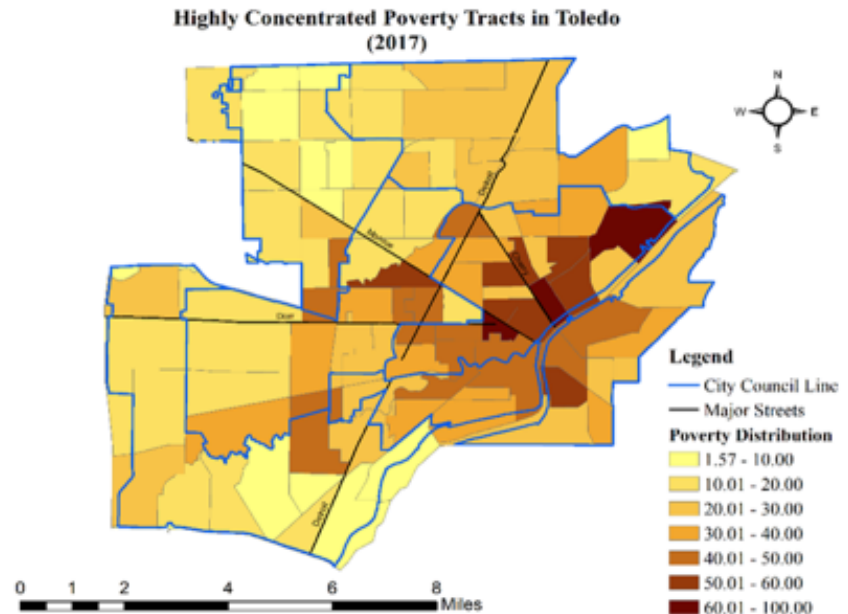
POVERTY

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2017:

- One member is **\$12,060**
- Four members is **\$24,600**

In 2017:

- **26.5%** of City of Toledo's residents lived in Poverty, compared to **19%** of Lucas County's residents.
- **38.2%** of City of Toledo's children lived in Poverty, compared to **28.1%** of Lucas County's children.
- **30.4%** of City of Toledo's immigrants were in Poverty, compared to **23.8%** of Lucas County's immigrants.



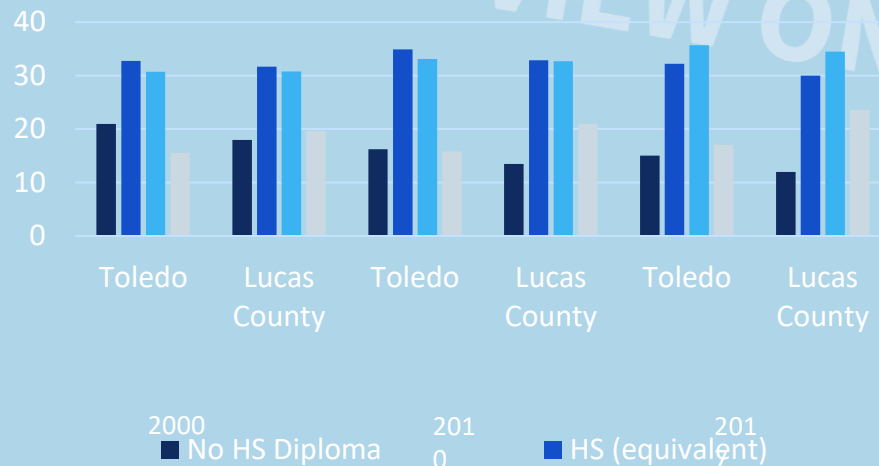
SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, 2017

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Understanding Toledo

Educational Attainment



In 2017:

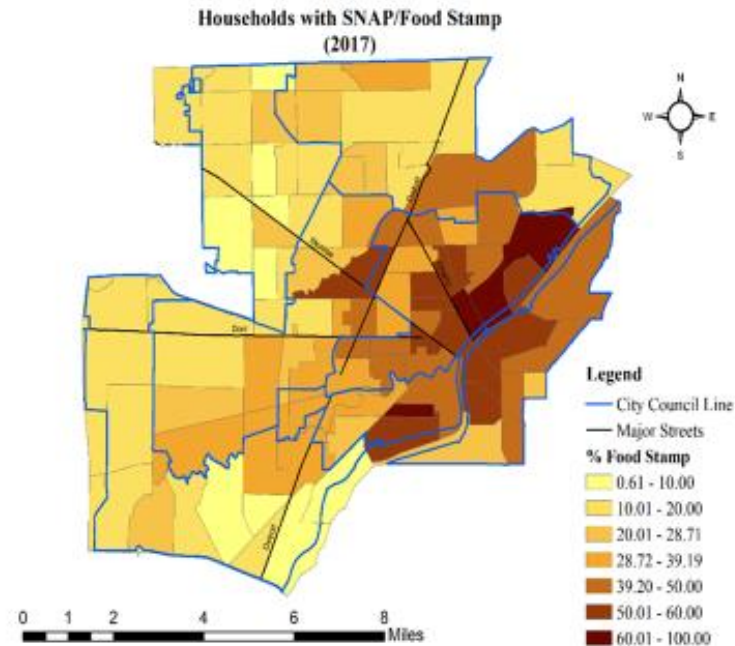
- **15%** of City of Toledo's residents had no high school diploma.
- **32.2%** of City of Toledo's residents had a high school diploma as their highest educational attainment.
- **34.5%** of City of Toledo's residents had some college credits, no degree.
- **17%** of City of Toledo's residents had a bachelor's degree and above.
- **70%** of the jobs created in the City require only a high school diploma or G.E.D.

Source: ACS (2000, 2010, & 2017)

Understanding Toledo

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In 2017, Toledo residents on SNAP/Food Stamp assistance were reported at 26.4%, with 9.73% on SSI.



Understanding Toledo

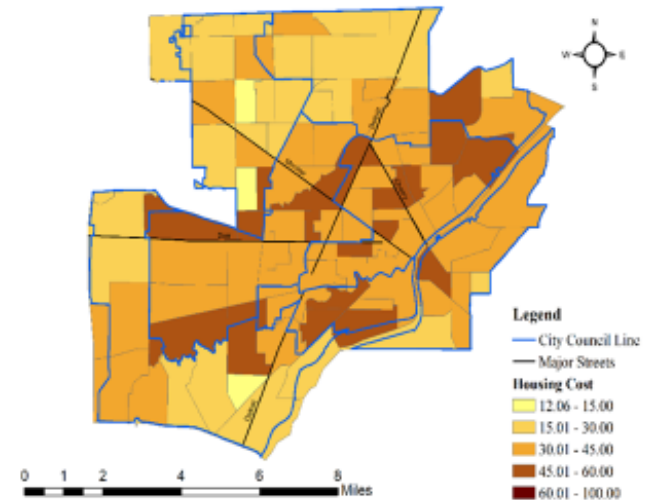
HOUSING

48% percent of City of Toledo's residents are renters and **52%** own their home. Households should be spending less than **30%** of gross household income on housing.

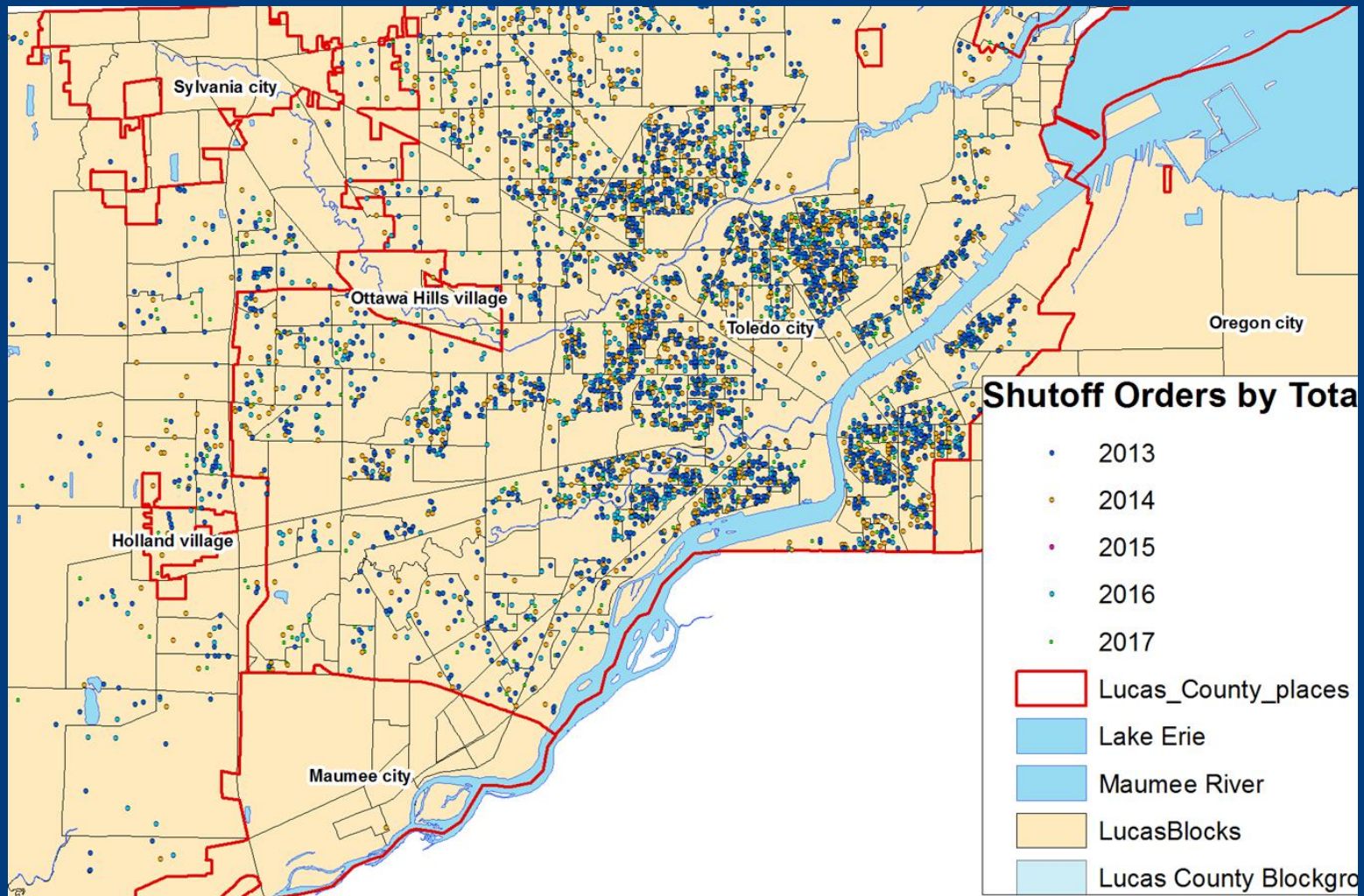
In 2017:

- **45%** of City of Toledo's **renters** paid more than **30%** of gross household income on housing.
- **21%** of City of Toledo's **homeowners** paid more than **30%** of gross household income on housing.
- Households in District 4 (Old West End and Totco), spent at least **45%**, and District 1 had Kenwood-Sheridan, The Colony, Onyx and Roosevelt neighborhoods as high concentration areas.

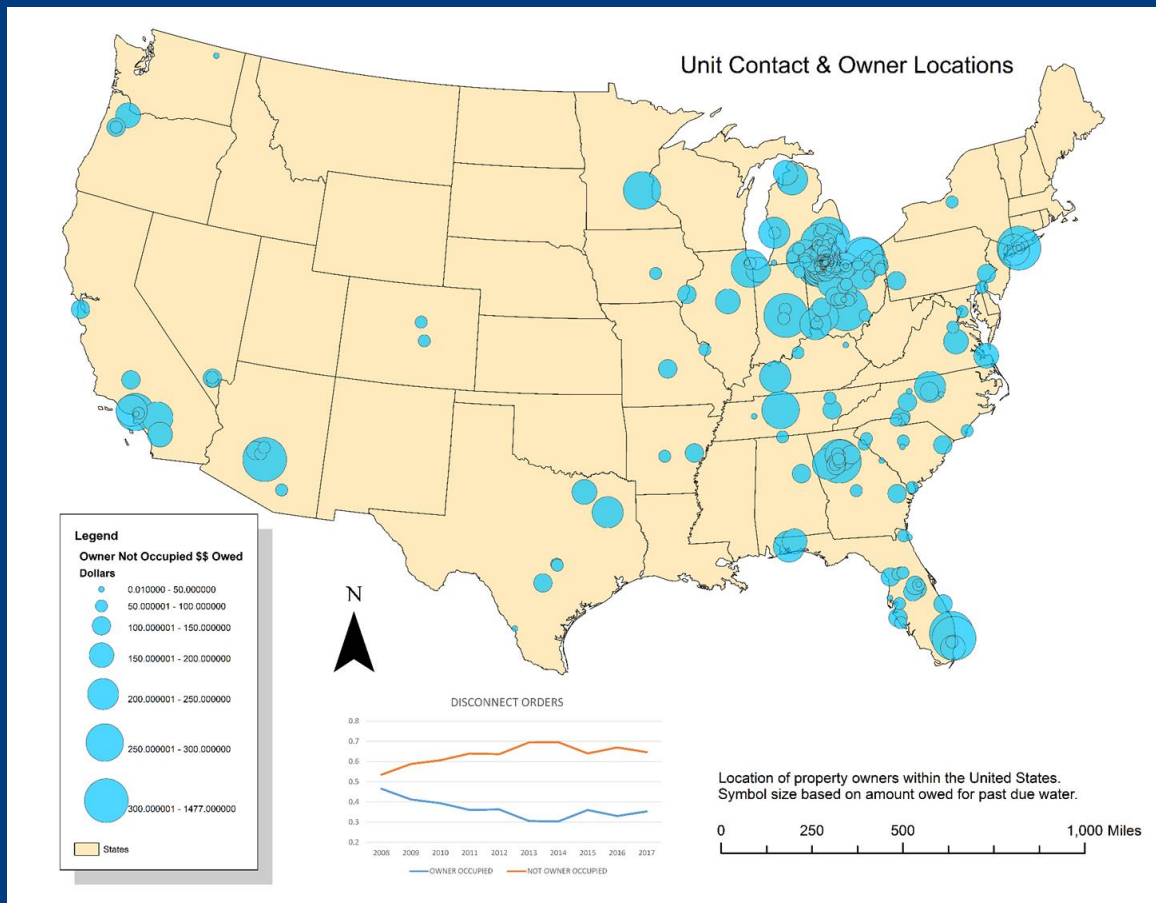
Cost of Housing Exceeding 30 Percent of Gross Household Income, 2017



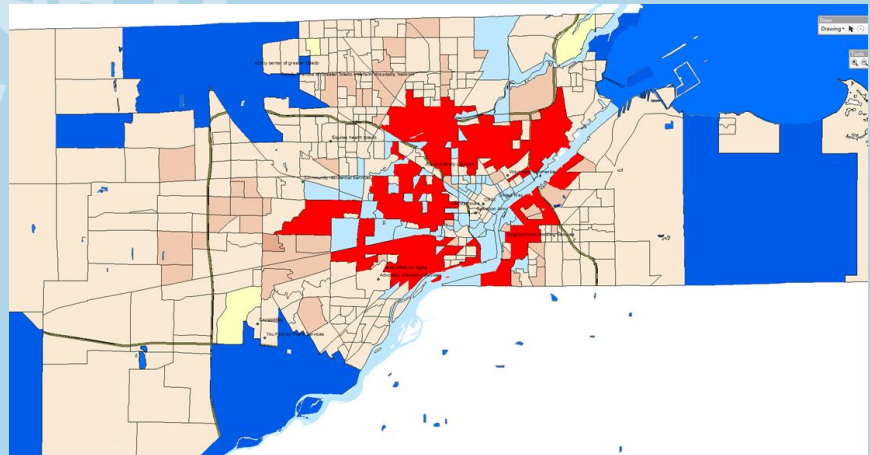
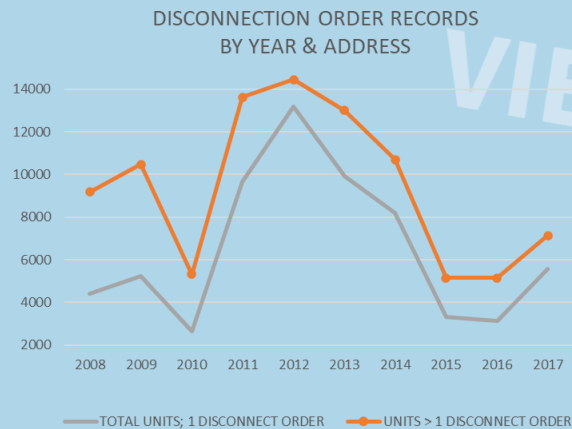
Mapped Disconnection Orders in Lucas County, 2013 -2017



Disconnection Notices, Owners and Amount Owed



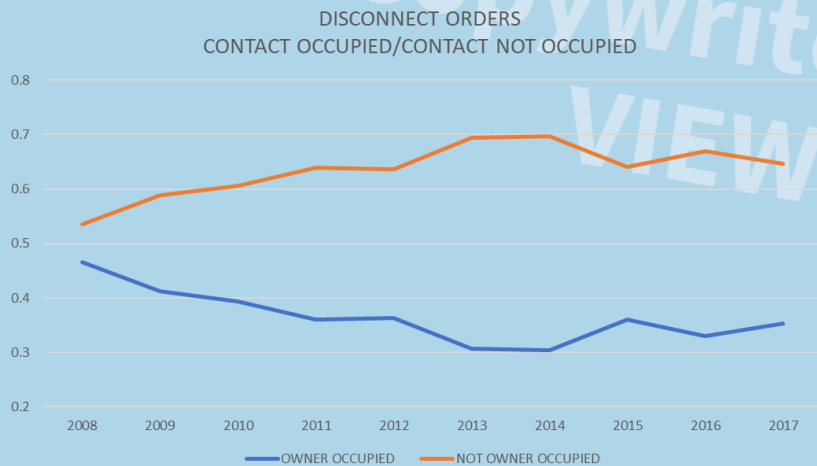
Overall Disconnection Notices, Hotspots



Disconnection orders were at the highest at the later years of the last recession, 2011 – 2014.

Junction Neighborhood was not a hotspot.

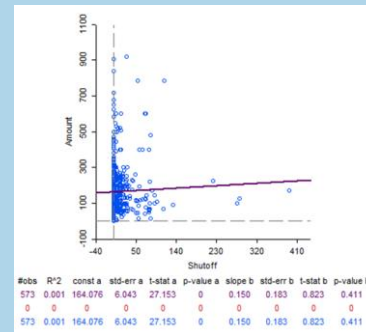
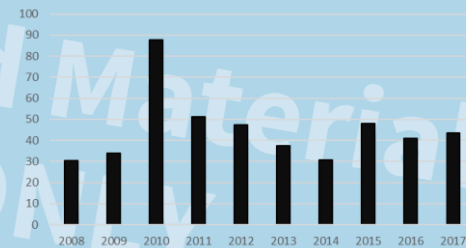
Owner occupied and non-owner occupied



Over time,

- Shutoff orders for owner -occupied decreased
- Shutoff orders for non-owner occupied increased.

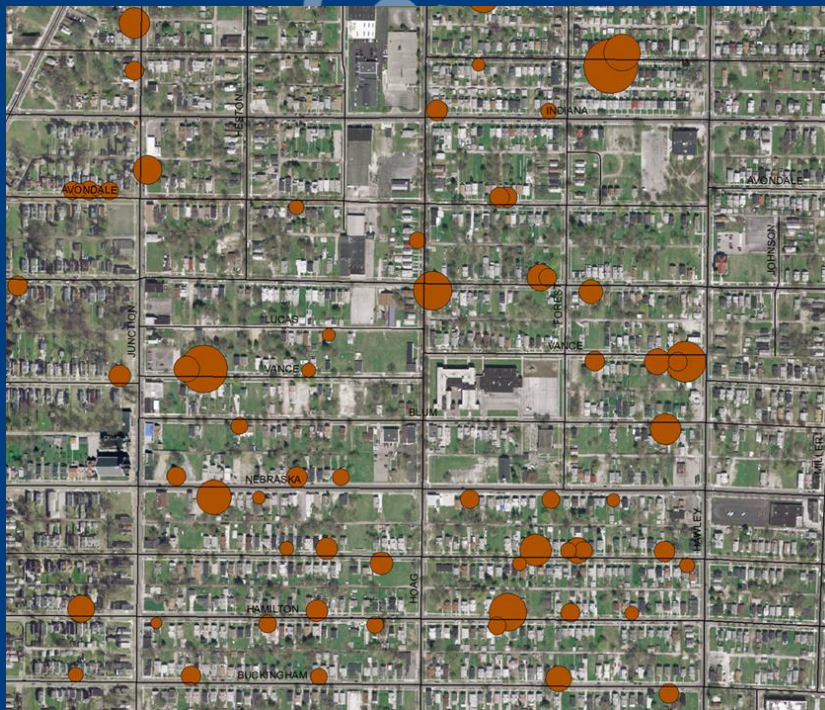
Average number of days with Disconnected Water by year



Renters whose landlords are farther away tend to have larger bills

Disconnection Notices

Spatial distribution, amount owed

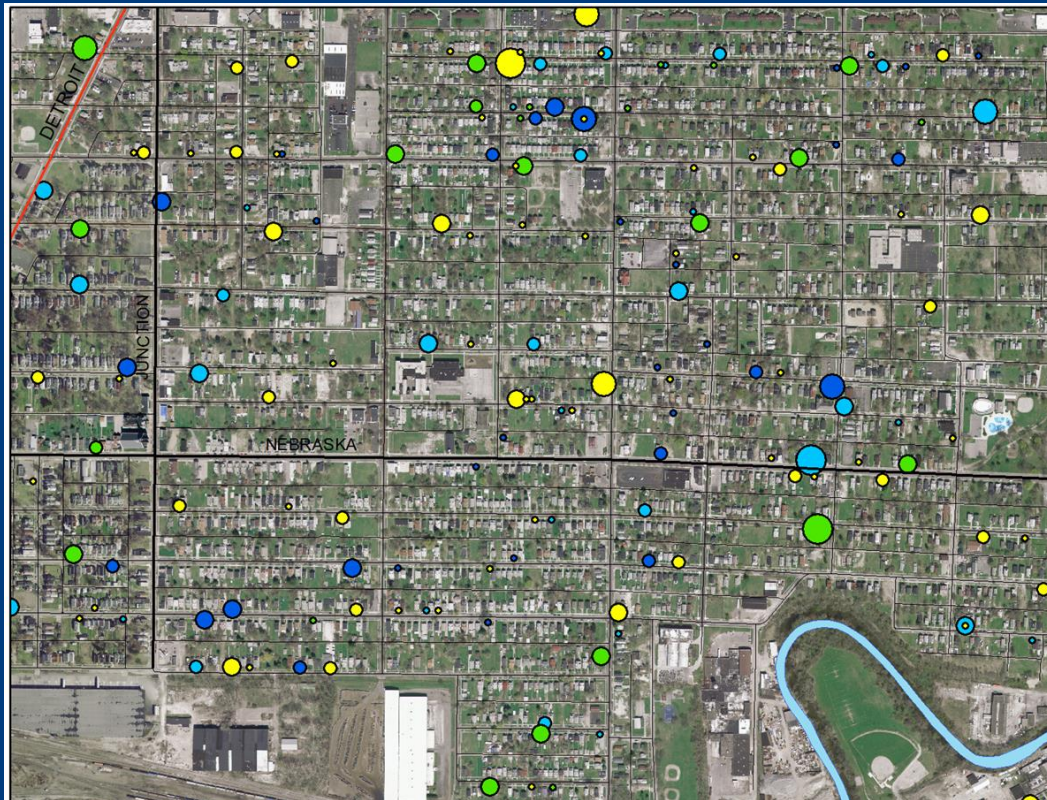


Homes with disconnection notices,
2008 – 2017

Relative amounts owed in Junction
Neighborhood are not large

High incidence of disconnection
notices

Disconnection Notices Homeownership and over time



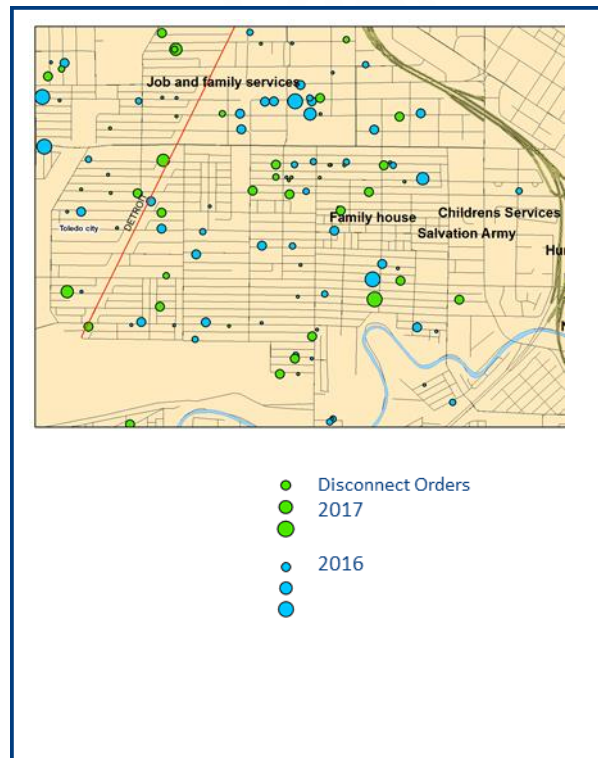
Year	Proportion of Disconnect Orders Owner Occupied	Proportion of Disconnect Orders Owner NOT occupied	Units with Multiple Disconnect Orders
2008	47%	53%	829
2009	41%	59%	979
2010	39%	61%	383
2011	36%	64%	1342
2012	36%	64%	1437
2013	31%	69%	1271
2014	30%	70%	1003
2015	36%	64%	363
2016	33%	67%	363
2017	35%	65%	593

Owner-occupied homes tend to have a lower incidence of disconnection notices.



Disconnection Notices

Amount Owed and Distance to Community Assistance Centers



- No relationship between amount owed and distance to assistance

Results

- Spatial clusters of shutoffs and water disconnection orders exist
- The Junction neighborhood is similar to average neighborhoods in Toledo, not a significant hotspot over time
- Many of the highest water bills in Junction are on locations where houses have been demolished.
- Proximity to social services does not impact # of disconnection orders
- Owner occupied / Non-owner occupied water access differences can be seen in the data
- The majority of disconnection orders are for Non-owner occupied units

Acknowledgements

- Maps by
 - Kimberly Panozzo
 - Philemon Abayateye

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