

CALUMET CONNECT DATABOOK

Version 2.0
January 2021

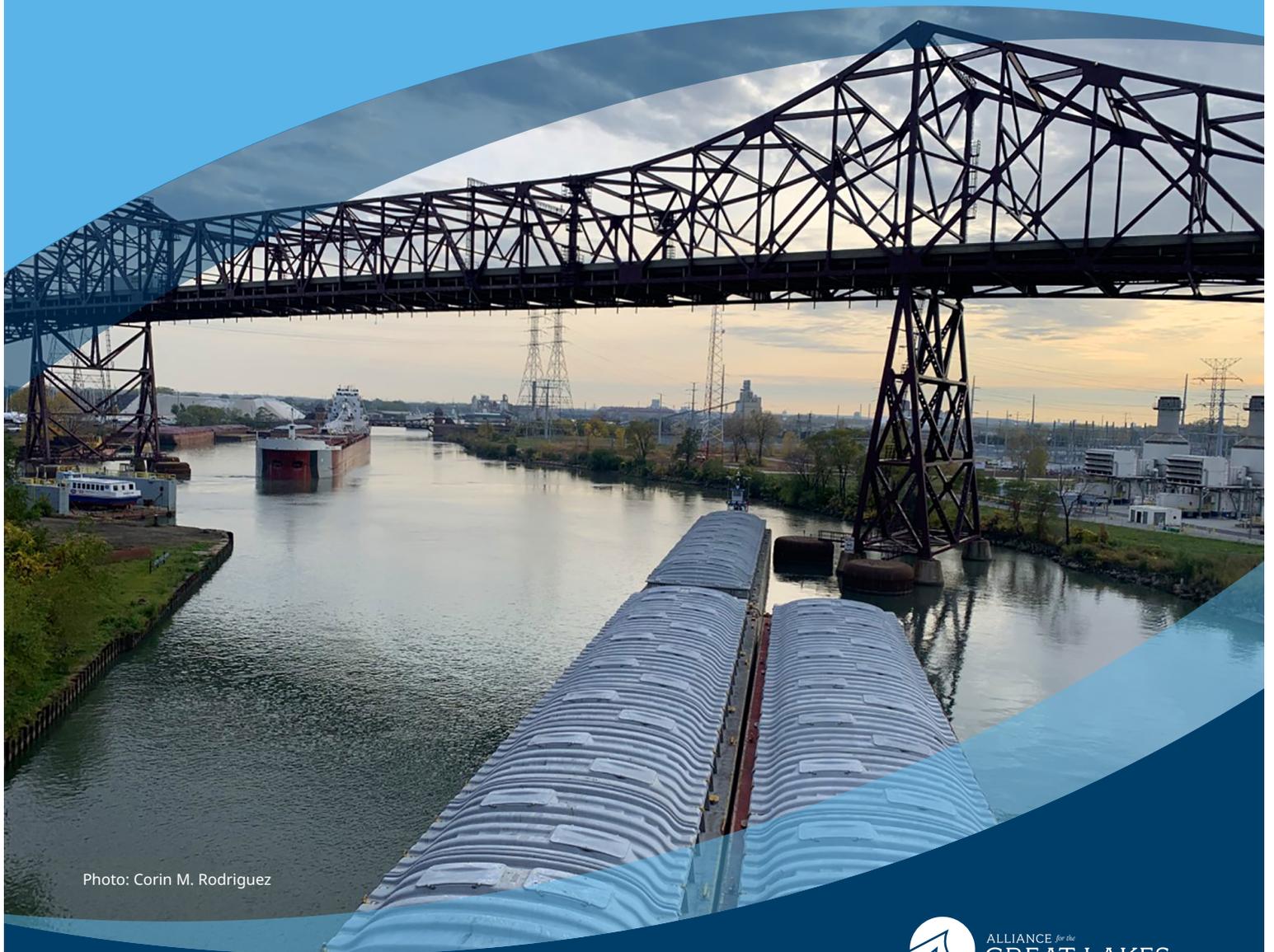


Photo: Corin M. Rodriguez



For more information, contact
Alliance for the Great Lakes,
alliance@greatlakes.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Databook has been compiled to serve as a resource in guiding policy and planning in the Calumet Industrial Corridor. The Databook is the product of more than a year of collaborative research.

The findings in the Databook draw on both quantitative and qualitative methods of evaluating the study area and the quality of life for residents. An appendix examines health impacts of climate change in the Calumet Industrial Corridor.

About the study area:

- The Calumet Industrial Corridor is the largest industrial corridor by land area in Chicago.
- 73% of the corridor is part of a Planned Manufacturing District.
- The study area for the Databook project consisted of the Calumet Industrial Corridor and the surrounding half-mile. As of 2017:
 - Hispanic/Latino residents made up 58.96% of the study area population
 - Black residents made up 25.02% of the study area population

Map of study area boundary and underlying streets; includes the official City of Chicago 'Calumet Industrial Corridor' and surrounding ½ mile buffer



CONTRIBUTORS:

Funders

- The Chicago Community Trust
- Great Lakes Integrated Science and Assessment Center (GLISA)
- The JPB Foundation through The Funders Network
- Pisces Foundation

Partners

- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- NeighborSpace
- Great Lakes Integrated Science and Assessment Center
- UI-Chicago, School of Public Health
- UI-Chicago, Voorhees Center

Calumet Connect Partnership Advisory Committee

- Claretian Associates
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Pet Coke
- Metropolitan Family Services
- Work2gether4peace
- Southeast Youth Alliance
- Parents of Extraordinary Children
- Nine3 Studios
- Centro De Trabajadores Unidos
- Alliance of the Southeast



“

When we go outside and it smells like death [we] have no choice...we are constantly breathing it in.

CALUMET CORRIDOR
RESIDENT

My complaints over the years...have been met with a lot of indifference.

CALUMET CORRIDOR
RESIDENT

I want to talk to a planner that is willing to open up and see what our ideas are.

CALUMET CORRIDOR
RESIDENT

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Health Outcomes:** Residents of the Calumet Industrial Corridor disproportionately experience adverse health outcomes.
 - The rate of **coronary heart disease** is higher in the study area compared to the rest of Chicago; this is also true when comparing to the other industrial corridors.
 - The rate of **COPD** is higher in the study area compared to the rest of Chicago.
- 2. Medically Underserved Area:** The Corridor remains medically underserved.
 - Large portions of the study area remain medically underserved areas – a term designated under the Health Resources and Services Administration – where residents face a shortage of primary health care services.
- 3. Toxic Releases:** Toxic releases remain at high levels in parts of the study area.
 - The study found several polluters with sustained high scores in the Corridor. Some industries in particular showed consistently high scores.
 - For example: In 2012, the auto industry vastly outpaced all other industries. But by 2017, the toxic releases from just one company, American Zinc Recycling Corp., had grown to have the highest RSEI score of any polluter within the Corridor.
- 4. Failures of Zoning and Land Use Policies:** The City's current and recently proposed land use and zoning policies are not sufficient to support the community's goals for a healthy and environmentally just Corridor.
 - From the 1990s to the 2010s, the Calumet Industrial Corridor increased “transportation/communication/utilities/waste” uses and “institutional” uses at the expense of residential and commercial uses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Public Health Focus:** Future planning in the Corridor should incorporate and prioritize public health considerations.
- 2 Residents' Voices:** When City agencies make future planning decisions, they should seek out, listen to, and center residents' voices.
- 3 Discuss Immediate Changes:** In consultation with the community, the City must commit to real changes. These might include:
 - Stricter regulations, more frequent inspections, more severe penalties, and greater transparency.
 - The City re-evaluating its economic incentive programs to attract more sustainable businesses to the Corridor.
- 4 Further Research:** More data is needed. And for data that is already publicly available, transparency and restructuring should be prioritized.
 - The Databook working group seeks the active involvement of the Department of Planning and Development in collecting and sharing data.