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**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.

**CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION**

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

PHOTO: MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE/MML.ORG

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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.*
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

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**

- 18-34: 28
- 35-64: 37
- 65-79: 10
- 80+: 4
- Under 18: 21

**Gender**

-Female: 50
-Male: 50

**Language Spoken in the Home**

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

**Race/Ethnicity**

-Black or African American: 53
-White: 38
-Other single ethnicity: 3
-Multi-racial: 5

**Poverty Level**

-39 would live below the federal poverty level

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

**Annual Household Income**

-<$10K: 19
-$10-24.9K: 28
-$25-49.9K: 30
-$50-74.9K: 13
-$75-99.9K: 6
-$100K+: 5

**Other Household Resources**

-63 would have a smartphone
-59 would have a broadband Internet connection
-51 would have a desktop or laptop computer
-81 would have a car

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.
HOW FLINT COMPARES TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

KEY: FLINT UNITED STATES

EDUCATION AMONG RESIDENTS AGE 25 AND OVER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College/Assoc. Degree</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POVERTY RATES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT RESIDENTS AGE 25 AND OVER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College/Assoc. Degree</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POVERTY RATES BY SUBPOPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subpopulation</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Residents</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS FOR FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND WORKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>$34,618</td>
<td>$51,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>$26,460</td>
<td>$41,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OWN OR RENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership Type</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

- **$27,400**
- **$217,600**

MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
<td>$480</td>
<td>$874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bedrooms</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td>$991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedrooms</td>
<td>$779</td>
<td>$1,148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SURVEY SNAPSHOTS
QUALITY OF LIFE

FROM OUR SURVEY

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

81% describe themselves as happy.

29% recently felt lonely.

58% feel connected to the community.

70% feel good about their physical health.

69% believe homelessness is a serious issue in Flint.

84% believe the current cost of their water service is unfair.

75% believe the quality of public education in Flint is a serious concern.

72% do not believe city officials value residents’ voices.

75% are not satisfied with the maintenance and repair of local roads.

52% have a positive outlook about their personal financial situation.

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

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.
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 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, RAFFELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC., MAY 2016

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

SOME FLINT RESIDENTS PAY NEARLY 3X 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, RAFFELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC., MAY 2016

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

96% of samples were below the federal action level of 15 ppb.

SOURCE: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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.

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

FLINT REGISTRY

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION
ARTS & CULTURE

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.

3.6 OVERALL RATING

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.

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.
**FACTS & FIGURES**

**ARTWALK**
Each month, the Second Friday ArtWalk attracts roughly 2,500 visitors to downtown Flint.
SOURCE: GREATER FLINT ARTS COUNCIL

**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

**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

**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

**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

**IN 2018, DOWNTOWN FLINT HOSTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FESTIVALS</th>
<th>VISITORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

**The Flint Institute of Arts is one of the jewels of the Flint Cultural Center campus.**
FOCUS ON FLINT: FACTS, FIGURES AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

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.
Facts & Figures

**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.

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**FOCUS ON FLINT:** FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT FLINT, MICHIGAN

**CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION**

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**FACTS & FIGURES**

### LABOR FORCE*

as % of total population

- FNT: 35%
- GC: 45%
- MI: 49%
- USA: 49%

*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: 8.8%
- GC: 4.9%
- MI: 4.1%
- USA: 3.9%

**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

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### FROM OUR SURVEY

- **76%** believe the cost of living in Flint is a serious issue.
- **63%** have a negative view of the local economy.
- **57%** of residents believe that jobs and Flint’s economy are serious issues.

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

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### TOP EMPLOYERS IN FLINT** BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL MOTORS</td>
<td>8,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER</td>
<td>3,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLAREN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</td>
<td>2,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN–FLINT</td>
<td>2,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENESSEE COUNTY</td>
<td>1,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIPLOMAT PHARMACY</td>
<td>1,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE</td>
<td>1,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KETTERING UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>1,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE OF MICHIGAN</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OF FLINT</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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The lawn of City Hall is graced by statues that honor auto workers.
The overall rating of Flint Community Schools is 2.6/5.

**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.
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

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

Flint Area Schools*

Struggle with Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third-grade reading proficiency:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year graduation rates:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT College/Career Readiness:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic absence rate:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Flint Community Schools and charter schools with Flint addresses

SOURCES: MI School Data

Enrollment & Buildings

Flint Community Schools, 1925-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCES: Flint Community Schools, Genesee Intermediate School District

Increased Access to Early Childhood Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

source: Great Start Collaborative

Service Capacity of Licensed & Registered Providers in Flint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Providers that are Four- or Five-Star Rated

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

PHOTO: CRIM FITNESS FOUNDATION
HEALTH

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

- **76%** of residents report having a general sense of mental well-being
- **70%** report having a general sense of physical well-being
- **75%** agree they have access to high-quality health care at local hospitals
- **64%** believe the cost of healthcare is a serious issue
- **59%** believe access to healthy foods is a serious issue

**TEEN PREGNANCY**

PER 1,000 FEMALES, AGES 15-19 YEARS

- 2000: FLINT 180, GENESEE COUNTY 93, UNITED STATES 66
- 2017: FLINT 66, GENESEE COUNTY 40, UNITED STATES 33

**INFANT MORTALITY**

DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

- 2000: FLINT 15, GENESEE COUNTY 12, UNITED STATES 8
- 2017: FLINT 12, GENESEE COUNTY 8, UNITED STATES 8

**AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY**

- 2000/2001: FLINT 71, GENESEE COUNTY 75, UNITED STATES 73
- 2015/2017: FLINT 76, GENESEE COUNTY 76, UNITED STATES 76

**PREVALENCE OF HEALTH CONCERNS**

IN 2016

- HYPERTENSION: FLINT 25, MICHIGAN 24, UNITED STATES 23
- OBESITY: FLINT 26, MICHIGAN 25, UNITED STATES 24
- DIABETES: FLINT 24, MICHIGAN 23, UNITED STATES 22
- PHYSICAL INACTIVITY: FLINT 26, MICHIGAN 25, UNITED STATES 24
- SMOKING: FLINT 13, MICHIGAN 12, UNITED STATES 11

**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.

**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

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

**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.

**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.

**OVERALL RATING**
2.3

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

PHOTO: CRISTINA WRIGHT
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% 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

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.

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

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.
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.

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
Focusing on Flint:

FACTS, FIGURES AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

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