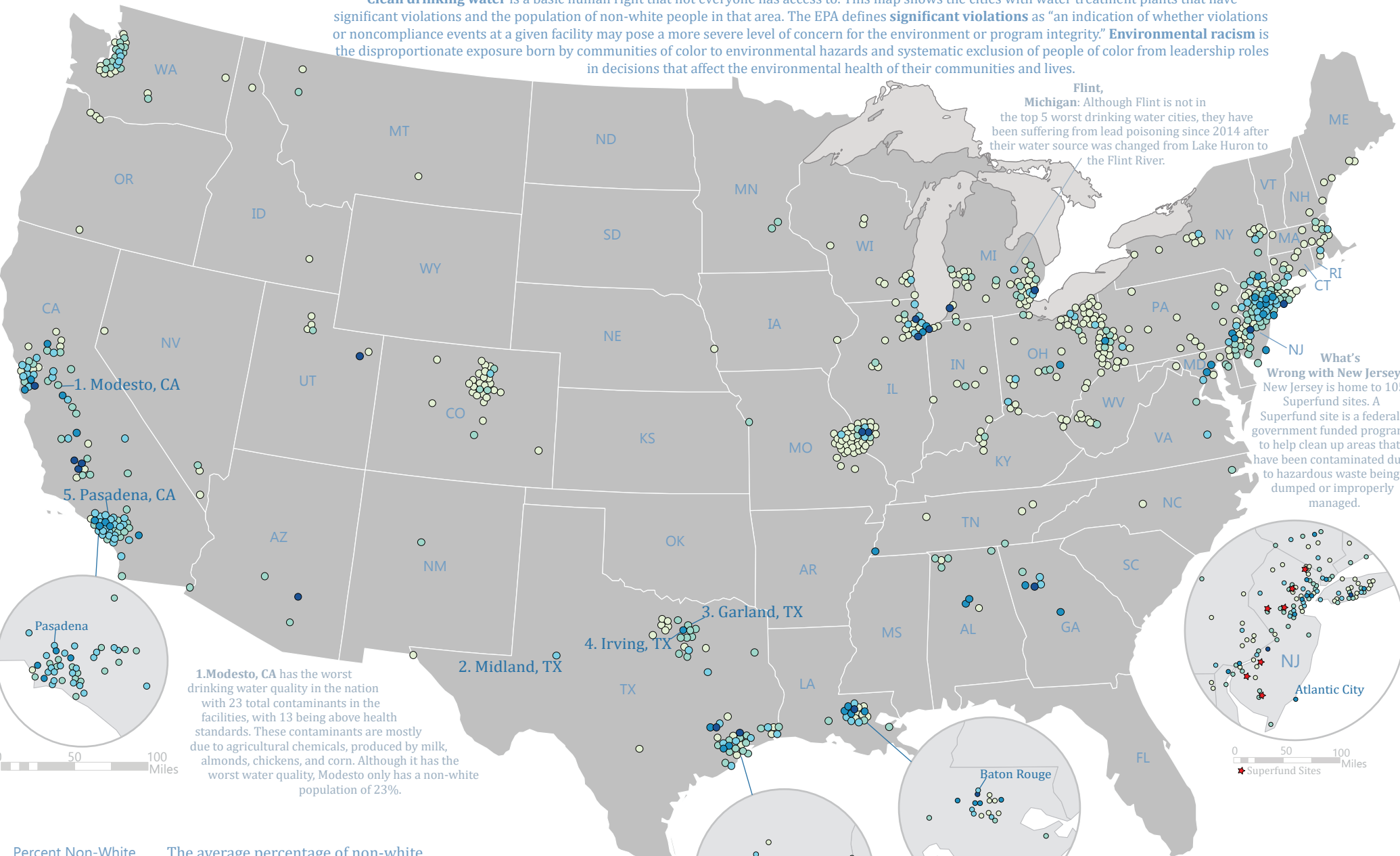


CONTAMINATED AMERICA

Clean drinking water is a basic human right that not everyone has access to. This map shows the cities with water treatment plants that have significant violations and the population of non-white people in that area. The EPA defines **significant violations** as “an indication of whether violations or noncompliance events at a given facility may pose a more severe level of concern for the environment or program integrity.” **Environmental racism** is the disproportionate exposure born by communities of color to environmental hazards and systematic exclusion of people of color from leadership roles in decisions that affect the environmental health of their communities and lives.

Flint, Michigan: Although Flint is not in the top 5 worst drinking water cities, they have been suffering from lead poisoning since 2014 after their water source was changed from Lake Huron to the Flint River.

What's Wrong with New Jersey? New Jersey is home to 105 Superfund sites. A Superfund site is a federal government funded program to help clean up areas that have been contaminated due to hazardous waste being dumped or improperly managed.



1. Modesto, CA has the worst drinking water quality in the nation with 23 total contaminants in the facilities, with 13 being above health standards. These contaminants are mostly due to agricultural chemicals, produced by milk, almonds, chickens, and corn. Although it has the worst water quality, Modesto only has a non-white population of 23%.

The average percentage of non-white citizens across all contaminated cities is only 25%, however three of the top five most contaminated cities have non-white populations above 40%. This is an example of environmental racism actively occurring in the United States.

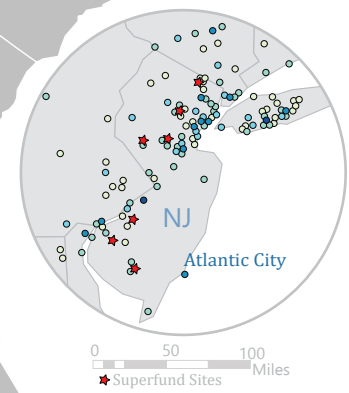
*Non-white is defined as any person who is not predominantly European.

The city of **Houston** has 40 total contaminants in their water facilities, with 10 of them being above health guidelines. The non-white population in Houston is 40%, with other surrounding areas with contaminated water have non-white populations of up to 80% and higher.

Baton Rouge has a non-white population of 60%, with surrounding areas having populations above 80%. The water has 19 total contaminants with five being above health guidelines. These contaminants all cause cancer and are mostly caused by the growing petrochemical industry.

Percent Non-White

- 81%-100%
- 61%-80%
- 41%-60%
- 21%-40%
- 0%-20%



Cartographer: Maya Black
 Geographic source: Natural Earth Data
 Water data: EPA
 Population data: US Census
 City Data: Data.gov
 Projection: Albers Equal Area Conic