

Strategic Issue Data Brief

2025



Strategic Issue 1: Environmental Justice

Poor air quality and environmental conditions in Detroit, particularly in the Southwest region, contribute to elevated rates of asthma and other respiratory issues.

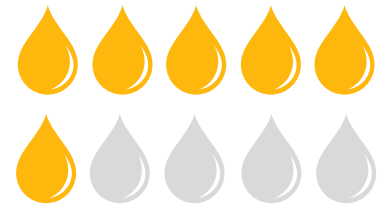
Community Focus Groups

Residents identified the environment as a priority community issue. The city's air quality is a major concern, with high pollution levels negatively impacting residents' respiratory health and overall well-being. Other environmental challenges included the presence of lead in drinking water and ineffective waste management practices contributing to environmental degradation and health hazards.

These factors highlight the urgent need for environmental initiatives to create a healthier and safer living environment for all Detroit residents.

Community Concern*

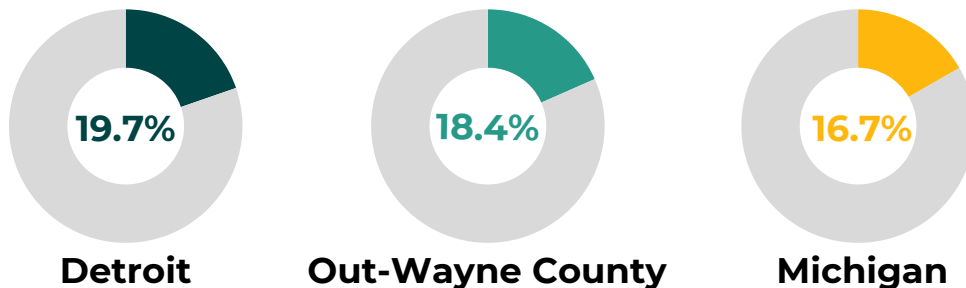
60%



Of Respondents chose **air** and **water** pollution as their top community concern. (n=6258)

Asthma (2021-2023)

Percent of adults who have ever been told they have Asthma

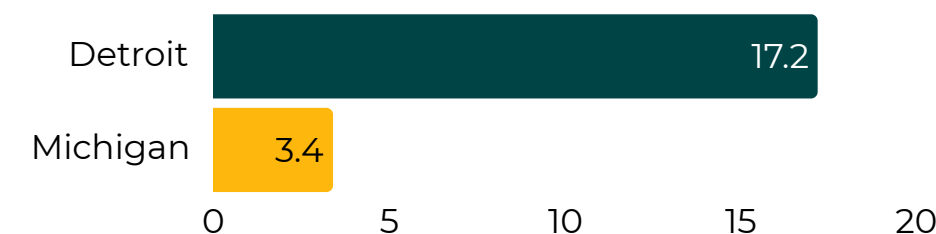


Detroit had the third highest prevalence of Asthma in the country for 2024.



Detroit ranked #1 for Asthma in 2022.

Hospitalization Rates for Asthma in Detroit (2018-2020)



Data shows hospitalization rates per 10,000 people.

Asthma in Children (2019)

35.9%



Of children ages 0-14 in Detroit had been hospitalized for Asthma.

*Data from the 2024 Detroit Community Survey

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Strategic Issue 2: Mental and Behavioral Health

High incidence of mental and behavioral health challenges in Detroit are exacerbated by cultural stigma and lack of accessible education, resources, and services, disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities.

Medical Issues*

63%

Of survey respondents felt that mental health is the most important medical issue to address. (n=6258)

Poor Mental Health (2021-2023)

Detroit residents experiencing poor mental health (on at least 14 days in the past month)



20.9%

Compared to 15.8% of Out-Wayne County and 16.4% of Michigan.

Provider Ratios (2023)

290

Wayne County
residents to 1
Mental Health
Care Provider

300

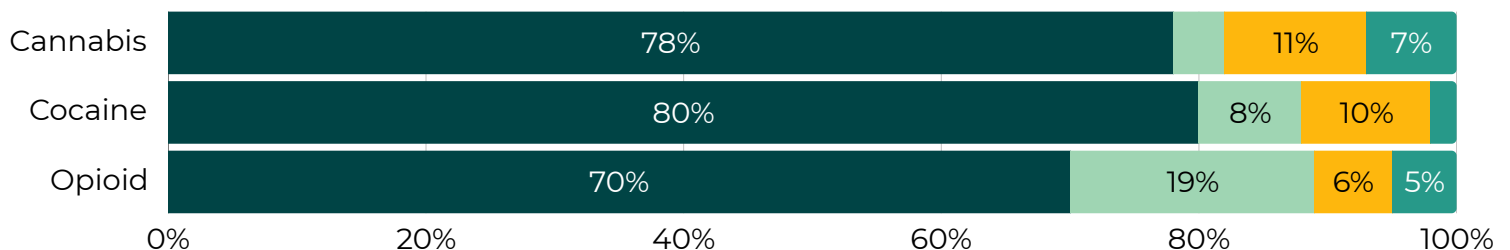
Michigan
residents to 1
Mental Health
Care Provider

Community Focus Groups

Mental health emerged as a significant concern across all eight focus groups conducted for the City of Detroit. Participants highlighted several critical issues contributing to this concern: a notable shortage of accessible mental health services and resources, stigma and shame, a shortage of qualified mental health providers, and an insufficient number of mental health facilities. Many mental health issues remain unaddressed due to the aforementioned barriers, leading to a cycle of untreated conditions and worsening health outcomes. Mental health issues are particularly prevalent in Black and Brown communities, exacerbated by systemic inequalities and socio-economic challenges.

Overdose Emergency Department Visits by Race and Drug in Detroit (2020-2021)

● Black ● White ● Other ● Unknown



*Data from the 2024 Detroit Community Survey

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Strategic Issue 3: Housing and Homelessness

Detroit experiences severe housing disparities and elevated rates of homelessness, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations.

Community Focus Groups

Community residents shared housing as a priority concern in Detroit. Many residents are experiencing displacement, leading to instability and stress that negatively impact their health and well-being. The prevalence of homelessness is a significant issue, with many individuals lacking safe and stable housing. The housing market in Detroit is increasingly unaffordable, and the high cost of rent and utility bills is leading to housing insecurity. Participants also highlighted that the housing shelters are overcrowded and in poor condition, providing inadequate living environments that can harm residents' physical and mental health. These factors underscore the urgent need for comprehensive housing solutions to ensure that all Detroit residents can access safe, affordable, and stable housing.

Homeless Students (2023-2024)

3,182 

Students in Detroit Public School Community District (all grades and all students) were identified as living doubled up, in motels, in shelters or unsheltered.

Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

40,344

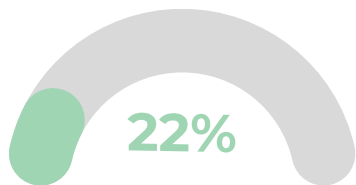
students in DPSCD were eligible for free lunch, representing approximately **67%** of the district's total enrollment (n= 60,587)



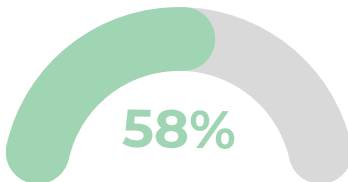
987

students in DPSCD were eligible for reduced-price lunch, representing approximately **1.6%** of the district's total enrollment.

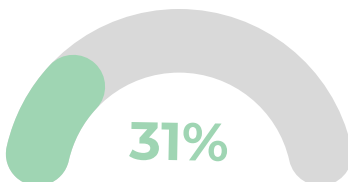
Detroit Homeless Population (2022)



Of the homeless population were age 55+



Of the homeless population were single adults aged 25+



Of the homeless population were families

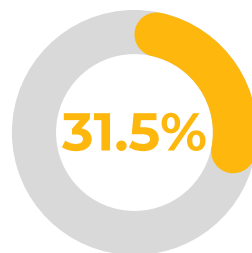
Detroit Unemployment Rate Estimates (2019-2023)



14.1%

Compared to **8.7%** in Wayne County and **5.8%** in Michigan

Poverty (2019-2023)



of Detroit residents were living below the poverty level, compared to **20.1%** in Wayne County and **13.1%** in Michigan

Permanent Supportive Housing For Families (2023-2024)

Between 2023 and 2024, the number of permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds for families in Detroit **decreased from 1,605 to 964, reflecting a 39.9% decline**



Strategic Issue 4: Access to Healthcare

Detroit residents face a variety of social, community, and economic barriers that disproportionately impact their ability to access high quality and affordable healthcare.

Quality of Life*



of survey respondents indicated that affordable health care was the second most important factor to their quality of life. (n=6258)

Community Focus Groups

Participants highlighted access to healthcare as a priority community concern. Participants identified several key issues contributing to this challenge, including proximity to care, gaps in healthcare providers' understanding of the unique needs of diverse communities, extended wait times for appointments and treatments, lack of trust in healthcare providers, and difficulties navigating insurance. These factors highlight the urgent need for systemic improvements to ensure equitable and accessible healthcare for all Detroit residents.

Barriers to Access*

Survey respondents highest barriers to medical care (n=6258)

Prescription Costs

25%



Lack of Health Insurance/ Insurance Accepted

23%



Lack of Transportation

20%



Provider Ratios

1,430

Wayne County
residents



1,280

Michigan
residents



to **1** Primary Care Provider

Mobile Health Unit (2020-2021)

32,523

individuals were served through mobile outreach efforts during this period



Lack of Health Insurance (2019-2023)

7.5%

Of Detroit residents do not have health insurance, compared to **5.7%** in Wayne County and **5%** in Michigan.

INSURANCE



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Strategic Issue 5: Maternal and Infant Health

Detroit faces urgent maternal and infant health issues, driven by racial disparities and insufficient resources, that directly impact key outcomes such as the high infant mortality rates.

Access to Care and Support*



Of respondents indicated that they had access to children's healthcare (n=6,258)

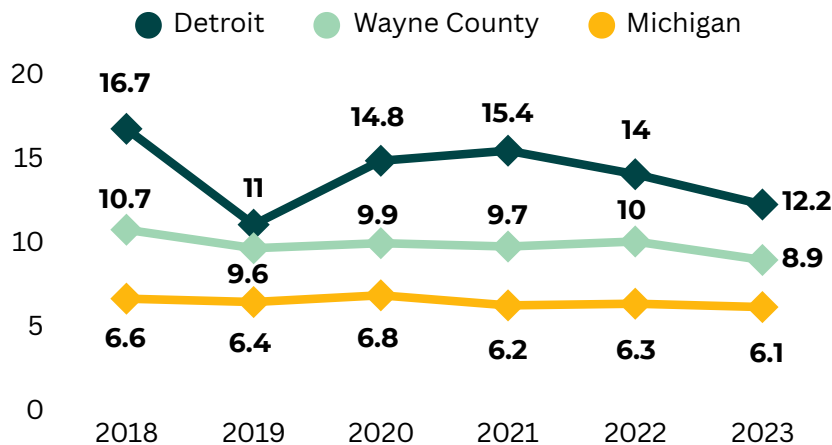
Of respondents indicated that they had access to pregnancy support (n=6,258)

Community Focus Groups

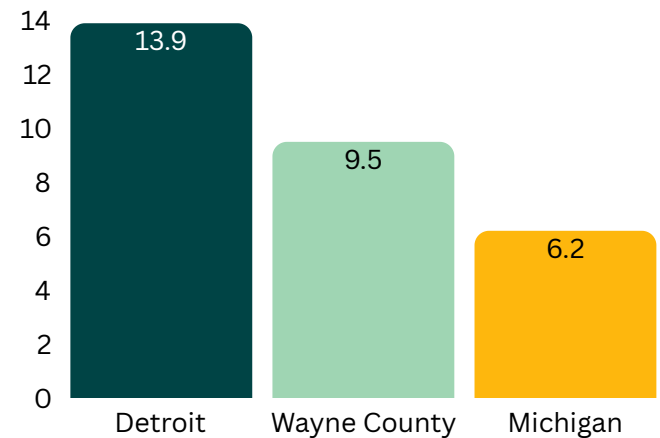
Participants from the Women of Childbearing Ages focus group highlighted barriers and concerns with childcare, family and social support, built environment, and transportation.

Infant Death Rate

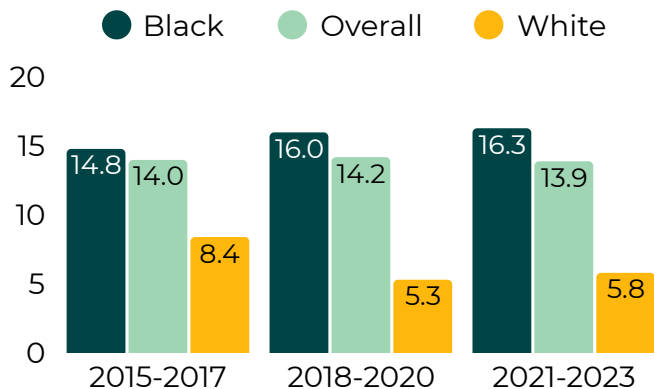
Yearly Comparison



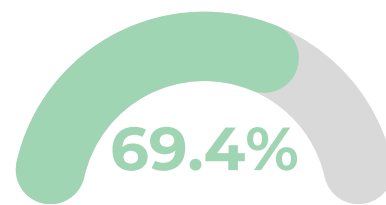
3-Year Comparison (2021-2023)



Detroit 3-Year Infant Death Rate Averages by Race



Maternal Data (2023)



Of births in Detroit were to people receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, while 12% received late or no prenatal care.

WIC During Pregnancy (2022)

57.4%

of pregnant persons utilized WIC for nutrition assistance during pregnancy



Strategic Issue 6: Access to Healthy Food

Access to healthy food in Detroit is hindered by various factors including proximity, affordability, lack of nutrition education, and prevalence of unhealthy food options, all of which contribute to nutrition-related health issues and poorer health outcomes.

Community Focus Groups

Participants raised awareness of Detroit's lack of healthy food options. Many residents struggle to find affordable healthy food options, which limits their ability to maintain a nutritious diet. Other challenges included the availability of healthy food choices, proximity to grocery stores, food deserts, and a need for better nutrition education to help residents understand the importance of healthy eating. These factors collectively highlight the urgent need for initiatives to improve access to healthy food and nutrition education in Detroit, ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to lead healthier lives.

Top Factor for Quality of Life (2024)*



59%

Of respondents indicated that affordable and accessible grocery stores were most important to their quality of life (n=6,258)

Food Retail Landscape (2020)

64 Full-line grocery stores

34 Convenience stores

89 Dollar stores

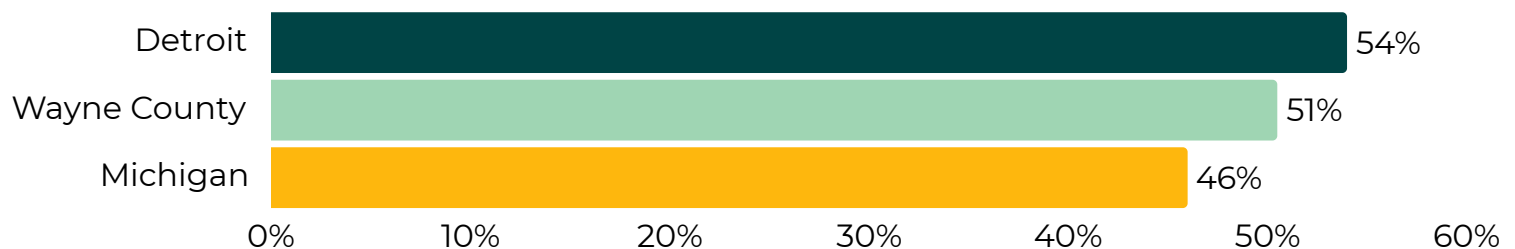
Grocery Retail Access Goal (2020)

Detroit achieved **83%** of the goal of 30,000 square feet of grocery space per 10,000 residents, indicating a shortfall in food retail infrastructure



Enrolled in SNAP (2023)

Percentage of people enrolled in SNAP who are below poverty level



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Strategic Issue 7: Chronic Conditions

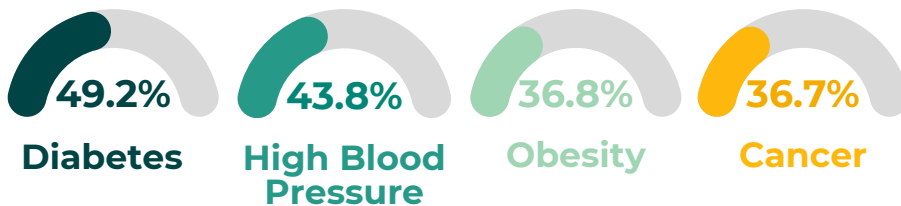
The prevalence of chronic conditions, coupled with systemic barriers such as inadequate trust in healthcare providers and insufficient prevention and management of care, contributes to the lower life expectancy rates in Detroit.

Community Focus Groups

Residents identified chronic diseases and conditions as a significant health concern in Detroit. During discussions, participants raised awareness of the City's air quality issues, which have led to a high prevalence of asthma among residents, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. Other conditions included diabetes, high rates of cancer, and hypertension among residents. These factors collectively underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and resources to address the chronic health issues affecting Detroit's residents.

Chronic Conditions*

Survey respondents indicated the following as the most important medical issues to address in their community (n=6258)



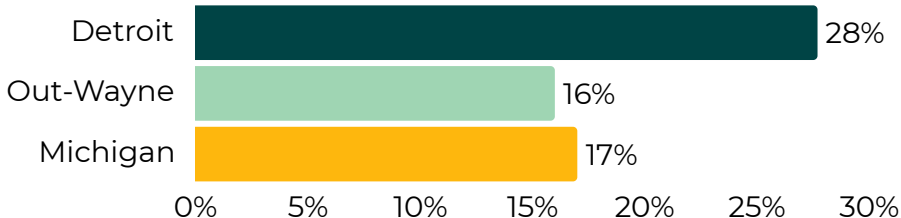
Life Expectancy for Detroit (2024)

69 Years

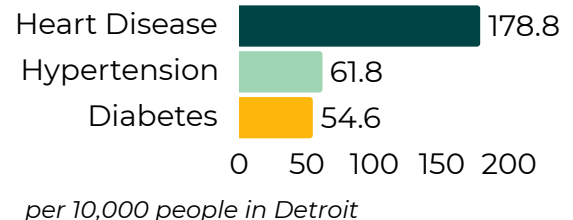
Compared to **73** in Wayne County and **76** in Michigan



Reported "Fair" or "Poor" Health (2021-2023)



Hospitalization Rates



Diabetes



19.4%

of adults in Detroit have ever been told they have Diabetes, compared to **12.1%** in Wayne County and **11.6%** in Michigan

Heart Attack

6.2%



of adults in Detroit have ever been told they had a Heart Attack, compared to **5.2%** in Wayne County and **4.7%** in Michigan