

ISSUE I • 2019

FOCUS ON FLINT

Facts, figures and community insights

1 WHY FOCUS
ON FLINT?

2 VILLAGE
OF 100

4 SURVEY
SNAPSHOTS

6 HOW TO
READ THIS
REPORT

focusonflint.org



CHARLES STEWART
MOTT FOUNDATION®

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Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by foundations around the world that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated internationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

ON THE COVER: People gather outside the Flint Farmers' Market.

PHOTO: MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE/MML.ORG

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Focus on Flint builds on the Vital Signs® publication model developed in Canada. The Mott Foundation would like to thank the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept. We also want to give special thanks to Community Foundations of Canada and the Victoria Foundation, who shared valuable insights and advice as we sought to launch a publication that would serve Flint. Our experience working on this project with our neighbors to the north was yet another reminder that we can accomplish more when we work together in pursuit of the common good.

FOCUS ON FLINT TEAM

The Mott Foundation led editorial efforts for this project. We were joined and supported by Behr Communications and FM3, who conducted the community opinion surveys and analyzed the results. Olmsted Associates in Flint handled design, production and dissemination. Tepel Brothers Printing in Troy, Michigan, printed the publication.



The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is a private philanthropy that supports efforts to promote a just, equitable and sustainable society in our hometown of Flint and communities around the world.

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focusonflint.org



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WHY FOCUS ON FLINT?

For more than 90 years, the Mott Foundation has had a focus on Flint. Through good times and bad, we've tried to help our hometown deal with challenges and create opportunities. And though we've granted more than \$1 billion locally, we know that, too often, struggles still thwart success, and pessimism competes with promise.

National media attention generated by the water crisis has, for the most part, painted a very negative picture of Flint. Yet we hear so many community leaders and other residents saying, "That's not the whole story of Flint. That's only part of the picture."

So what is the bigger picture of Flint? What can we celebrate? What needs improvement? What's happening to help make the bad things better? Who's doing that work?

Focus on Flint explores these issues.

In the pages that follow, you'll see data that tell a story about how we're doing as a community. You likely won't be surprised that some of the statistics are frustrating. But you may be surprised to learn about points of progress and exciting efforts underway to address specific challenges.

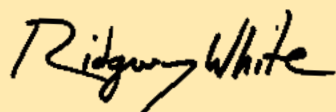
This is by no means a comprehensive look at everything that can or should be measured. Rather, it's a springboard for a community conversation, input and action.

As Flint continues to recover and rise from the water crisis, it seems we're at a point where we should take a big-picture look at where we stand — and set our sights on where we want to be.

The Mott Foundation is sending Focus on Flint to every household, business and organization in the city. In the weeks and months ahead, we'll also invite all interested members of the community to participate in conversations about these measures of quality of life and local efforts to improve them for everyone.

The conversations will help all of us understand the strengths and challenges identified by our community — and, with everyone's input, contribute to solutions and pathways to a promising future. More information, including how you can take part, will be available soon at focusonflint.org.

We hope you'll add your thoughts and ideas as we all focus on Flint.



Ridgway White, President and CEO
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

 facebook.com/RidgwayWhite

 twitter.com/RidgwayWhite



PHOTO: RICK SMITH

Ridgway White

WHY WE WANTED TO SHARE THIS REPORT

- To give the bigger picture of Flint's story — the good and the bad.
- To share what Flint residents are saying about their city and what's important to them.
- To gain a better understanding of challenges our community faces and what's being done to help.
- To use as a springboard for conversations that could help to keep Flint moving forward and shape the Mott Foundation's local grantmaking.
- To track any changes in residents' thoughts and concerns over the coming years.

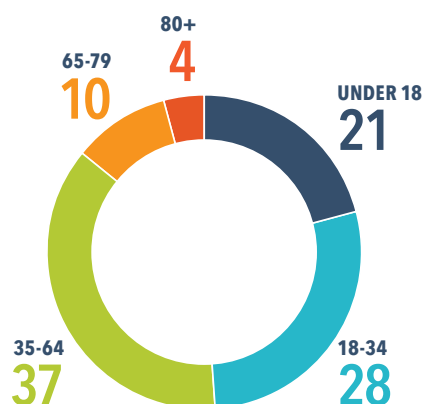
IF FLINT WERE A VILLAGE OF 100

All data on pages 2 and 3 come from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey One-year Estimates. In some cases, numbers rounded to the nearest whole will not add up to 100.

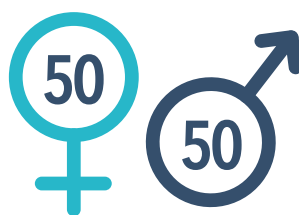


If Flint had 100 residents, this is what the community would look like.

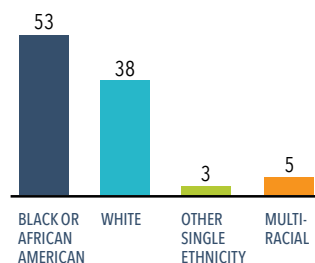
AGE



GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY



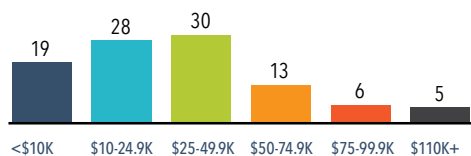
LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE HOME

- 96** would speak only English
- 2** would speak primarily Spanish
- 2** would speak primarily another language

39 would live below the federal poverty level

If Flint had 100 households, this is what the community would look like.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME



OTHER HOUSEHOLD RESOURCES

63 would have a smartphone

51 would have a desktop or laptop computer

59 would have a broadband Internet connection

81 would have a car

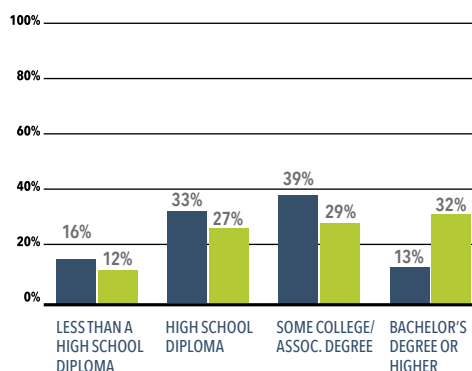
HOW FLINT COMPARES TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

KEY: ■ FLINT ■ UNITED STATES



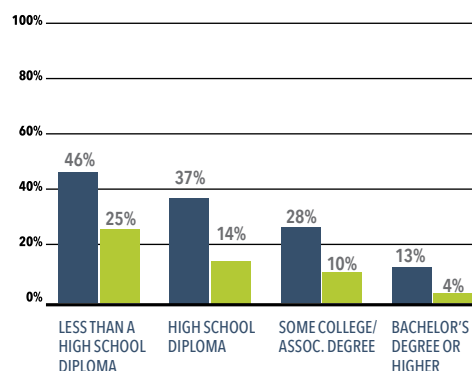
EDUCATION

AMONG RESIDENTS AGE 25 AND OVER

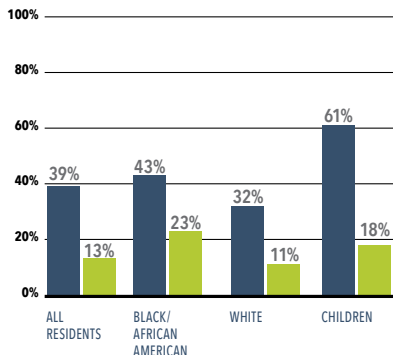


POVERTY RATES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

RESIDENTS AGE 25 AND OVER

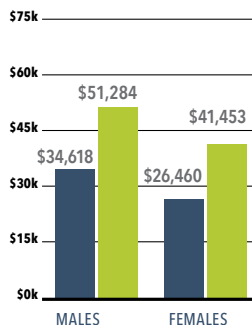


POVERTY RATES BY SUBPOPULATION

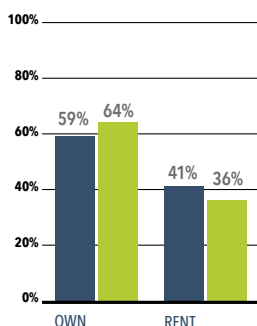


MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS

FOR FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS



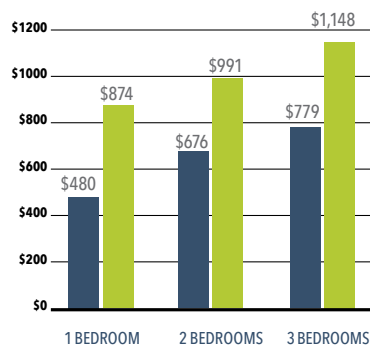
OWN OR RENT



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$27,400
\$217,600

MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT



SURVEY SNAPSHOTS

QUALITY OF LIFE

2.5 OVERALL RATING
 ★★☆☆☆

FROM OUR SURVEY

[86%]
 of residents feel supported by family, companions and/or friends

[81%]
 describe themselves as happy

[29%]
 recently felt lonely



Visitors to the Crim Festival of Races pause to take a selfie.

PHOTO: DANEN WILLIAMS

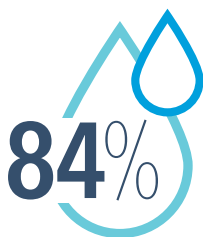
[58%]
 feel connected to the community

[70%]
 feel good about their physical health



While 63 percent like where they live, 68 percent would not recommend Flint to others as a place to live.

[69%]
 believe homelessness is a serious issue in Flint



believe the current cost of their water service is unfair



believe the quality of public education in Flint is a serious concern



do not believe city officials value residents' voices



are not satisfied with the maintenance and repair of local roads



have a positive outlook about their personal financial situation

QUOTES FROM SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

BEST PART OF LIVING IN FLINT



BIGGEST CONCERNS / TOP PRIORITIES

“The water crisis. We are still living with undrinkable water. It’s time for this problem to be fixed once and for all.”

“Education is the most important.”

“Crime, blight and not enough police officers.”

“Water bills are ridiculously high for the quality of water we get.”

“We need an educational system that teaches actual trades and prepares our future leaders for survival and success ... real and true things that will help my daughters live happy and fulfilling lives.”

“We need youth activities that keep them off the streets and out of trouble.”

“Bringing industry, good jobs and job training back to the community.”

“Making sure that areas other than downtown Flint see positive improvements and that we don’t gentrify — socioeconomically and racially — the downtown area as part of the improvements that are happening.”

HOW TO READ THE FOLLOWING SECTION



OVERALL RATING

Nine hundred residents shared their views through telephone and online opinion surveys conducted in the first half of 2019. Key findings are summarized, including ratings for different aspects of life in Flint. Ratings are based on a scale of one to five, in which five means "very positive" and one means "very negative." For more information about how the ratings were calculated, see Methodology on page 24.



THINGS TO CELEBRATE/ THINGS TO IMPROVE

This section highlights survey results regarding what's working and what needs improvement. If a section of Focus on Flint does not include information about Things to Celebrate or Things to Improve, it's because the survey didn't yield responses to fit the categories.



ALSO HEARD

In addition to results of the opinion survey, Focus on Flint shares information that local nonprofit organizations and agencies have reported hearing from the residents they serve.

ECONOMY



Attracting new interest and investment in downtown Flint is key to the community's economic future.

2.4 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Support for entrepreneurs

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Local economy and job opportunities

ALSO HEARD

- People are excited about new job opportunities.
- Job training programs should prepare people for employment that pays a living wage.
- Support for entrepreneurs should be coordinated.

THE ISSUE

Fueled by the decline in manufacturing in Flint, the city experienced decades of job losses and a shrinking tax base. Unemployment rates have improved, but many residents still are unable to find work that pays a living wage. The lack of economic opportunity makes it difficult for them — and the community — to move forward.

THE RESPONSE

The **City of Flint**, **Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce** and others are working to recruit new employers to the community, retain existing businesses and increase jobs. Among the most exciting news: the **Lear Corporation's** new manufacturing facility on the former Buick City site is expected to employ roughly 600 workers by the end of 2019; and **GM** has announced a \$150 million investment in its Flint Assembly plant, which is expected to bring in 1,000 new jobs. **Mott Community College**, **Flint STRIVE** and **St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center** are among the local partners providing residents with job training, while **100K Ideas**, **Factory Two** and others are helping entrepreneurs to launch small businesses. And the ongoing revitalization of downtown Flint has the potential to spark positive economic impacts throughout the city and beyond.

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FOCUS ON FLINT: FACTS, FIGURES AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS



SUPPORT FROM MOTT

Support for the organizations and programs presented in **bold text** includes funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, which produced this report. To learn more, visit the Foundation's website, Mott.org.

NS OF THIS REPORT

FACTS & FIGURES

LABOR FORCE*

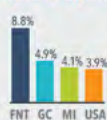
as % of total population



*Defined as people working or actively looking for work.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURES FOR 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT



SOURCE: MICHIGAN BUREAU OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

29,357

EMPLOYEES WORK IN THE CITY OF FLINT



SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

FROM OUR SURVEY

76%
of residents believe that jobs and Flint's economy are serious issues

63%
have a negative view of the local economy

57%
believe the cost of living in Flint is a serious issue

TOP EMPLOYERS IN FLINT BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

GENERAL MOTORS	8,203	DIPLOMAT PHARMACY	1,426
HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER	3,001	MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1,333
McLAREN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	2,737	KETTERING UNIVERSITY	1,015
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT	2,631	STATE OF MICHIGAN	936
GENESEE COUNTY	1,799	CITY OF FLINT	785

SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

DID YOU KNOW?

In early 2018 a new economic development team was formed at the City of Flint, thanks in large part to a grant of \$2.9 million from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The previous department had been cut due to lack of funding. The City is now able to work with other local and state partners to boost economic development. It will release a full economic development plan in 2019 aimed at increasing employment, wages and income in the city.

CONTACT: City of Flint, Department of Community and Economic Development, 810-766-7426.



The lawn of City Hall is graced by statues that honor auto workers.

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

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FACTS & FIGURES

Each section includes data and statistics that illuminate strengths of the Flint community and highlight challenges. These facts were collected through opinion surveys of Flint residents; from city, state and federal agencies; and from local nonprofit organizations. The Flint surveys were conducted in the first half of 2019. Unless otherwise noted, all remaining data are from 2018.



DID YOU KNOW?

This section highlights organizations and programs working to address issues in the Flint community and provides information about how to connect with them.



THE ISSUE AND THE RESPONSE

Focus on Flint explores nine important issues facing the local community: Arts and Culture, Economy, Education, Health, Housing, Public Safety, Quality of Life, Standard of Living and Water.

This section describes why each issue is critical to the community and summarizes work underway.

WATER



Workers replace water service lines in Flint.

1.8 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Residents' trust and confidence in the pediatrician and researchers whose work proved that there was a crisis
- Efforts to inform residents about available health and family services

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Cost of water service
- Progress on pipe replacement
- Proper use of water filters

ALSO HEARD

- It will take longer to rebuild residents' trust in government officials than it will to replace the pipes.
- The crisis raised national awareness of concerns regarding water quality, aging infrastructure and cost.

THE ISSUE

Five years after Flint's water crisis began, the community continues to deal with fallout. Among the most pressing concerns are water quality and affordability, and the long-term health and well-being of all residents — particularly children. Since 2016, studies by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have shown that a growing majority of water samples in Flint have lead levels of less than 15 parts per billion, which is the federal action level. However, few residents say they trust government officials or believe the water is safe. Today, most residents still drink only bottled water.

THE RESPONSE

News of the water crisis sparked an outpouring of support from people and organizations in Flint and around the world. The Mott Foundation granted \$4 million to help reconnect the city to the Detroit water system and subsequently committed up to \$100 million over five years to help Flint recover and rise. **Help Centers** have been providing residents with bottled water, water filters and healthy foods that can help combat the effects of lead exposure. The launch of **Cummings Great Expectations** and **Educare Flint** has made high-quality early childhood education available to more of the city's youngest residents and their families. All schools that feature the **Flint Community Education Initiative** now have a community health worker to help connect students and their families with needed services. The **City of Flint** is overseeing the replacement of lead and galvanized metal service lines, and officials say they will complete the work ahead of schedule and before the end of 2019. City officials and community leaders also are exploring ways to make water rates more affordable. **Freshwater Future** is establishing a local lab and training young people in the community to collect and test water samples. The hope is that testing conducted by Flint residents for Flint residents will inspire greater trust.

FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY

79%

of residents drink bottled water at home

19%

drink filtered water from individual filters attached to faucets

63%

lack confidence that the water system will improve in the next year



Even though pipe replacement is ahead of schedule, more than half of residents say they are not happy with the pace of progress.

AS OF JUNE 14, 2019:

21,737
pipes have been explored

8,555
pipes have been replaced

SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT



FALL 2019

estimated completion date for pipe replacement

SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT

3x FLINT RESIDENTS
PAY NEARLY 3 TIMES

more for water alone (excluding service fees) than residents in 13 comparable Midwestern cities.

SOURCE: FLINT WATER RATE ANALYSIS: FINAL REPORT TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY, RAFTELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC., MAY 2016

SOME FLINT RESIDENTS SPEND NEARLY

18%

of their household income on water bills. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, water rates are not affordable if they cost more than 4.5 percent of median household income in the community served.

SOURCE: AFFORDABLE WATER SERVICE FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: THE ECONOMICS OF AN INCOME-BASED WATER RATE AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM. A REPORT TO THE C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION, FISHER, SHEEHAN & COLTON, PUBLIC FINANCE AND GENERAL ECONOMICS FSC, DECEMBER 2018

IN 2018, THE CITY'S HELP CENTERS



Distributed nearly 4.5 million pounds of food



Distributed nearly 9.8 million pounds of water

SOURCE: FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN



A round of testing for lead and copper that took place from January-March 2019 found more than 96 percent of samples were below the federal action level of 15 ppb.

SOURCE: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

HEALTH EXPERTS, INCLUDING THE GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, SAY THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD. Flint residents are advised to use filtered or bottled water for drinking, cooking, and washing fruits and vegetables until pipe replacement has been completed. This is the best way to protect yourself and your family. You can get free filters and cartridges that eliminate lead and other chemicals at **Help Centers** and City Hall.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Flint Registry provides health and wellness information and referrals to anyone who may have been exposed to lead in the city's water while living, working, or attending school or day care in a location served by the Flint water system between April 25, 2014, and October 15, 2015. Developed with the community's help, the Flint Registry will offer residents, health care providers and others a better understanding of the crisis and its impacts. Enrollment is confidential, and no information is shared without the participant's consent.

CONTACT: www.flintregistry.org or 833-GO-FLINT



FLINTREGISTRY

Get Connected. Get Supported. Get Counted.

ARTS & CULTURE



PHOTO: PETER SMITH, COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

During his February 2019 visit to Flint, cellist Yo-Yo Ma performed with Baba Collins from the city's Kuungana African Drum and Dance Company.

3.6 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Festivals and cultural events for families
- Diversity of offerings

ALSO HEARD

- Genesee County residents support access to the arts in Flint.
- The arts should be part of students' K-12 learning experience.
- The city needs neighborhood-based arts and cultural programs.

THE ISSUE

The arts can contribute to quality of life, help students to succeed in school, connect people across diverse social backgrounds and boost the local economy. Flint has a vibrant arts and cultural community that attracts audiences from across the city and beyond, offering something for nearly every artistic taste. Ensuring that all Flint residents have access to such programs can be a challenge when demand exceeds available resources.

THE RESPONSE

From school children saving their pennies to support from local businesses and organizations, the birth of the **Flint Cultural Center** in 1954 was a community-led effort. Over the years, the Mott Foundation has provided major support for the **Cultural Center** campus, institutions and projects. The Ruth Mott Foundation, **Community Foundation of Greater Flint** and other organizations and businesses have provided generous support for programs, events and festivals. In 2018, Citizens for a Better Genesee County proposed — and county voters approved — the Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment millage, which is expected to raise roughly \$8.7 million each year to help ensure that residents will have access to a wide range of arts and cultural activities in Flint and Genesee County. This will include free or discounted access to **Cultural Center** institutions and programming by The New McCree Theatre, **Berston Field House** and **Greater Flint Arts Council**.

FACTS & FIGURES

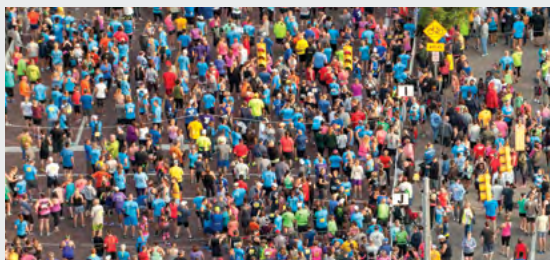


PHOTO: DANEN WILLIAMS

The Crim Festival of Races draws a huge crowd of athletes and spectators each year.

IN 2018, DOWNTOWN FLINT HOSTED

[19] [600,000]

FESTIVALS

VISITORS

SOURCES: BACK TO THE BRICKS, BIKES ON THE BRICKS, CRIM FITNESS FOUNDATION, GREATER FLINT ARTS COUNCIL

FLINT CULTURAL CENTER IN 2018

TOTAL VISITORS

646,000

FIELD TRIPS BY FLINT
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS STUDENTS

147

PROGRAMS BROUGHT TO
CLASSROOMS

185

SOURCE: FLINT CULTURAL CENTER

ARTWALK

Each month, the **Second Friday ArtWalk** attracts roughly 2,500 visitors to downtown Flint.

SOURCE: GREATER FLINT ARTS COUNCIL



PHOTO: MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

PHOTO: DANEN WILLIAMS



THE CRIM

Now in its 43rd year, the Crim Festival of Races draws more than 13,000 runners from a dozen countries around the world.

SOURCE: CRIM FITNESS FOUNDATION

BACK TO THE BRICKS

An estimated 40,000 vehicles roll into the Flint area each year for the Back to the Bricks car cruise and festival.

SOURCE: BACK TO THE BRICKS



PHOTO: DANEN WILLIAMS

PHOTO: RICK SMITH



FIA CONTEMPORARY CRAFT WING

Combining creative work spaces and museum galleries, the Contemporary Craft Wing at the **Flint Institute of Arts** is the only one of its kind in Michigan.

SOURCE: FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

PHOTO: ADAM STOLTMAN



The **Flint Institute of Arts** is one of the jewels of the **Flint Cultural Center** campus.

DID YOU KNOW?

All Genesee County residents can take advantage of free entry to the **Flint Institute of Arts** and **Sloan Museum** seven days a week, thanks to an arts millage passed in 2018. Visitors to the **FIA** can enjoy world-class exhibits, glassblowing demonstrations and community events. While its **Cultural Center** location is closed for renovation, **Sloan Museum** is open at Courtland Center Mall, where it will continue to present hands-on exhibits, historic vehicles and the Wisner's Whizbang Emporium family gallery.

CONTACT: Flint Institute of Arts, 810-234-1695
Sloan Museum, 810-237-3450

ECONOMY

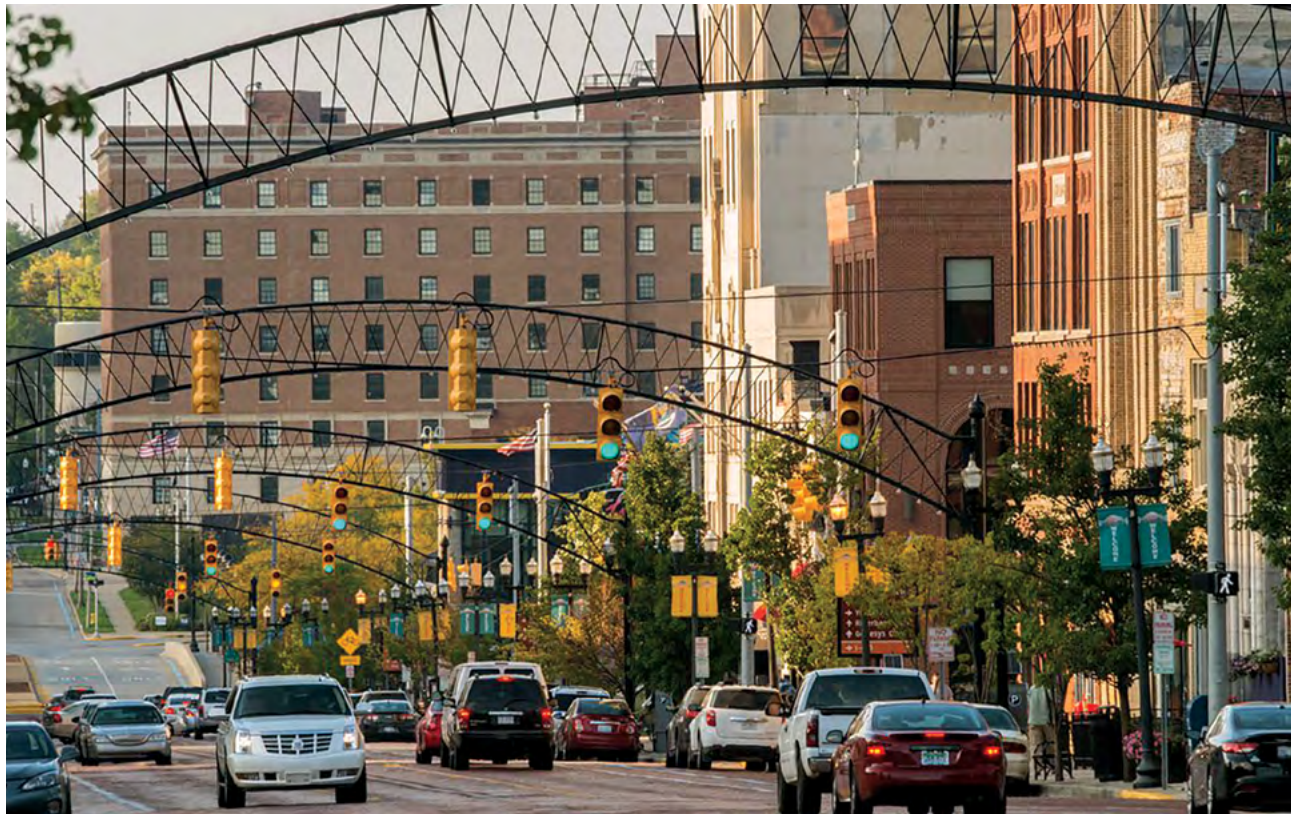


PHOTO: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Attracting new interest and investment in downtown Flint is key to the community's economic future.

2.4 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Support for entrepreneurs

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Local economy and job opportunities

ALSO HEARD

- People are excited about new job opportunities.
- Job training programs should prepare people for employment that pays a living wage.
- Support for entrepreneurs should be coordinated.

THE ISSUE

Fueled by the decline in manufacturing in Flint, the city experienced decades of job losses and a shrinking tax base. Unemployment rates have improved, but many residents still are unable to find work that pays a living wage. The lack of economic opportunity makes it difficult for them — and the community — to move forward.

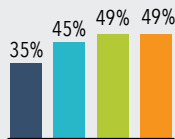
THE RESPONSE

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FACTS & FIGURES

LABOR FORCE*

as % of total population

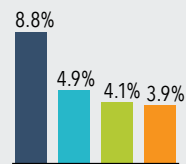


FNT GC MI USA

*Defined as people working or actively looking for work.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURES FOR 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT



FNT GC MI USA

SOURCE: MICHIGAN BUREAU OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

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63%

have a negative view of the local economy

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believe the cost of living in Flint is a serious issue

TOP EMPLOYERS IN FLINT BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

GENERAL MOTORS **8,203**

HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER **3,001**

McLAREN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER **2,737**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT **2,631**

GENESEE COUNTY **1,799**

DIPLOMAT PHARMACY **1,426**

MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE **1,333**

KETTERING UNIVERSITY **1,015**

STATE OF MICHIGAN **936**

CITY OF FLINT **785**

SOURCE: CITY OF FLINT COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

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In early 2018 a new economic development team was formed at the **City of Flint**, thanks in large part to a grant of \$2.9 million from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The previous department had been cut due to lack of funding. The City is now able to work with other local and state partners to boost economic development. It will release a full economic development plan in 2019 aimed at increasing employment, wages and income in the city.

CONTACT: City of Flint, Department of Community and Economic Development, 810-766-7426.



PHOTO: CRISTINA WRIGHT

The lawn of City Hall is graced by statues that honor auto workers.

EDUCATION



PHOTO: RICK SMITH

A student reads during **YouthQuest**. The afterschool program is offered at all **Flint Community Schools** and the International Academy of Flint.

2.6 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Quality of K-12 public education
- Total amount of funding provided for public education
- Level of pay for teachers in local public schools

ALSO HEARD

- Students need stronger bridges between early learning, K-12 and higher education.
- The community wants more information about K-12 providers' performance and success.
- Public funding for education needs to be more equitable.

THE ISSUE

Declining enrollment, a shrinking tax base and inadequate state funding make it hard for K-12 providers in Flint to prepare students to succeed. The number of students who attend **Flint Community Schools** has been declining since 1965 and is now at an all-time low of roughly 4,300 students. Less than a third of school-age children who live in Flint attend a school that's part of the public district. While there are new early childhood schools in the city and the **YouthQuest** afterschool program in all **Flint Community Schools**, there's more demand for both than providers can meet.

THE RESPONSE

Launch Michigan is calling for new approaches to school funding that could help all children in Michigan receive a quality K-12 education. Efforts to strengthen education in Flint — from cradle to college and career — include the opening of **Educare Flint** and **Cummings Great Expectations**, which together serve nearly 400 children from birth to age 5. The **Flint Community Education Initiative** brings health services, afterschool programs, sports and more to every school in the public district. **Mott Middle College** and **Genesee Early College** provide alternative pathways for young people to complete high school, pursue higher education and enter the job market. The Flint Promise enables qualifying students to attend **Mott Community College**, **University of Michigan-Flint** or **Kettering University** at little or no cost. Recent and planned investments in facilities and programs at **MCC**, **UM-Flint** and **Kettering** total over \$100 million.

FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY

[75%]

of residents believe the quality of public education in Flint is a serious concern

[57%]

agree that Flint offers good options for higher education

HIGHER EDUCATION



4 COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

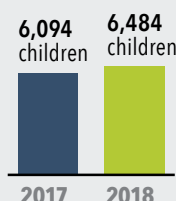
22,053 STUDENTS ENROLLED

SOURCES: KETTERING UNIVERSITY, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE, MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

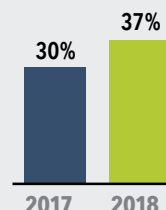
INCREASED ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SOURCE: GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

SERVICE CAPACITY OF LICENSED & REGISTERED PROVIDERS IN FLINT



PROVIDERS THAT ARE FOUR- OR FIVE-STAR RATED



FLINT AREA SCHOOLS* STRUGGLE WITH OUTCOMES

THIRD-GRADE READING PROFICIENCY:

19%

FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES:

67%

SAT COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS:

4%

CHRONIC ABSENCE RATE:

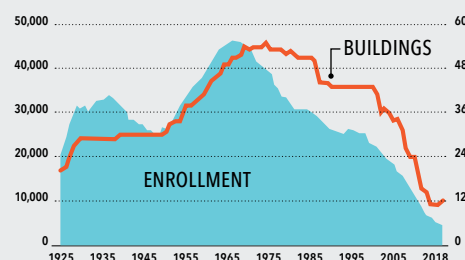
43%

*Flint Community Schools and charter schools with Flint addresses

SOURCE: MI SCHOOL DATA

ENROLLMENT & BUILDINGS

FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, 1925-2018



SOURCES: FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

IN 2017
KETTERING
UNIVERSITY
RANKED

SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES

#1 AMONG 64 COLLEGES in Michigan

#7 AMONG 2,137 COLLEGES in the U.S.

for helping students who came from the lowest fifth of income level rise to the top fifth as adults



PHOTO: CRIM FITNESS FOUNDATION



A student engages in a mindfulness exercise as part of the Flint Community Education Initiative.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the city's master planning process in 2013, residents said they wanted community education to return to Flint — with a modern approach. Today, the **Crim Fitness Foundation** leads a **community education initiative** in all **Flint Community Schools** and the International Academy of Flint. The schools serve as hubs for their neighborhoods, offering students, their families and all Flint residents a wide range of classes, activities, services and resources. Community school directors are ready to help you succeed!

CONTACT: Crim Fitness Foundation, 810-235-3396

HEALTH



PHOTO: MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE/MML.ORG

A customer buys fresh produce at the **Flint Farmers' Market**.

2.8 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Residents' feelings of physical and mental well-being
- Access to quality health care
- Efforts to inform residents about available health and family services

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Access to healthy foods

ALSO HEARD

- More residents have Medicaid health coverage.
- While some health trends have improved, significant disparities still exist.
- Greater emphasis on physical fitness and preventive care is needed.

THE ISSUE

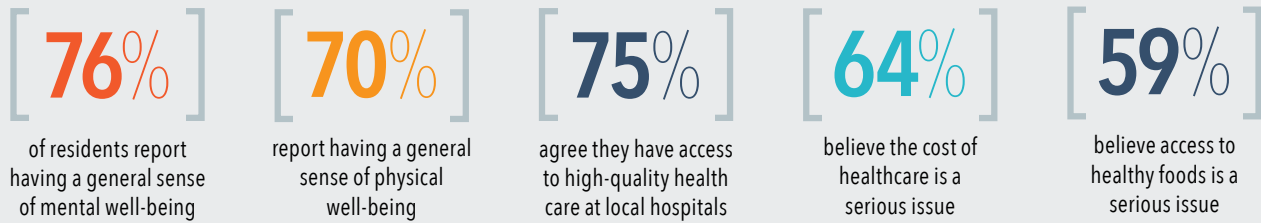
Over the past decade, there have been improvements in some health trends in Flint, such as decreases in overall teen pregnancy rates and infant mortality. However, rates of these and other important health concerns, such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes, are much higher in Flint than they are across the county, state and nation. The city's water crisis has sparked added concerns for the health and well-being of all residents, especially children.

THE RESPONSE

Efforts to improve the health of Flint families include the Genesee Health Plan, which the Mott Foundation helped to launch in 2001. The plan provides families that have little or no health insurance with access to basic coverage and medical care. The recent expansion of Medicaid waivers in Michigan has helped more than 26,000 Flint residents obtain free or low-cost health insurance. The **Crim Fitness Foundation** brings physical fitness activities into neighborhoods through the **Flint Community Education Initiative**. And by doubling the value of SNAP benefits used to buy healthy foods at the **Flint Farmers' Market**, **Flint Fresh Mobile Market** and eight stores in the city, **Double Up Food Bucks** helps people get more fruits, vegetables and other nutritious foods, which also can lessen effects of lead exposure, especially among children.

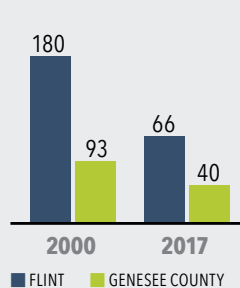
FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY



TEEN PREGNANCY

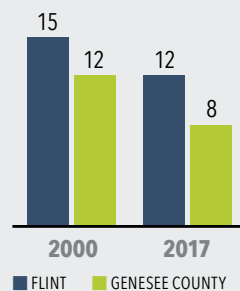
PER 1,000 FEMALES, AGES 15-19 YEARS



SOURCE: MICHIGAN DEPT. OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

INFANT MORTALITY

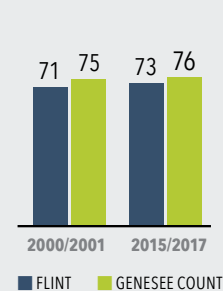
DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



SOURCE: MICHIGAN DEPT. OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY

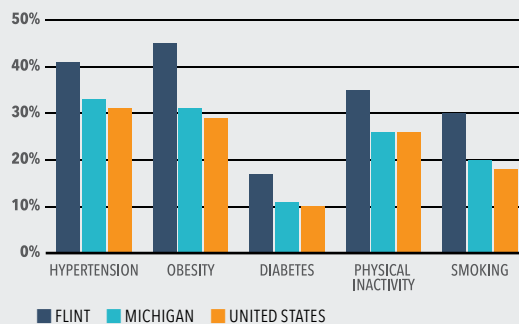
PER 1,000 FEMALES, AGES 15-19 YEARS



SOURCE: GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

PREVALENCE OF HEALTH CONCERNS IN 2016

SOURCES: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION; UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION, AMERICA'S HEALTH RANKINGS



[**26,000+**]

RESIDENTS IN FLINT

enrolled in the Medicaid health insurance program under the State of Michigan's expansion of the program as of August 1, 2018.

SOURCE: STATE OF MICHIGAN

DID YOU KNOW?

The Genesee County Community Health Access Program, or CHAP, helps residents enrolled in Medicaid find a place to get consistent medical care. Managed by the **Greater Flint Health Coalition**, CHAP helps residents get health information, understand it, manage their medical care, and address issues that can affect their overall health and well-being, such as housing, transportation and food.

CONTACT: Greater Flint Health Coalition, 810-232-2228



PHOTO: GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

CHAP provides friendly, personal assistance to help clients manage their health.

HOUSING



PHOTO: DUANEELLING

A house for sale in Flint.

2.2 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Residents' satisfaction with where they live

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Blight
- Support for development of affordable housing

ALSO HEARD

- Housing in Flint is more affordable than in neighboring communities.
- The decline in property values remains a key concern.

THE ISSUE

Decades of economic struggle have left much of Flint's housing in poor condition. Addressing blight, creating affordable and attractive housing options, and restoring neighborhood pride are key to improving quality of life in Flint and building a new future for the community.

THE RESPONSE

Multiple organizations in Flint empower residents to become actively engaged in building up their community. The **Neighborhoods Small Grants Program**, led by the **Community Foundation of Greater Flint**, funds projects that strengthen neighborhood groups, create safer environments, improve neighborhood conditions, and connect residents to each other and to resources. The **Court Street Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation** works with residents and local organizations to address blight, reduce crime and repair homes. Through its **Building Resident Action by Neighborhood Design (Flint BRAND)** program, **Genesee County Habitat for Humanity** provides block clubs and other groups with an average of \$10,000 in grants to beautify and improve Flint neighborhoods. In addition, **Communities First Inc.** and the **Foundation for the Uptown Reinvestment Corporation** are creating new units of safe, affordable housing in the city. The efforts of these and other local partners aim to stabilize neighborhoods and strengthen the Flint community.

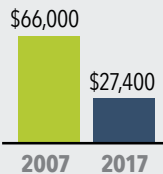
FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES, 2007 AND 2017



of Flint's housing is categorized as blighted (unstable, dangerous, in poor condition).

SOURCE: FLINT PROPERTY PORTAL

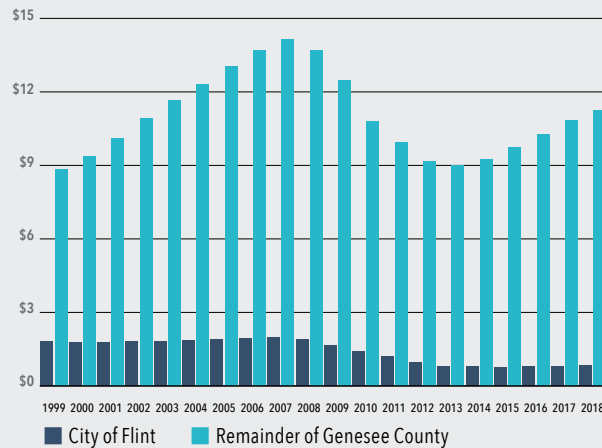
GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2018

- 900** Dangerous and blighted buildings demolished
- 668** Vacant lots sold to neighboring homeowners
- 500** Tons of trash removed from vacant properties
- \$17 MILLION** Funding administered to address vacant and abandoned properties, and to reduce blight in Flint

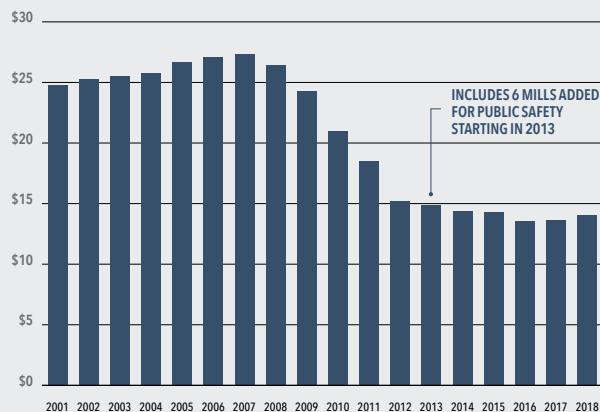
SOURCE: GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK

PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS in billions



SOURCE: GENESEE COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT, UPDATED FEBRUARY 2019

CITY OF FLINT PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION in millions



SOURCE: GENESEE COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT, UPDATED FEBRUARY 2019

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lead Safe Home Program, offered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, helps to ensure that children living in homes built before 1978 are protected from lead-related hazards. Following a free inspection, qualified homeowners can receive low- or no-cost improvements, such as new windows, doors, exterior siding, plumbing fixtures and pipes, as well as specialized cleaning and painting services.

CONTACT: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 866-691-5323



PHOTO: BIGSTOCK PHOTO

Replacing old, painted windows is one way the Lead Safe Home Program is helping to protect children.

PUBLIC SAFETY



PHOTO: CRISTINA WRIGHT

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps members board up a vacant home in Flint.

2.3 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Residents' satisfaction with fire services

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Overall crime and safety
- Street lighting

ALSO HEARD

- Personal and property crimes have declined.
- Efforts to improve neighborhoods have had a positive effect.
- Despite passage of two millages for police and fire services, more resources are needed.

THE ISSUE

Rates of crime against people and property have declined in Flint, but they remain higher than in other Genesee County communities and the state of Michigan overall. While city residents in 2016 approved millages that provide roughly \$5 million a year for police and fire services, that support has been partly offset by cuts in state funding to local governments. Today, public safety remains a top concern for many Flint residents.

THE RESPONSE

Neighborhood block clubs, community groups and other partners from Flint and beyond are working with local law enforcement to help improve public safety. For example, members of the **AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps** collaborated in 2018 with the City of Flint Police Department to address factors, such as blight, that can contribute to crime. That unique, eight-month partnership helped to secure over 670 vacant homes, remove more than 51,000 pounds of trash and connect residents with a range of community services. The result: overall crime rates in the targeted neighborhoods fell by an average of 8 percent.

FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY

[77%]

of residents identified crime and safety as a serious concern

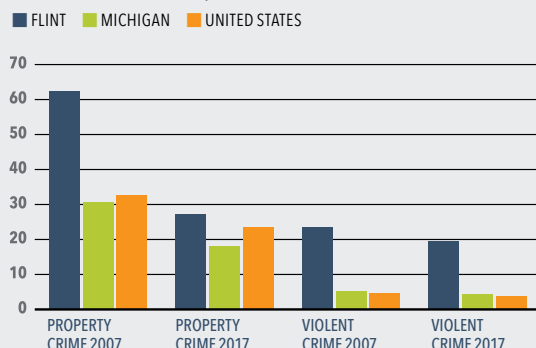
[68%]

hold a negative opinion about public safety in the city overall, while 52 percent hold similar views regarding public safety in their neighborhood

[57%]

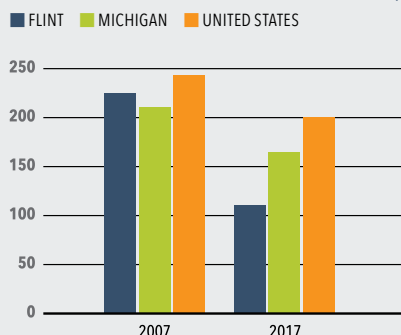
believe that adequate street lighting — an important deterrent to crime — is a serious concern

CRIME RATES PER 1,000 PEOPLE



SOURCES: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS, UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM; MICHIGAN STATE POLICE, MICHIGAN INCIDENT CRIME REPORTING

NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS PER 100,000 PEOPLE



SOURCE: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS, UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM



HIGH CRIME RATES

are compounded by limited funding for police officers in Flint. Adjusted for inflation in 2017 dollars, state revenue sharing with local cities fell by 45 percent from fiscal year (FY) 1999 to 2017.

[\$195.79]

PER RESIDENT IN FY 1999

[\$108.19]

PER RESIDENT IN FY 2017

SOURCES: MICHIGAN HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY, STATE REVENUE SHARING UPDATE, JANUARY 2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

DID YOU KNOW?

Helping to reduce crime by eliminating blight is a goal of the **Genesee County Land Bank's Clean and Green Program**. It provides community groups with at least \$3,000 to help clear and maintain vacant lots and make other improvements in their neighborhoods. In 2018, those partners cared for more than 3,700 properties in the city of Flint.

CONTACT: Genesee County Land Bank,
810-257-3088.



PHOTO: SARAH SCHUCH

Community members helped to clean up a vacant lot on Dupont Street, removing trash and planting flowers.

STANDARD OF LIVING



PHOTO: THE CORRIDOR ALLIANCE CHAPTER OF THE FLINT RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

People head to the water with canoes, rafts and just about anything that floats during the annual Flint River Flotilla.

2.5 OVERALL RATING



THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Quality options for higher education
- Access to quality health care

THINGS TO IMPROVE

- Local economy and job opportunities
- Cost of water service

ALSO HEARD

- Many residents lack access to personal transportation.
- Housing in Flint is more affordable than in neighboring communities.

THE ISSUE

In the 1950s, Flint offered many residents a standard of living that few other communities could match. But the subsequent decline in manufacturing in the city led to decades of job losses. Today, approximately 41 percent of households in Flint live at or below the federal poverty level and struggle to meet such basic needs as housing, food and health care.

THE RESPONSE

The **Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce** and the **City of Flint's Economic Development Team** are working with state and local partners to help reboot Flint's economy and create more job opportunities. In addition to job-training programs, there are efforts underway to help residents start their own businesses. Until more of these efforts take hold, local nonprofits, such as the **United Way of Genesee County** and the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**, are doing more to help Flint residents meet their basic needs.



PHOTO: ADAM STOLTMAN

A worker moves fresh produce at the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's Hunger Solution Center**.

FACTS & FIGURES

FROM OUR SURVEY

[52%]

of residents have a positive feeling about their personal financial situation

[66%]

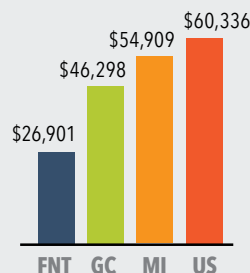
know where to turn if their family needs assistance

FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN GENESEE COUNTY BY THE FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN:



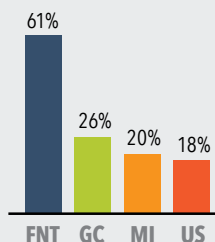
SOURCE: FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



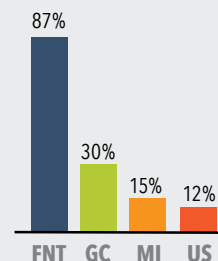
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2017 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY



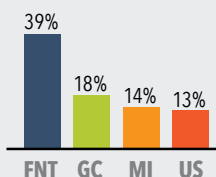
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2017 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES

CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS (2013-2017)



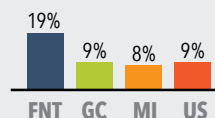
SOURCES: MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY, 2019 KIDS COUNT IN MICHIGAN DATA BOOK; THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION, KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

HOUSEHOLDS AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL



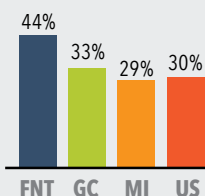
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2017 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES

HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2017 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME SPENT ON RENT



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2017 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ONE-YEAR ESTIMATES

PHOTO: MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Professor Robert Benard (center) meets with students studying information technology at **Mott Community College**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2017, the **Adult Career Pathway** program at **Mott Community College** has helped more than 900 people prepare for, get hired and advance in the fields of manufacturing, health care, human services and information technology. The program provides supportive services to help participants keep their education on track and pursue careers that can raise their standard of living.

CONTACT: Mott Community College,
Office of Workforce Development, 810-232-2555

METHODOLOGY

FLINT RESIDENT SURVEY

A total of 900 residents contributed to Focus on Flint by sharing their views about quality of life, challenges facing the community, and the performance of local, state and national leaders.

Opinions were collected through two telephone and online surveys conducted by FM3 Research, a nationally respected pollster, from February 26 through March 3 and May 4 through May 9. FM3 weighted results to reflect Flint demographics, resulting in a statistically valid sample with a margin of error of less than 5 percent at the 95 percent confidence interval.

Respondents answered many survey questions with a number from one to five to help capture intensity of feeling. For example, when asked about the importance of drinking water quality, a response of five meant that it was extremely important, while a response of one meant that it was not

very important. The average response was 4.3. Seventy-one percent of respondents gave drinking water a five, the highest possible score.

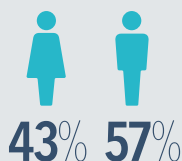
In addition, FM3 asked questions to measure residents' overall ratings for key aspects of life in Flint. The answers to those questions were used to calculate the ratings that appear in each section of the report.

SECONDARY DATA

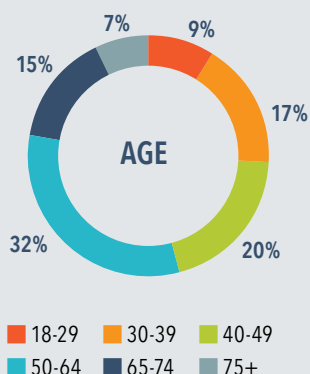
To complement the resident survey, Focus on Flint includes data and statistics about life in the community from many different sources. It cites health statistics collected by the **Greater Flint Health Coalition**, public safety data from the U.S. Department of Justice and demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Information about attendance at local events and the use of city resources was provided by local agencies. Focus on Flint encourages readers to compare survey results with secondary data.

SURVEY PARTICIPANT SNAPSHOT

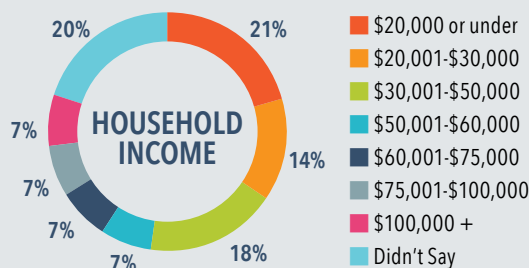
GENDER



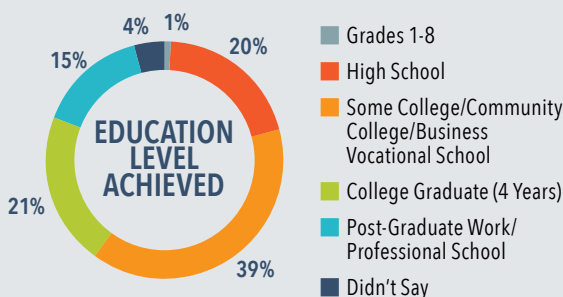
AGE



HOUSEHOLD INCOME



EDUCATION LEVEL ACHIEVED



LOCATION

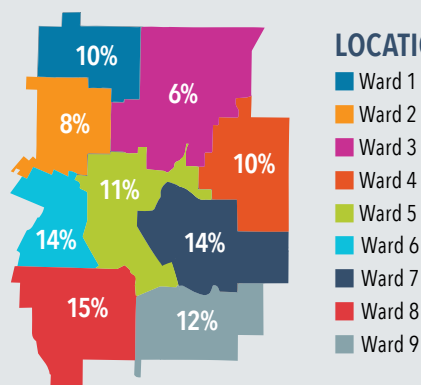




PHOTO: CHRISZUMOWICZ, COURTESY OF FLINT INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

Against a dramatic backdrop of fireworks, the Flint Symphony Orchestra performed at Atwood Stadium on July 4, 2018.

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