



Community Health Survey

Key Findings | Summer/Fall 2018

OVERVIEW

In a partnership between the University of Michigan and the Detroit Health Department, a scientific survey of 1,216 Detroit residents was conducted in summer/fall of 2018 as part of the City's Community Health Assessment. Full survey results can be found at: <http://detroitssurvey.umich.edu>.

PRIORITY ISSUES

The survey asked respondents to rate the importance of 17 potential public health priorities in their communities. Most Detroiters rated all of these very high or high priorities.

The issues most likely to be rated very high priorities are **reducing child abuse and neglect** (76%), **increasing help for people with mental health problems** (73%), **improving access to health care for babies and young children** (73%), **improving access to healthy food** (72%), and **improving access to high quality affordable housing** (72%).

The issues least likely to be rated very high priorities are **providing more education and treatment for tobacco use** (51%) and **reducing the number of stray animals** (53%).

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY ASSETS

Roughly two-thirds (66%) of Detroiters say they are very satisfied, mostly satisfied, or somewhat satisfied with their neighborhood as a place to live, while roughly one quarter (25%) are very, mostly, or somewhat dissatisfied with their neighborhood (leaving 9% who are neither satisfied or dissatisfied). African Americans and Latinos have lower levels of satisfaction with their neighborhoods compared to whites.

The survey asked respondents to rate the importance of 11 types of community resources/assets to the quality of life in their community. Most rated all of these resources/assets as very or somewhat important.

The community assets most likely to be rated as very important are **grocery stores** (85%), **schools** (81%), and **public transportation** (80%). Fewer Detroiters rated **art/cultural institutions** (58%) and **block clubs** (52%) as very important for the quality of life in their communities.

Most Detroiters (57%) are very worried or somewhat worried about being victims of crime. Crime is more of a concern for women, older people, African Americans, and people with less education.

SOCIAL SUPPORTS

Over half (58%) of Detroiters report that they have a **friend or loved one** whom they could talk to about personal problems, someone who could take them to the doctor if they had to go (58%), or someone to help with daily chores if they were sick (51%). Fewer Detroiters (39%) have someone who could loan them a small amount of money if they needed it.

HOMELESSNESS

Roughly one out of every five Detroiters (21%) has experienced a bout of **homelessness** at one point in their lives. This can include temporarily staying in a shelter or mission, living in transitional housing or on the streets, staying in a vehicle, temporarily staying with friends or family, or living in any other unstable or non-permanent arrangement.

INSURANCE

89% of Detroiters report being covered by health insurance or a health care plan. Over half (54%) are covered by a form of **government-funded insurance** such as Medicare, Medi-Gap, Healthy Michigan (Medicaid), MIChild (CHIP), Military health care (TRICARE/VA/CHAMP-VA), and Indian Health Service.

BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Small numbers of Detroiters report being unable to get **dental care** (16%), **specialty medical care** (8%), and **care for mental health** (8%) over the past 12 months.

The most common reasons for not being able to access care are **wanting services not covered by insurance** (10%), **not filling a prescription because it couldn't be afforded** (7%), **not going to a doctor due to lack of insurance** (7%), and **not seeing a health care provider because the schedule was inconvenient** (7%). The least common problems are **language barriers** (1%) and **fear of going to the doctor** (2%).

A large majority (88%) of Detroiters report that they had not experienced any **discrimination** from a health care provider, while 3% encountered discrimination based on race, 1% based on gender, and 1% based on age.

Many Detroiters are worried about being able to **pay their medical costs**, with (44%) saying they

are either moderately worried or very worried right now about not being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare, and (49%) saying they are either moderately or very worried they would not be able to afford their medical bills if they got sick or had an accident.

HEALTHCARE UTILIZATION

Most Detroiters (84%) have a place that they usually go for care when they are sick, including 55% who go to a **doctor's office**, 15% who go to a **hospital emergency room**, and 14% who go to a **clinic or health center**.

Most have access to primary care and a place to go when they are sick, but a narrow proportion has trouble accessing even this. Three-quarters (75%) have gone to a **primary care doctor or pediatrician** over the past 12 months, while just 7% say that they have not been able to get the primary care they needed.

When they need health **information**, 67% of Detroiters say they rely on a **doctor or nurse**, while 12% say they rely on a **website** (such as WebMD).

GENERAL HEALTH STATUS

Almost half (45%) of Detroiters report being in **excellent or very good health**, while almost one quarter (23%) reported being in **fair or poor health**. This is nearly identical to the results of a large-scale survey of the entire Detroit metro area in 2017, in which 43% reported being in excellent or very good health and 22% reported being in fair or poor health (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System or BRFSS).

In our survey of Detroiters, self-assessments of health are lower among women, older people, African Americans, and people with lower levels of education.