



IMAGE: Jake May | MLive.com

HURT, HOPE, AND HEALING: THE FLINT WATER CRISIS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[#3: Good Health and Wellbeing](#)

[#6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#)

[#10: Reduced Inequalities](#)

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What were the causes of the Flint water crisis and how is it still impacting the community?

BACKGROUND

The city of Flint, Michigan is home to about 100,000 people and is located in Mid-Michigan along the Flint River. For a long time, car factories in Flint were a major source of money and jobs for the community. When car factories began to close, the city shrank and communities suffered with less money. In 2014, the local government in Flint tried to save money and decided to stop buying water from a nearby city, Detroit. Detroit got their water from Lake Huron, but Flint decided to start taking water from the Flint River instead. In less than 2 months after switching to river water, people started getting sick from using and drinking the new water because of bacteria and lead. The government tried to hide the problems at first, so the actions to improve the crisis were not done in time. In the months and years after the switch, many people in Flint were harmed by the water and many are still suffering the effects, even after switching back to Lake Huron water. Over half of Flint's residents are Black and many are living in poverty, so this crisis shows the severe effects of inequality and systemic racism. The effects are long lasting and include more than just physical health. The city is still working to heal their minds and bodies, and rebuild the city's name in a positive way.

KEY VOCABULARY

- community
- contamination
- corrosive
- inequality
- lead poisoning
- public health crisis
- systemic racism

RESOURCES

Personal Stories

- [Future Women of America: Meet Mari Copeny](#) (Video: 3 mins, Brit + Co)
- [Flint Water Crisis Documentary](#) (Video: 10 mins, PBS, Detroit Free Press)
- [Hard to Swallow by Mama Sol, Faces of Flint](#) (Video: 2.5 mins, WKAR PBS)

Background

- Article: [The Water Crisis in Flint, Michigan](#) (DOGO News)
- Article: [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](#) (EPA)
- Infographic: [Water Treatment from Reservoir to Home](#) (Compound Interest)
- Infographic: [How lead affects children's health](#) (Tech Insider)
- Graph: [Flint reaches five-year milestone of meeting drinking water standards for lead](#) (Michigan.gov)
- Timeline: [Flint Water Crisis Timeline](#) (NRDC)
- Video: [A Look Inside the Flint Water Crisis](#) (3.5 mins, M Live)

Problems + Perspectives

- Art: [Haves and Have Nots](#) (by KeShaJo)
- Article: [Read the letter from 'Little Miss Flint' that stirred Obama to visit Flint](#) (LA Times)
- Article: [Flint water crisis: Report says systemic racism played role](#) (CNN)
- Article: [The pandemic has exposed America's clean water crisis](#) (Vox)
- Photos: [5 years of the Flint water crisis in pictures](#) (M Live)
- Video: [Uncovering the Flint Water Crisis: Dr. Mona Hanna-](#)

[Attisha](#) (3 mins, Penguin Random House)

- Video: [Gov. Rick Snyder answers questions about Flint water crisis](#) (5 mins, WDIV)
- Video: [Flint water crisis 'a racial crime'](#) (1.5 mins, CNN)
- Video: [Flint residents still wary of water years after contamination](#) (3 mins, CBS)
- Video: [Why Flint residents are still dealing with water worries, 5 years after lead crisis](#) (7 mins- PBS)
- Video: [Flint marks eight years since start of the water crisis](#) (3 mins, ABC 12 News)

Progress + Solutions

- Art: [Flint Fit](#)
- Article: [Wait. Flint Is Still Without Clean Water? How Can I Help?](#) (Teaching Tolerance)
- Article: [Flint Murals Show Transformative Power of Community Art](#) (Next City)
- Article + Video: [Never underestimate Flint Kids](#) (Flint Side)
- Video: [The Water Box in Flint](#) (16 mins, project begins at 07:19, 501CTHREE)
- Video: [The Story of Little Miss Flint](#) (3 mins - Sojourners)
- Webpage: [Flint Community Water Lab](#) (Flint Development Center)

