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# Data-Driven Organizing: A Community-University Partnership to Address Vacant and Abandoned Property


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## Abstract

Vacant and abandoned property, and its economic impact, are a significant problem in many communities. This article describes a data-driven organizing model (i.e., a community-university partnership) that mobilizes resources to address vacant and abandoned property.

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# Notes

<sup>1</sup> Despite widespread attention to the problem, the definition of vacancy remains elusive and is left primarily to local discretion ([Shlay & Whitman, 2006](#)). For example, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania defines a vacant building as, “a structure which is vacant and is either unsecured, secured by other than normal means, unsafe, non-compliant with housing or building codes, illegally occupied, or unoccupied for over a year with pending code enforcement citations” ([Hirokawa & Gonzalez, 2010](#), p. 630).

<sup>2</sup> According to the [Environmental Protection Agency \(2010\)](#), the most common sources of childhood lead exposure are lead paint, commonly found in homes built prior to 1978 and lead contaminated soil. Lead contaminated dust, present in homes with lead paint and in urban air as soil sediment is diffused by wind and traffic is another common source of contamination.

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