



Who Benefits? How Detroit Residents View Their Changing City

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Overview

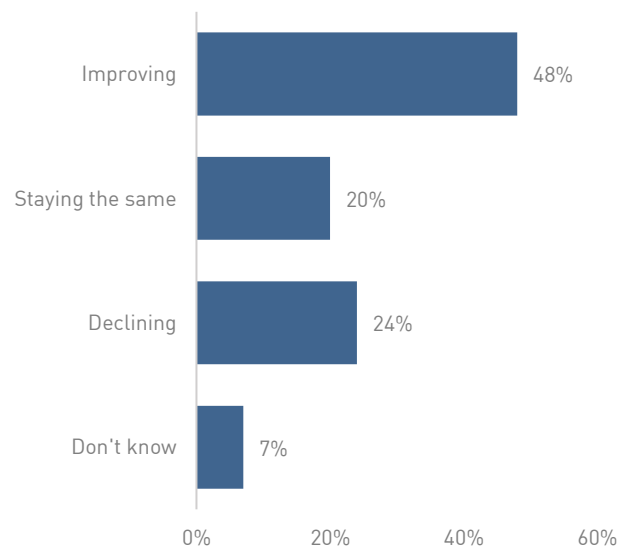
In response to the devastating impact of the Great Recession on Detroit’s population, philanthropists, government officials, and the private sector have made significant investments in Detroit, with the aim of recovering the economy. Despite the purported aims of these efforts, many in the community have voiced concerns about who benefits from these local investments. A majority of Detroit residents see the quality of life in the metro area improving, are divided on whether their own neighborhoods are improving, and view white, wealthy, and recent residents of Detroit as the primary beneficiaries of investment in Downtown and Midtown.

Many see area improving

Many Detroiters are satisfied with the quality of life in the metro Detroit area and think that it is improving. When asked about how the quality of life is changing, nearly half (48%) say that the area is improving, while only a quarter see the area as declining (24%) and one fifth believe the area has stayed the same. Most Detroiters are also satisfied with their current quality of life. Half of respondents indicate being satisfied with metro Detroit as a place to live while less than 30 percent (28%) are dissatisfied.

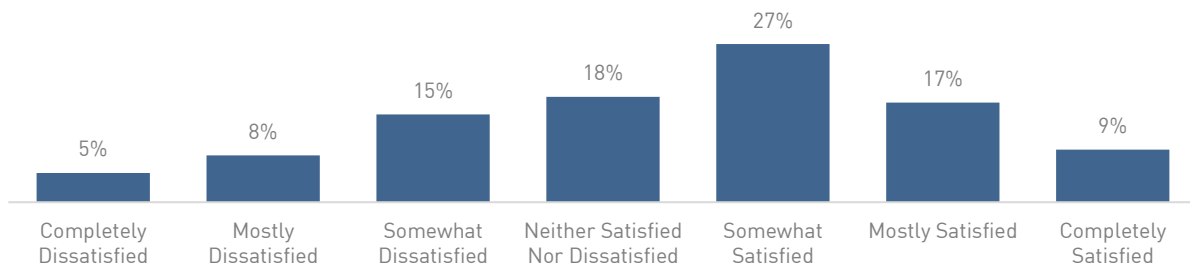
48% view quality of life in the metro Detroit area as improving

Quality of life in the metro Detroit area is _



53% satisfied with metro Detroit as a place to live

How _are you overall with the metro Detroit area as a place to live?



Detroiters divided on neighborhood quality of life

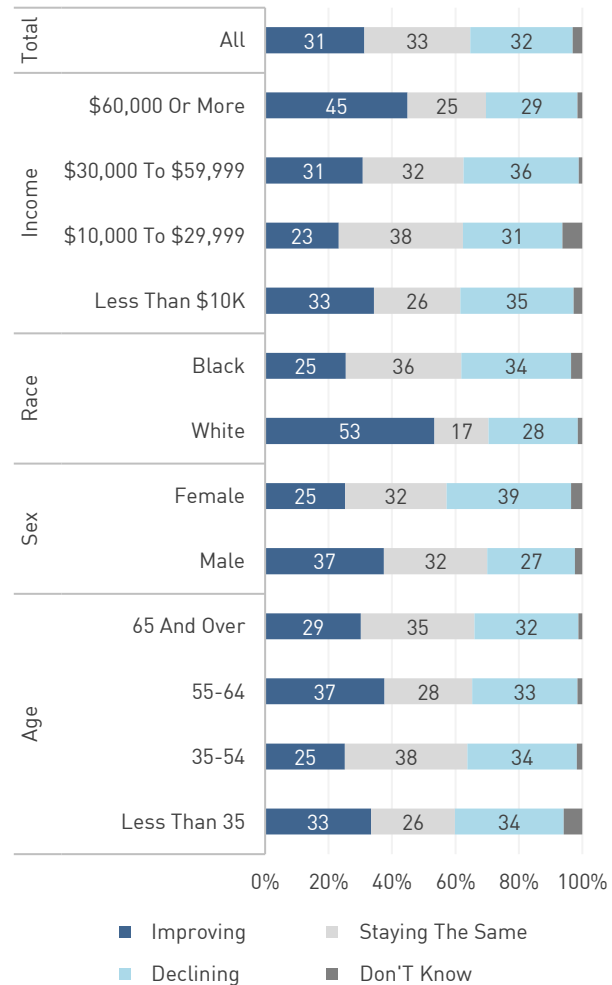
A third of Detroit residents view the quality of life in their neighborhood as staying the same while the rest are evenly divided between perceiving improvement (31%) and decline (32%) in their neighborhoods.

Stark differences emerge when responses are broken down by income and race. Only a quarter of Black respondents see their neighborhoods improving compared to a majority of Whites (53%). Residents making \$60,000 or more were the only other group, in addition to Whites, to have more than 40 percent indicate that their neighborhood is improving (45%).

When responses are broken down by age, the 35 to 54-year-old group are the least likely to report neighborhood improvement (25%).

Nearly 1/3rd split on neighborhood quality of life

Quality of life in your neighborhood is _



Most view recent, wealthy, and White residents as the main beneficiaries of investments in Downtown and Midtown

When asked to assess who was benefiting the most from investments being made in Downtown and Midtown, Detroiters tended to see the benefits as being unequally distributed across groups. For example, nearly three-fourths [74%] say that the wealthy benefit more than the poor, but very few [1%] viewed the poor as benefiting more than the wealthy. Less extreme but meaningful differences were found between whether Black or White residents benefit more. Over half view Whites as benefiting more (52%), compared to only a little over a quarter saying both groups benefit the same (26%).

74% say the wealthy benefit from investments in Downtown and Midtown

Who benefits more from the investments being made in Downtown and Midtown Detroit?

Reside in the City/Reside in the Metro Area	People who live in the city of Detroit	14%
	Neither group benefits	4%
	People who live elsewhere in the metro Detroit area (Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw counties)	44%
	Both groups benefit about the same amount	18%
Longtime Resident/Recent Resident	Longtime residents of Detroit	8%
	Neither group benefits	12%
	People who recently moved to Detroit	40%
	Both groups benefit about the same amount	22%
Wealthy/Poor	Wealthier people	74%
	Neither group benefits	2%
	Poorer people	1%
	Both groups benefit about the same amount	10%
Black/White	Black people	2%
	Neither group benefits	3%
	White people	52%
	Both groups benefit about the same amount	26%

Detroiters also see differences in who benefits according to geographic location and length of residency in Detroit. Those who live elsewhere in the metro Detroit area - such as Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties - (44%) were viewed as benefiting more than people who live in the City of Detroit (14%). Moreover, 40 percent believe that recent residents benefit more than long-time residents of Detroit.

Acknowledgements

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About the Detroit Metropolitan Area Communities Study

The Detroit Metropolitan Area Communities Study (DMACS) is a University of Michigan initiative, designed to regularly survey a broad, representative group of Detroit area residents about their communities, including their experiences, perceptions, priorities, and aspirations. DMACS' mission is to create the knowledge infrastructure for evidence-based decision-making by diverse actors. This is accomplished through an innovative online survey and web platform that provides timely, accessible data and analysis, and integrates with other information about the people and places across the region.

Survey Methodology

N=714 Detroit residents. Interviews were administered online as well as using paper and pencil between October 2016 and January 2017. Respondents were recruited via mail, phone, and in-person from a representative address-based sample of the city. The margin of sampling error for a random sample survey of this size is 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The data have been weighted using a raking procedure by age, education, sex, and race to match Census estimates for the City of Detroit.