

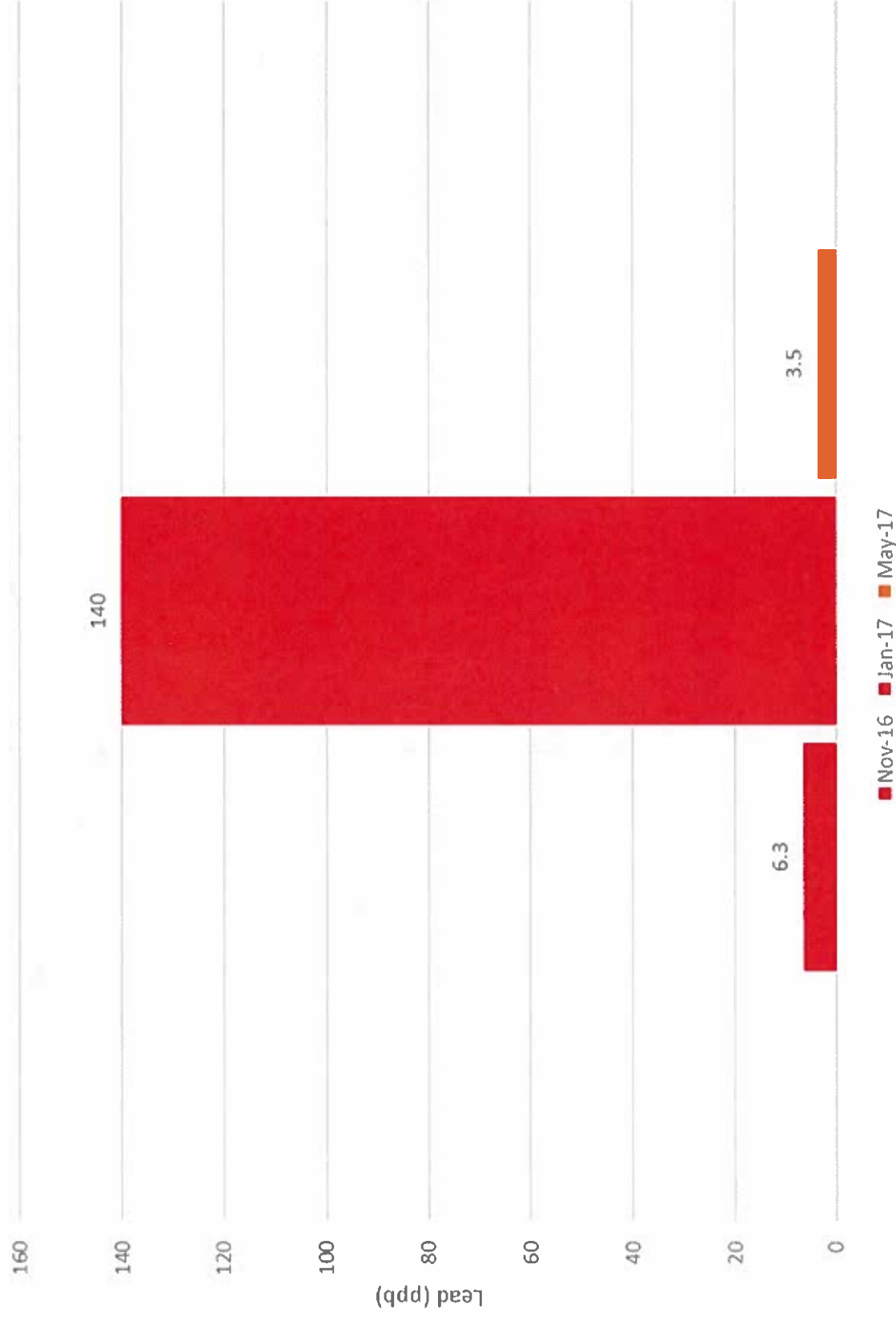
Elin Betanzo
Testimony on HB 4340, 4341, and
4342

Filter First for Safe Water in Schools
and Childcares



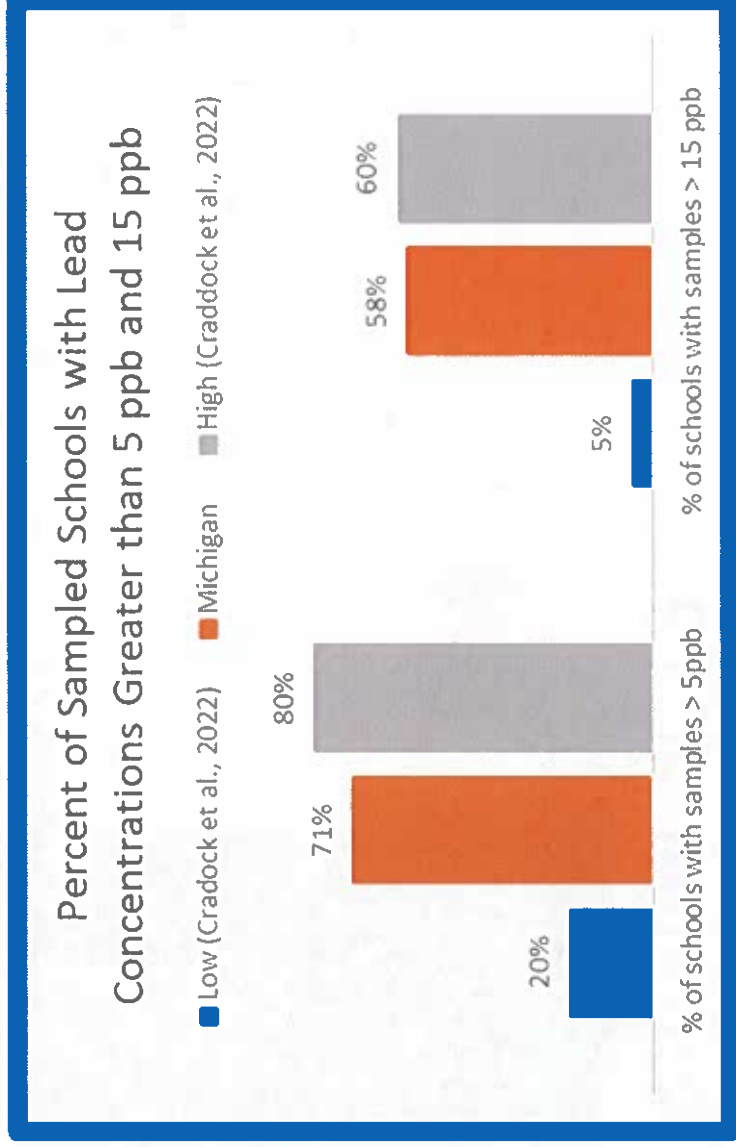
Actual Results

Lead Sampling Results in Beverly Elementary Room 102



Voluntary Michigan School Lead Sampling Data 2020-2022

- 1,967 Michigan schools may have lead > 15 ppb
- 2,414 schools may have lead > 5 ppb
- 3,040 schools may have lead > 1 ppb



Why Michigan’s Filter First Bills Matter

HB 4340, 4341, and 4342

A Glimpse of Lead in Michigan’s School Drinking Water

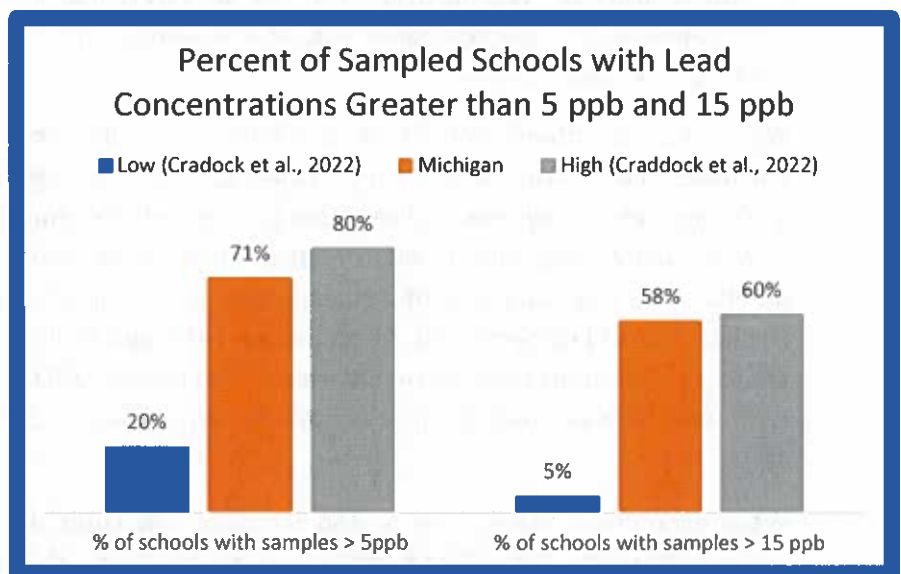
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The Michigan Senate and House are considering bills to protect kids from lead in drinking water. The Filter First bills call for schools to provide filtered drinking water stations, and to test water from the filtered drinking stations annually to ensure the filters are working properly. Filtered drinking water stations, often called hydration stations, are drinking water fountains with bottle fillers and filters that are certified for lead removal. These devices can replace old water fountains, be retrofitted for existing fountains, or be installed independently. On-tap or in-fridge filters are allowed to ensure drinking water is available where filter stations are not practical, and more flexible options are available for childcare centers.

Children are especially vulnerable to lead exposure in schools and childcare centers given the amount of time children spend there and irregular water use patterns during the traditional school calendar. When students and staff leave for weekends, breaks, and summer vacation, water sits stagnant in pipes. The lack of regular water flow reduces the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment, which is used to reduce the

amount of lead that leaches into drinking water. Faucets, fixtures, and plumbing new, old, and even certified “lead-free” materials are potential lead sources, because even “lead-free” materials contain lead up to 0.25% of their weight.

School lead sampling results in Michigan – obtained via a FOIA request – are consistent with lead sampling results collected in schools nationwide, as shown in **an analysis of lead in water samples collected between 2020 and 2022 at 114 Michigan schools and childcare centers through a voluntary sampling program funded by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and the United State Environmental Protection Agency.**



References:

Council on Environmental Health. Prevention of childhood lead toxicity. *Pediatrics*. 2016; 138(1):e20161493. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-1493>.

Cradock AL, Barrett JL, Poole MK, Flax CN, Vollmer L, Hecht C. Lead concentrations in US school drinking water: testing programs, prevalence, and policy opportunities, 2016–2018. *Am J Public Health*. 022;112(S7):S679–S689.

U.S. EPA. 1991; Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). *Federal Register*, 56, 26460–26564.