# **CULVER**

# How Robust Safety Outreach Can Help Address Community Inequities

Integrating risk analysis, outreach metrics, and program design

May 17, 2022



#### Who We Are

Culver Company: Experts in strategic planning for utility public safety

Culver Company's strategy framework for structuring and continuously improving your utility public safety awareness programs includes:

- Educational products to meet all utility sizes
- Public safety awareness plan review
- Utility public safety awareness program design, implementation, evaluation, & refinement
- Primary research on program effectiveness (national benchmarks and company baseline)
- Public safety risk assessment and tactical solutions to fill gaps
- Data analytics
- Litigation and regulatory support
- Risk management reporting





Understanding The Audience

Knowing the target audience and developing programs based on risk and influence





### **Measure What Matters**

# Investing in impact-based leading indicators can help utilities prevent incidents



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### Culture of Safety

Robust public safety outreach programs meet or exceed regulatory requirements, incorporate best practices, and identify and prioritize emerging risks





# Public Safety Approach in Action: Schools



**Risk Assessment** 

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Communities in citizens' incomes fall below average have incurred more natural gas incidents



Bureau of Economic Analysis within the U.S. Department of Commerce provided us with Per Capita Income for each county in the U.S. For our analysis we used 2019 income data. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation provided us with gas incident information from 2010 to 2020 by county and ZIP code.



The inequity exists nationwide, with lower-income communities across the U.S. incurring more incidents



### **Incident Frequency by Community Per Capita Income**

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows average of 2019 Per Capita Income. Size shows count of ZIPs(2). Details are shown for County

Bureau of Economic Analysis within the U.S. Department of Commerce provided us with Per Capita Income for each county in the U.S. For our analysis we used 2019 income data. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation provided us with gas incident information from 2010 to 2020 by county and ZIP code. Environmental Science and Technology, 2022



#### School Case Study

# Culver's school program is comprehensive, spanning much of the U.S. In 2021, Culver delivered 317,867 school educational mailers to teachers nationwide



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of 2021 School Mailers. The marks are labeled by ST. The view is filtered on sum of 2021 School Mailers, which ranges from 1 to 48,475.

Culver Company School Program Data, 2021



#### School Case Study

# In 2021, we received 7,759 orders and distributed over 1.7M safety educational booklets; Lower-income communities demonstrated higher engagement





Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows median of 2019 Per Capita income. Size shows average of Orders per Maller. Details are shown for County (Listed). The view is filtered on average of Orders per Maller, which ranges from 0.0001 to 0.7143.

Culver Company School Program Data, 2021

Bureau of Economic Analysis within the U.S. Department of Commerce provided us with Per Capita Income for each county in the U.S. For our analysis we used 2019 income data



#### NextGen Research

Our NextGen Research conducted with teachers nationwide provides insights into how we can equitably engage communities



Safety Topics Taught in Their Schools

Which of the following safety topics, if any, are currently taught at your school? Source: Culver Company NextGen Educator Research, 2022

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# Overall, about half of schools teach safety

 Directionally, schools with a higher percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch are more likely to teach energy safety (61%)



# Public Safety Approach in Action: Contractor



Like income, a link exists between community diversity and gas incidents. The U.S. Census reports that 19% of community members are diverse. However, this is higher among communities that have experienced a natural gas incident (25%)



U.S. Census Bureau provided us with estimated population characteristics for each county in the U.S. based on data collected in the 2010 Census. For our analysis we used 2019 estimates to calculate a total non-white population percentage for each county.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation provided us with gas incident information from 2010 to 2020 by county and ZIP code.



#### Risk Assessment

### This inequity spans the U.S.



Cities predominantly populated with people of color have a 37% higher gas leak density than those with mostly white populations

> Environmental Science and Technology Journal (May 2022)

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows average of Total Non-White Population %. Size shows count of ZIPs(2). Details are shown for County.

U.S. Census Bureau provided us with estimated population characteristics for each county in the U.S. based on data collected in the 2010 Census. For our analysis we used 2019 estimates to calculate a total non-white population percentage for each county.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation provided us with gas incident information from 2010 to 2020 by county and ZIP code.

![](_page_13_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### Opportunity to Make a Difference

Firms operating in more-diverse communities employ similarly-sized workforces as those seen in less-diverse communities, employing about 35 at-risk workers on average, representing an important opportunity to get the word out

# **More-Diverse Communities**

35 Employees

# **Less-Diverse Communities**

**31 Employees** 

![](_page_14_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

Contractor organizations in more-diverse communities are significantly less likely to know about 811

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

**More-Diverse Communities** 

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

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#### **Less-Diverse Communities**

![](_page_15_Figure_6.jpeg)

Percent of Respondents

![](_page_15_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### **Safety Behaviors**

Contractor organizations operating in more-diverse communities are significantly less likely to say someone in their organization <u>always</u> calls 811 before digging in a new spot

# How Often Someone in Their Organization Calls 811 Before Digging in a New Spot

![](_page_16_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_4.jpeg)

In Less-Diverse Communities

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_16_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### Gas Leak Sign Awareness

Directionally, contractors in more-diverse communities are less likely to recognize natural gas leak signs. They are significantly less likely to know roaring, blowing, or hissing sounds may indicate a leak

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Know the Following Gas Leak Signs**

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#### Gas Leak Sign Response

While contractors operating in more-diverse communities are less likely to recognize gas leak signs, they are <u>more</u> likely to know to wait for emergency responders and to avoid starting or turning off vehicles or motorized equipment

![](_page_18_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Know the Following Gas Emergency Response Protocol**

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_18_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### **Electric Emergency Response**

### Contractors in more diverse communities are significantly less likely to know to survey the job site daily

![](_page_19_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Know the Following Electric Safety Protocols**

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Significantly differs at 95% (more diverse vs. less diverse than average)

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**Recent Safety Mailing Recall and Impact** 

Contractors located in more-diverse communities are equally as likely as those in less-diverse communities to say they recall receiving a recent natural gas/electrical safety mailing

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **Recent Safety Mailing Recall and Impact**

Excavators who recall receiving a recent utility safety mailing demonstrate directionally higher levels of gas leak response knowledge and tend to be more versed in electrical safety

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Contractor Natural Gas and Electrical Safety Protocol Knowledge**

Significantly differs at 95% (recall vs. don't recall recent mailing)

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_21_Picture_7.jpeg)

# **Recent Safety Mailing Recall and Impact**

Excavators who recall receiving a recent utility safety mailing are significantly more likely to know about 811 before participating in the research

![](_page_22_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Damage Prevention Knowledge and Behavior**

Significantly differs at 95% (recall vs. don't recall recent mailing)

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_22_Picture_7.jpeg)

# **Utility Benchmark**

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

Benchmark

Overall, 42% of contractor organizations recall receiving utility safety information over the past 12 months

# 2021 Recall Receiving Utility Safety Information Over the Past 12 Months

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_24_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### Benchmark

34% of contractor firms specifically recall receiving a natural gas and/or electrical safety mailing over the past three months. This differs by utility

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Recall Receiving a Natural Gas or Electrical Safety Mailing** 

Culver Company Proprietary At-Risk Worker National Benchmark, 2021

![](_page_25_Picture_6.jpeg)

Roadmap to Excellence

# Evolution of public safety programs in a changing environment

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

How Public Safety Impacts You

### Public safety outreach contributes to key performance metrics

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### **Key Takeaways**

Our industry's commitment to safety outreach that equitably protects all communities elevates the importance of understanding stakeholders' needs and behaviors

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

- Use data to ensure outreach is effective and that it meets the needs of underserved communities
- Leverage publicly available data to identify and respond to emergent trends, risks, and opportunities
- Conduct primary research and benchmark findings to identify best practices and gaps
- Strategically expand stakeholder audience

![](_page_28_Picture_8.jpeg)