

Lead Pipe Information and Housing Prices: An Analysis in Washington, DC

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Abstract

In 2016, the Water and Sewer Authority of Washington, DC released an online map that contains information on lead service lines (LSLs) for all properties in the district. Using the release as a natural experiment, this paper estimates the effect of the new information on prices of properties with and without LSLs. Neither a difference-in-differences model nor a repeat sales model captures a significant divergence between prices of the two groups after the map's release, implying the housing market response to the information was limited.