



LIVE FREE DETROIT

COMBATING THE FORCED CRIMINALIZATION OF A CITY

**Community Survey Report
October 2018**

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Dedication

This is dedicated

To boys who see their father's face for the first time in the penitentiary

To our girls navigating familial rape, social beration

on an a school to strip pole pipeline

We work for you

This is dedicated

To the hard kicked additions and withdrawal symptoms of crack babies

Games of hide and seek played through empty syringes lining the street

This is dedicated to

Savage Inequalities and cerebral prisons

To teens selling poison to purchase power

To our slain ones fallen because of petty neighborhood beef memorialized in R.I.P. tee's

At bullet tattered light poles on side streets

With day old lawn plucked flower arrangements

and weather worn teddy bears hanging off of them

This is dedicated to

Detroit's Local Youth

We work for you

Because we deserve a life so much more beautiful than this

Executive Summary

In recent years Detroit has been the source of polarized national media coverage. The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Fortune magazine, on National Public Radio, CNN and more. Home to historic riots, extreme racial and economic segregation, and the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history by debt; the subject of widespread public debate is whether or not Detroit can be saved. Detroit's bankruptcy made national headlines, photographers snapped photos of decrepit infrastructure for national news outlets, hopeful hipsters came from far and wide to save the city and an artist even uprooted a Detroit home, leaving it literally torn apart, for display in an overseas art show. In an unprecedented move, foundations invested hundreds of millions into restructuring Detroit. Detroiters watched in awe as their hometown - once known for dilapidation and divestment - became the object of national fetishization.

Conversations on Detroit's salvation focused on the compromised housing market, the sluggish economy, the need to invest in education, the lack of reliable public transportation, and even poor access to quality food. In a conversation about how to save Detroit, no one was talking about the actual experiences of Detroiters.

7.2 SQ MI, a data report prepared by the Hudson-Webber Foundation, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the Downtown Detroit Partnership, Midtown Detroit, Inc., Invest Detroit and Data Driven Detroit offers a more narrow view snapshot of investment and resurgence in downtown Detroit:

"Since 2010, the Rock/Quicken Loans family of companies has acquired over 9 million square feet of real estate, created 6,500 jobs in the city, and recruited over 120 companies and businesses as tenants. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has added over 2,000 jobs, bringing its Downtown team to over 6,000 employees. Recently, tech and creative industry firms have grown significantly along Woodward Avenue. Start-ups and major national corporations alike have sought a Downtown Detroit presence from Google, Microsoft, and Uber to Chrysler. In 2013, Downtown welcomed national advertising and marketing communications firm Lowe Campbell Ewald. In addition Downtown Detroit is the longtime home of the city and county governments as well as the region's major financing, legal, accounting, and consulting firms.

Downtown living is at an all-time high. The area's residential offerings - mostly apartments and condos in mid- and high-rises - are 98 percent occupied."

Detroit's downtown resurgence can be juxtaposed against the stark contrast of the average resident's living conditions. According to the 139 Square Mile Report:

- 40% of Detroiters and 57% of children under 18 live below the federal poverty line,
- 22% of Detroiters never completed high school or received a GED,
- 33% of the city has attained a high school or GED credential, and
- 67% of the jobs in Detroit require "some college."

This translates to 55% of Detroit that doesn't meet the basic requirements for 67% jobs available in the city. An Annie E. Casey Foundation study adds a layer of depth to this picture by declaring that 1 in 3 millennials in Detroit are neither in school or working -- they aren't even trying to participate in the formal economy.

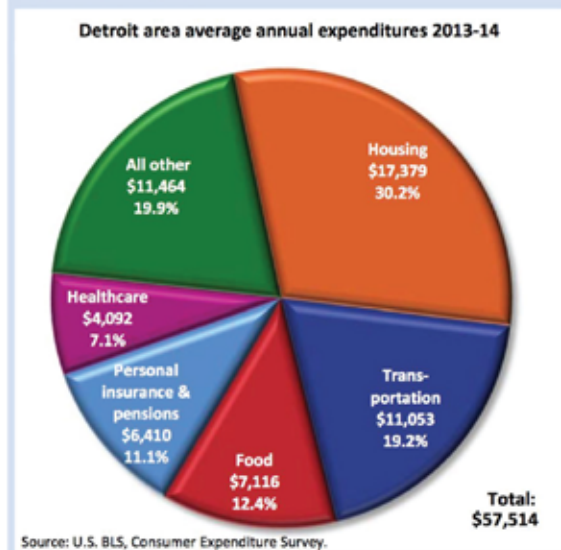
This data paints a vivid picture of the educational void and the lackluster job market that many Detroiters are facing. Data Driven Detroit puts it like this: "at 232,000, the number of primary job opportunities in Detroit was substantially higher than the number of employed Detroit residents (169,000). At first glance, these numbers might indicate a strong labor market with low unemployment. Unfortunately, however, this was not the case; only 65,000 (27.3 percent) of the jobs in Detroit were filled by Detroit residents. At every wage level, the majority of Detroit jobs were held by people who did not live in Detroit."

A report entitled Detroit: Black Problems, White Solutions, critiques Detroit's resurgence as one that is racially disproportionate and often exclusionary. This report asserts that Detroit's resurgence is both being spurred by white led organizations and benefiting white professionals in a city that was reported 82% black in 2013 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Detroit: Black Problems, White Solutions asserts that

"in total 818 individuals were identified from fellowship programs, business incubators, universities, foundations, and other "innovation" programs. Across all of the programs 69.2% of individuals were classified as White and only 23.7% as Black (1.6% Latino, 4.8% Asian, 0.7% Arab). Looking at this new data, it is clear that there is a serious imbalance of both opportunity and outcomes in Detroit."

To complicate the matter, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that average annual spendings for Detroit area homes amount to over 57K annually - spending roughly 17K on housing; 11K on transportation and 7K on food (see graphic below). Those last three figures alone add up to 34K, which substantially exceeds Detroit's median household income of just over 25K.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories



The question that this data brings to bear is, how is the average household in Detroit surviving if the median household income is 25K and it generally takes 34K to cover the mandatory expenses of housing, food and transportation? If only 13.8% of Detroit's population has attained a bachelor's degree or higher, and nearly half of Detroit's population is illiterate how is this population meeting its basic necessities? These questions point to some of the biggest challenges facing Detroiters - lack of quality education and job readiness, lack of access to living wage jobs and the resulting criminalization that arises from people with limited job opportunities and limited skillsets attempting to meet their basic needs.

As Detroit native blogger Eric Thomas put it "Crime is usually about scarcity and survival. Without resources, you're forced to find them wherever you can. From there, it grows into a lifestyle and becomes ingrained into the culture. I grew up in one of the most dangerous areas in America, on Joy Rd. and Greenfield. I have been nearly robbed. My friends have been shot— some fatally, others not – and have had very unfortunate experiences with the police. Worse, my stories are typical." And as the data provided suggests, scarcity of opportunity is an issue for many Detroiters. Indeed, the Michigan Department of Corrections 2012 Statistical report indicates that over a third of Michigan parolees are from the Metro Detroit area.

LOCAL TESTIMONY



Local Testimony

**Hazel Gomez,
FORCE Advisory Council Member
Dream of Detroit Board Member**

As a Muslim, I want to practice my religion without the fear of being hurt or killed because of how I choose to represent my faith.

As a Latina, I want the ability to speak my language freely, especially around law enforcement, without fear of being harassed or murdered.

As a wife, I pray for the safe return of my Black and Native American Muslim husband every time he steps foot out of our home.

As a mother, I want my Brown and Black sons to walk freely down the street and have no fear of being stopped-and-frisked and, God forbid, become another hashtag.

Amen.

#LastDaysOfRamadan #MyPrayers

The Landscape:

As America evolved from an aggregate society into the industrial age, people followed the jobs. New industries needed workers, skilled and unskilled; and people needed resources to live. From this arrangement, America's middle class was born. Detroit is world renowned as the home of the automotive industry, sounds of Motown music and upward mobility for regular folk. Detroit was and always will be the home and heart of middle class America.

Today Detroit is a city in transition; at a critical point in its history with a trajectory yet to be determined. This city has been confronted by a series of turbulent governmental upheavals that have resulted in political and economic abandonment and shame. Detroit has faced white flight, urban blight and now gentrification. Once flourishing neighborhoods, business and commerce areas, resemble bomb ravaged war zones whilst the 7.2 square miles of Detroit's city centre is burgeoning with investment and development.

Demographics:

Population

Once ranked as the 4th largest city in the United States with a population of over 1.8 million during the 1950's; Detroit is now the 23rd most populated city in the US, with an estimated population of 673,104. Instead of having the 4th largest population, Detroit now has the 4th highest crime rate in America according to Forbes (2018.)

The United States Census Bureau (The 2017 vs) also reports racial/ethnic, age and sex demographics as follows:

Race /Ethnicities in Detroit (2017)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Black/African American | 79.7% |
| White | 13.6% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 7.5% |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 9.5% |
| Two or More Races | 2.0% |
| Asian | 1.4% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.4% |

Source: US Census Bureau July 1, 2017

Age and Sex of the Population in Detroit 2012-2016

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Female persons | 52.7% |
| Persons under 18 years | 25.2% |
| Persons under 5 years | 7.2% |
| Persons 65 years and over | 12.6% |

Source: US Census Bureau July 1, 2017.



Income & Poverty

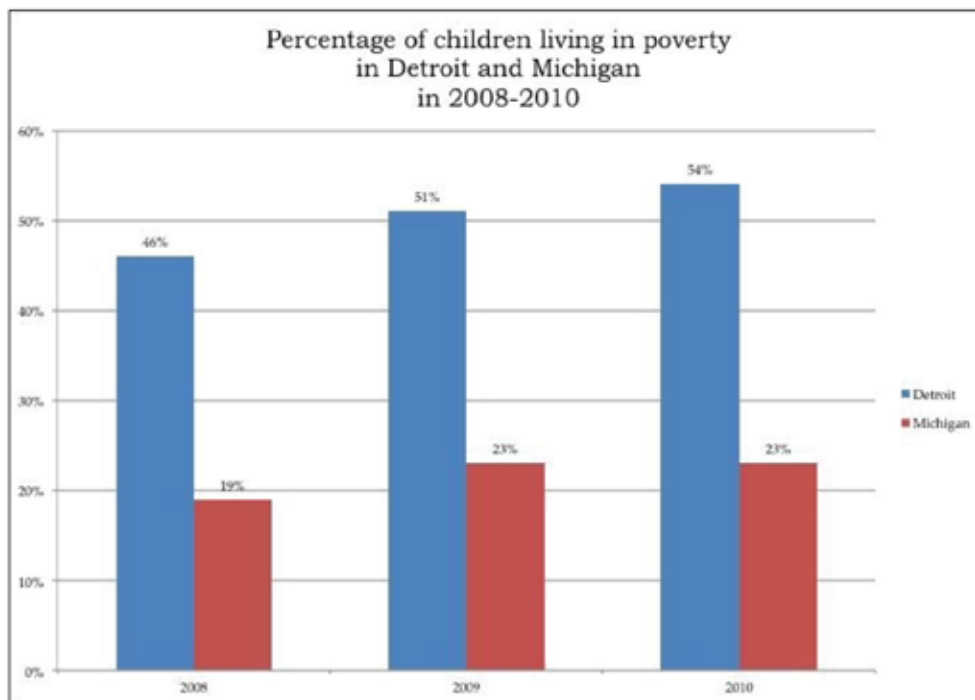
According to a review of Pew Research from 2018, as of 2016, the median US household income was \$59,039; and the average earning for a middle-class household was estimated between \$39,000 and \$118,000. In 1971, 61% of the American population was considered middle class.

In the City

Middle class America was built in the automotive factory; and that industry, like the middle class itself, was born in Motown. Michigan State University economist Charles Ballard agrees, noting that "Southeast Michigan is, in many ways, the birthplace of the American middle class. Since the early 20th Century, the region has played a central role in American manufacturing and the health of middle-income Americans." Steven Henderson from Detroit Today elaborates by noting that "people with modest skills... being able to earn their way to a standard of living that we would now consider middle class, where they could own their own home and car, that was really without precedent in history." Given that one might easily posit that monitoring income equity in Detroit could be an early indicator of how the US middle class fairs.

Today 52% of US adults currently report middle income households and 29% of the reports lower-income (Pew Research, 2018.) In terms of Detroit, some have reported a decrease in Detroit's poverty and crime rates (7.2 SQ M, 2017; 139 Square Miles Report, 2017.) However, according to the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP,) in 2018 over half of all children living in Detroit live in poverty.

In addition to the erosion of the tax base the city also faced desertion by citizens and industries, political corruption, changing technology, a disappearing global market, violence and crime. As a result of these and many other things, Detroit's economy was all but eviscerated, contributing to the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy.



** Source: KIDS COUNT Online Data Center, Profiles for Detroit (City) and Michigan (State)

Ramona Washington, WSU/CUS

Detroit Comes First For Poverty in the United States

Percentage of the population below the poverty level in U.S. cities in 2014



@StatistaCharts Source: Bloomberg, U.S. Census, USDA, HUD

statista

As of 2016 the US median household income was reported between: \$39,000 to \$118,000. Detroit's median income is estimated between \$26,249 (US Census 2017 vs), which is approximately \$12,751.00 lower than the national standard.

Median Household Income in Detroit 2012-2016

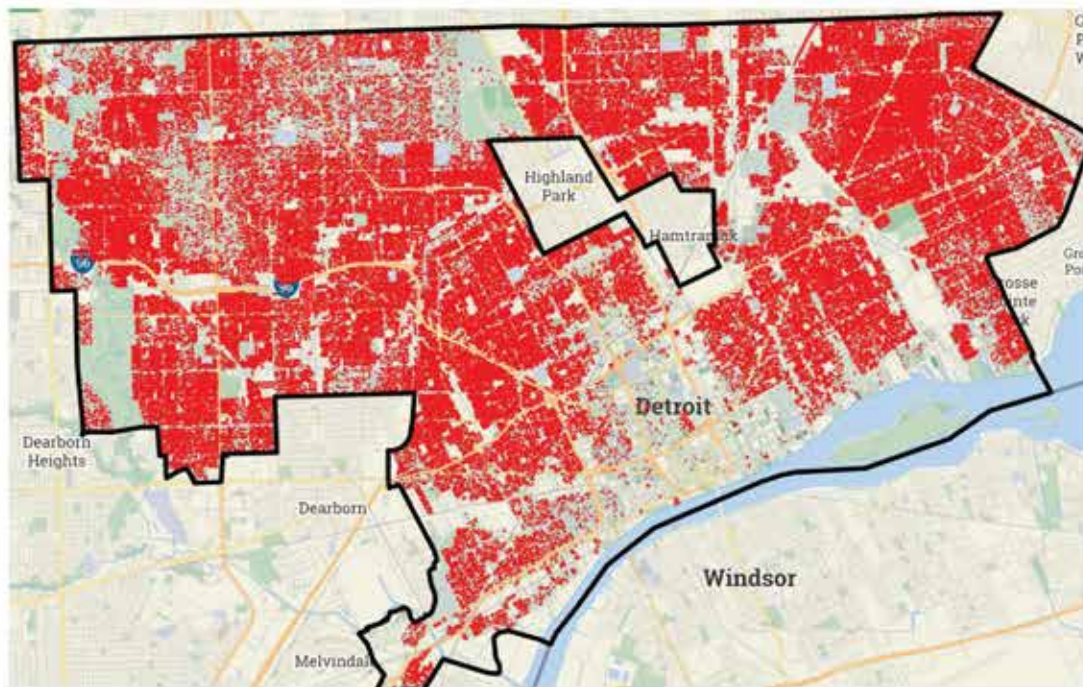
| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Median Household Income | \$26,249 |
| Per capita income in past 12 months | \$15,562 |
| Persons In Poverty | 39.4% |

Source: US Census Bureau July 1, 2017.

Education in Detroit 2012-2016

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| High School + | 25 years+ | 79.0% |
| Bachelor's Degree + | 25 years+ | 13.8% |

Source: US Census Bureau July 1, 2017



Detroit Metro Times: Violet Ikonomova : Wayne County tax foreclosures, Detroit, Loveland, Wayne County Treasurer

Key: Red = Foreclosures

Above is a pictorial representation of foreclosures in Detroit city. The well-known crash of the housing market affected many and Detroit did not escape. For the poorest, housing by far, is the most important thing for survival. According to the Detroit New, "Since 2005, more than 1-in-3 Detroit properties - 139,699 of 384,672 - have been foreclosed because of mortgage defaults, or unpaid taxes." By 2007 Detroit lead the country in foreclosures and urban blight; as a result, renters now outnumber homeowners in the city.

Housing Costs in Detroit: 2012-2016

| | |
|---|----------|
| Owner-Occupied Housing | 48.2% |
| Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes | \$41,000 |
| Median Monthly Owner Costs - With Mortgage | \$1,063 |
| Median Monthly Owner Costs - Without Mortgage | \$436 |
| Median Gross Rent | \$754 |

Source: US Census Bureau July 1, 2017.

Urban Blight in Detroit

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Abandoned Building | 70,000 |
| Empty Houses | 31,000 |
| Vacant Lots | 90,000 |

With at least 70,000 abandoned buildings, 31,000 empty houses, and 90,000 vacant lots, Detroit has become notorious for its urban blight.

OBJECTIVE

Mack & Bewick
MARKET

CHECK
CASHING FRIED
CHICKEN

LIQUOR

LOTTERY

Objective

The main objective of this study is to provide Detroiters with an outlet to express their experiences of safety or the lack thereof in Detroit, explore how those experiences impact movement around the city, and examine the correlation between violence and poverty. This results of this survey will be used for citizen driven advocacy efforts.

The survey was broken down into three parts. The first section addressed person's feelings of safety in the city of Detroit. The second part focused on gun access and legislation. The third section examines sentiments around causes of violence and solutions. When the findings were compared to demographic information and public information about Detroit's landscape, the survey generated an enormous amount of data to be combed through and examined. This report, however, focuses on the results that generated the most statistically significant results; which drove us to examine the differences in what respondents reported as the cause of violence.

Methodology and Procedures

In the city of Detroit there is a systemic, unequal distribution of social, economic, educational and environmental conditions necessary to promote safety, health and proper growth. Taking a view of the city outside the 7.2 Sq MI radius (2017) this study looks at Detroiters feeling of safety as it correlates with violence in city. This study seeks to find out if there is a concern for safety in Detroit, what are the areas of concern? Is there a correlation between poverty and violence within the city of Detroit?

Hypothesis:

H1: There is a correlation between poverty and violence in the city of Detroit.

HO: There is no correlation between poverty and violence in the city of Detroit. There is no difference.

Supplies and Instrument:

Instrument: Live Free Safety Assessment electronic format.
Live Free Assessment paper format.

Tools: Survey Monkey
Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)
Writing instruments.

There was no change in the instrument in electronic or paper format. Ten on-ground collectors were used throughout the city to administer and collect the survey. With a reported completion rate of 92%, typical time spent was recorded at 5 minutes in the electronic format and estimated between 5 to 7 minutes with paper and pencil. Contributors showed the amount of agreement or disagreement to statements by indicating 10 for complete agreement, 5 for neutrality and 1 demonstrating complete disagreement.

Participants: Sample Size: 610

Each randomly selected participant was asked to complete the LIVE FREE Detroit Safety Assessment in an electronic format or in person using paper and pencil. Respondents were found throughout the city of Detroit, using social media and on ground collectors. Participants used a Likert rating scale to share feelings, experiences and opinions on statements regarding violence and safety in Detroit, Michigan. All answers were given anonymously.

Lead Investigator

Caprice Quinn, MA, LPC, CRC, ABD

Findings:

Relationship to Detroit: Q10 How long have you lived in Detroit?

The majority of respondents that participated in the LIVE FREE Detroit Safety Assessment were long standing residents of Detroit city with 77% living in the city 12 or more years. Five percent of the respondents lived in the city 10 to 12 years. A percentage of 4.4 reported living in Detroit 7 to 9 years, while 8% reported living within the city between 3 and 5 years. 5.6% of the respondents reported living in Detroit two years or less.

Q10 How long have you lived in Detroit?

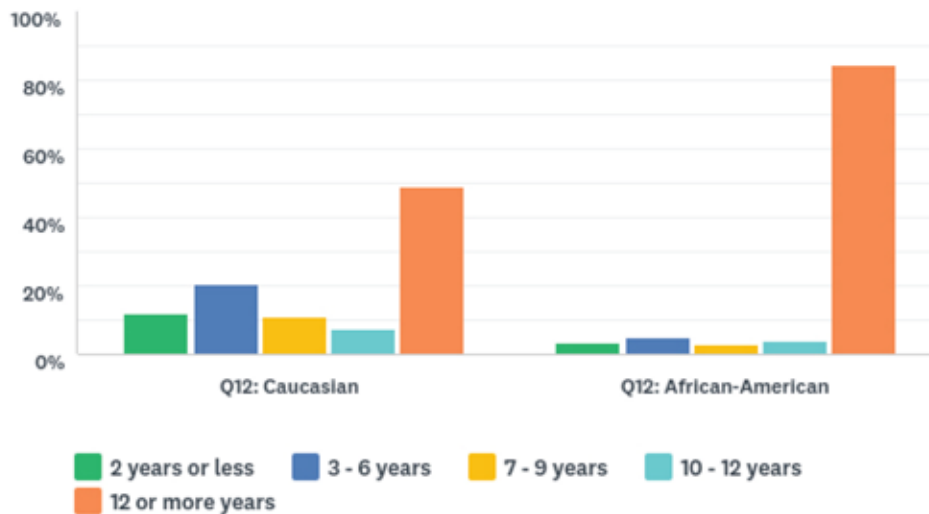


Table 1

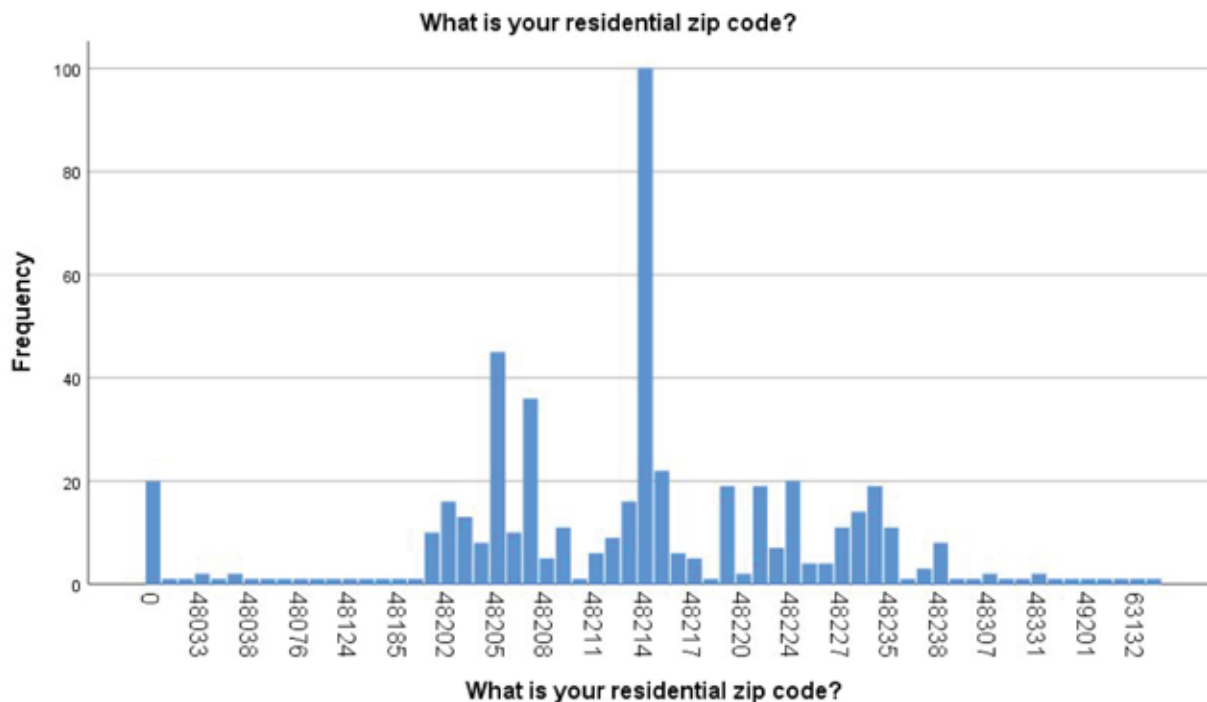


Table 2

Race/Ethnicity

The racial/ethnic statistical data reflects the city of Detroit. African American respondent comprised 66.8% of total participants. Caucasian participants accounted for 14.7%, Hispanic 1.8%, Native American 1.5%, Middle Eastern .7% and 1.1% reported Asian Pacific Islander as ethnicity.

Gender

Gender was also highly reflective of Detroit's population. 301 respondents (49.3%) were women. 201 (34.4%) respondents were men. The gender status of other was selected by 14 (2.3 %) persons, several participants did not report gender.

Age

The age range of participants varied between 17 years old and under to 65 years and up. 19.8% of the respondents were seventeen years old and under. 18.5% of the respondents were twenty five to thirty four years old. 13.7% of the respondents were 35 to 44 years of age. 11.9% of the respondents were 45 to 54 years of age. 8% of respondents were 18 to 24 years of age. 7.4% of respondents were between the ages of 55 to 64 and 7.2% of respondents were 65 years old and above.

Education

Last completed levels of education ranged from less than Highschool diploma or GED to beyond Master's degree. 21.3% of participants surveyed reported having less than Highschool diploma or GED; another 21.3% of respondents described themselves as having a Highschool diploma or GED. 11% of surveyors reported having an associates degree and possession of a bachelor's degree was reported by 18.5% of the respondents. Master's degree was reported by 9.5% of the respondents and 5.1% of the participants reported educational levels of beyond a masters degree.

Relationship to Detroit

Most participants were long-term residents of the city of Detroit. Seventy-two percent of the respondents reported living and working within Detroit city. Only 5.2% replied that they only worked in the city.

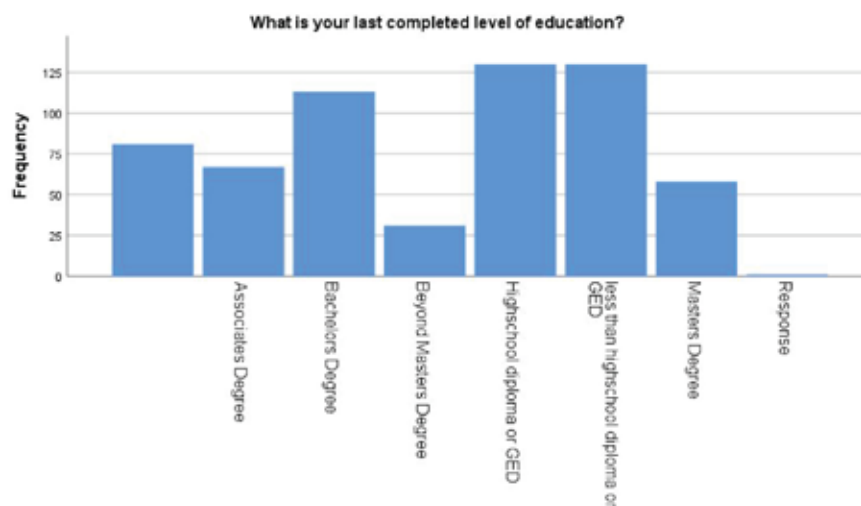


Table 3

Detroit Speaks

Detroit Speaks

This report takes a look at the intersection of violence and poverty.

The top three causes of violence in city as reported by Detroit respondents regardless of race or gender were:

difficulty with communication/conflict resolution,

poverty and

drugs and alcohol abuse respectively.

Q3 What are the top 3 causes of violence in Detroit?

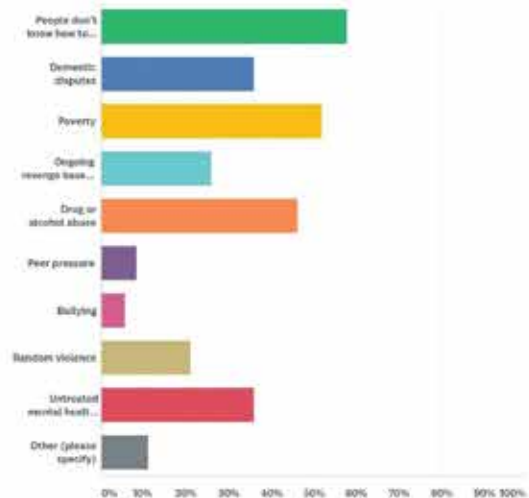


Table 4

Gender and Violence

Observing a comparative analysis across gender the 3 major causes of violence in the city were identified.

First cause of violence:

| | | |
|---------|---|--------|
| Male: | Difficulty with communication and conflict resolution | 64.67% |
| Female: | Drug and alcohol abuse | 53.49% |

Second cause of violence:

| | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| Male: | Poverty | 51.43% |
| Female: | Difficulty with communication and conflict resolution. | 52.49% |

Third cause of violence:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------|
| Male: | Domestic disputes | 37.14% |
| Female: | Poverty | 50.17% |

Q3 What are the top 3 causes of violence in Detroit?

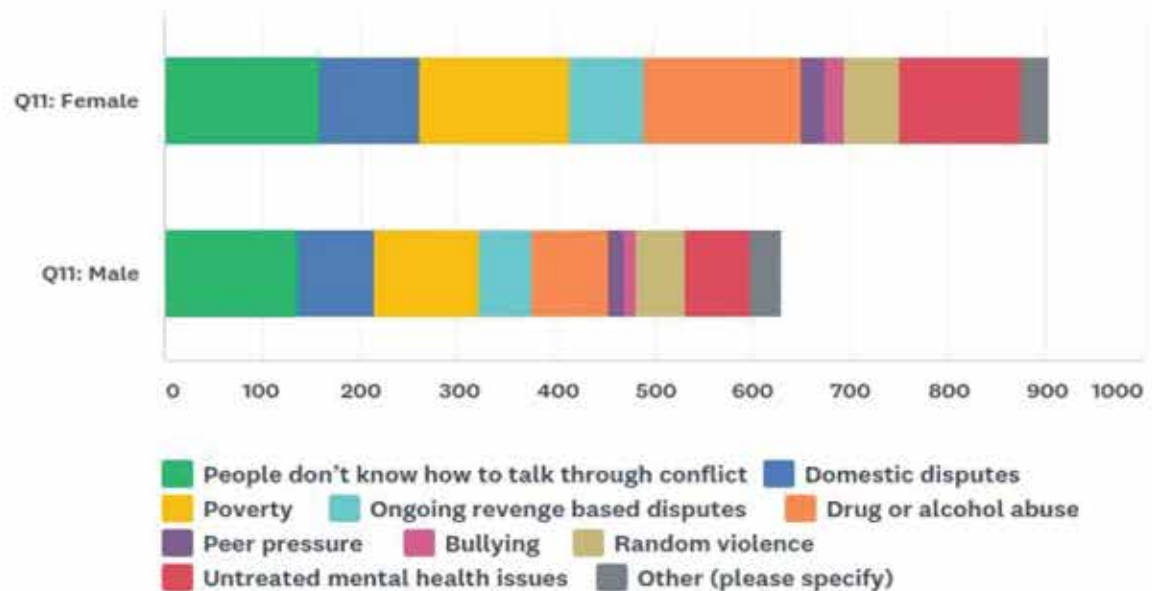


Table 5

A Closer Look at Race:

Looking at the top 3 causes of violence across African Americans, Hispanics & Caucasians, appears a little different. Difficulty with communication/conflict resolution was reported by 60.54% of African American respondents. Hispanic respondents, by 63.64%, also selected difficulty with communication/conflict resolution as the number one source of violence in Detroit. However, 60% of Caucasian respondents selected poverty as the uppermost cause for violence within the city of Detroit.

The second leading cause of violence was reported as drug and alcohol abuse by 49% of African American respondents. Caucasian respondents felt domestic disputes by 47.78% was the second leading cause of violence in the city. Hispanic respondents felt that mental illness by 54.55% was the second highest cause of violence in Detroit.

The third major cause of violence in Detroit was identified as poverty by 47.79% of the African American respondents. Caucasian respondents felt difficulty with communication/conflict resolution was the third leading cause of violence in Detroit by 44.44%. Hispanic respondents felt that poverty and domestic disputes were equally the third major cause of violence in the city.

Q3 What are the top 3 causes of violence in Detroit?

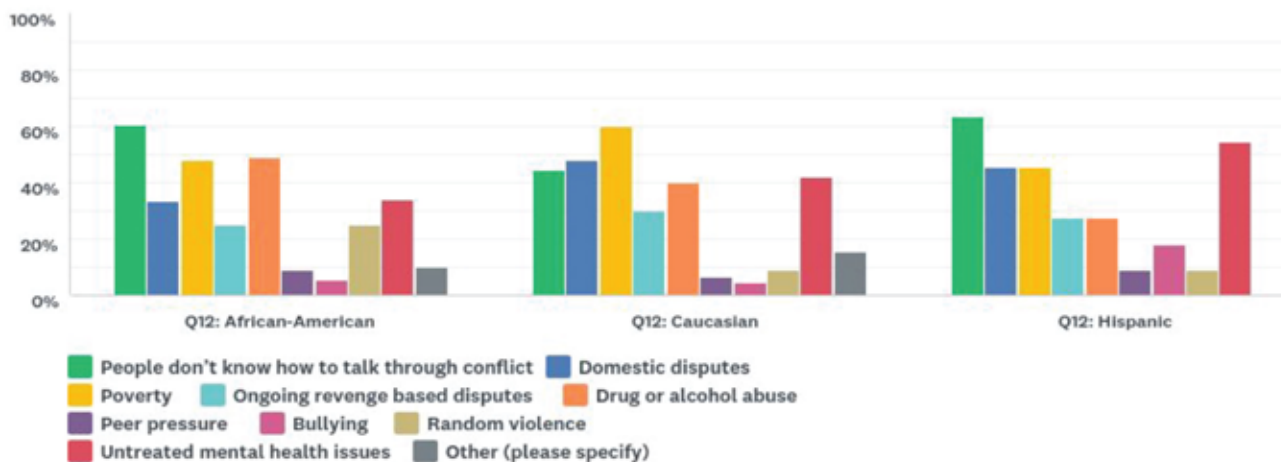


Table 6

Trends Across Age:

The landscape changes again when the cause of violence is viewed across age. Respondents 17 year old and under by 66.12% felt the number one cause of violence in the city of Detroit was drug and alcohol abuse. Between the ages 18-24 (65.31%) and 25 to 34 (63.72%) poverty was seen as the top cause of violence in Detroit. Looking at the ages 35-44 (58.33%), 45-54 (63.01%) and 55-64 and older (68.89%) felt communication difficulties/conflict resolution was the leading cause of violence in the city.

Looking at the ages 17 year old and under (58.68%) and ages 18-24 (48.98), respondents felt communication difficulties/conflict resolution was the second cause of violence in the city. Respondents age 35-44 (52.38%) felt poverty was the 2nd leading cause of violence in the city of Detroit. Persons in the age range of 45-54 (60.72%) felt poverty was the second cause of violence in the city. Persons in the age range of 55-64 and older (62.22%) felt untreated mental illness was the second leading cause of violence in Detroit.

Persons seventeen year old and under, ranked random violence (38.84%), as the third major area of concern in the city. The age group 18-24 (44.90%) felt domestic disputes was the 3rd largest contributor to violence in Detroit. Drugs and alcohol abuse was considered the third major contributor to crime by the age group 25-34 (43.36%) and 35-44 (42.86%). The age group 45-54, (53.42%), felt untreated mental health issues was the 3rd cause of violence in the city. However the age group 55-64 and older found drug and alcohol abuse & domestic abuse as equal stressors at 40% each.

Q3 What are the top 3 causes of violence in Detroit?

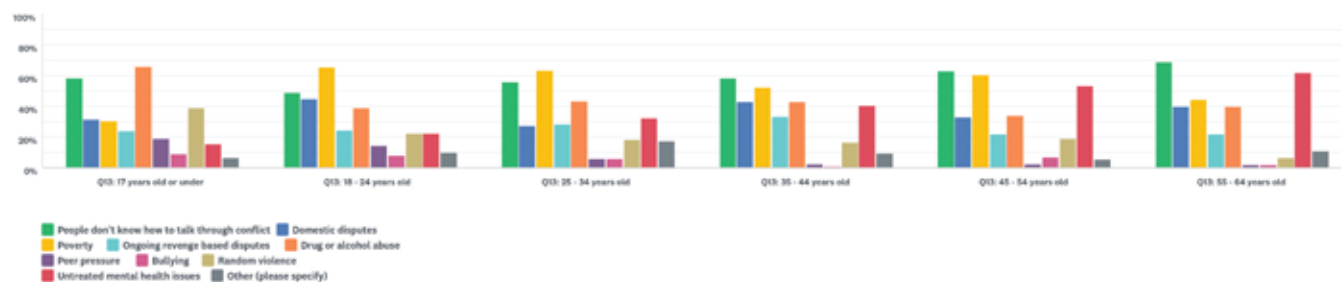


Table 7

Q3 What are the top 3 causes of violence in Detroit?

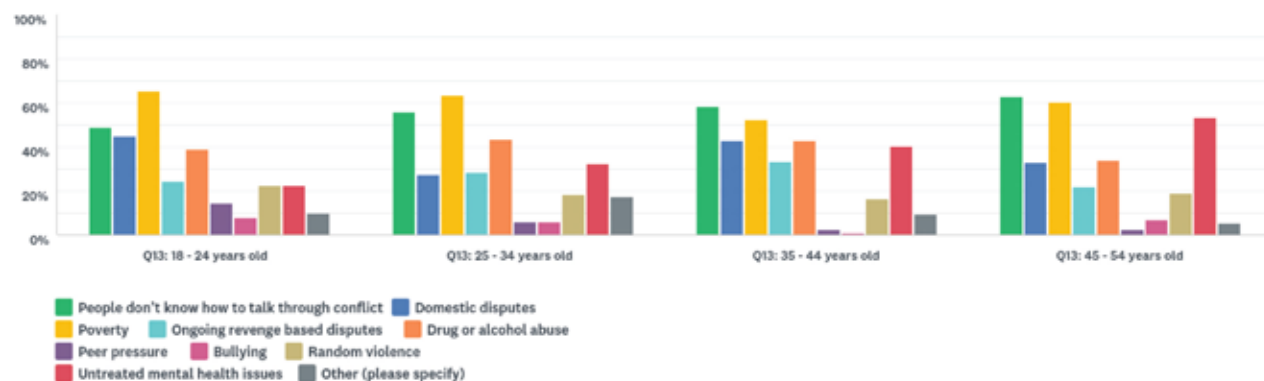


Table 8

Implications

While respondents across demographics uniformly communicated safety concerns, such as a hesitance to spend money in their neighborhoods or take their children to public events in the city, the survey uncovered some sharp differences in trends of thought about the causes of violence in Detroit:

- * Respondents 17 years old and younger reported by 66.12% felt the number one cause of violence in the city of Detroit was drug and alcohol abuse;
- * Respondents in the 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 age brackets believed that poverty was the number one cause of violence;
- * And all respondents in all age brackets over the age of 35 indicated that communication difficulties were the number one cause of violence.

In examining this data with a desire to understand the correlation between poverty and violence in Detroit, an Annie E. Casey Foundation study adds a layer of depth to this picture by declaring that 1 in 3 millennials in Detroit are neither in school or working -- they aren't even trying to participate in the formal economy. A Detroit Free Press analysis of Detroit Police Department data, in which the agency investigated more than 33,000 cases involving youths up to age 17 from January 1, 2009 to Sept. 9, 2015, declares that "nearly 14 children per day are victims of crime in Detroit... And during that time, roughly 2 of 5 children-- 43% --were victims of violent crimes such as homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault and robbery." Additionally according to a Fair Punishment Project Study, "approximately 150 people from Wayne County have been serving life without parole sentences for crimes committed as juveniles." The report continues Wayne County makes up 18% of Michigan's population, yet comprises 40% of the states juvenile lifers population. Further, while Wayne County is only 39% African American, 93% of these cases are African American."

These conditions exist within a city that is over 85% African American and Hispanic. When combined with the landscape information shared earlier in this report that:

- * 40% of adult population and 57% of the underage population is living in below the federal poverty line;
- * 55% of Detroit that doesn't meet the basic requirements for 67% jobs available in the city;
- * And the decision of Judge Stephen Murphy III, who declared that "access to literacy" was not a fundamental right;

It becomes simple deduction to declare that the criminalization of Detroit is structural and forced. It is the result of people with low skills and minimal options attempting to meet their basic needs within a hostile structural environment that assumes malevolence. As Detroit native blogger Eric Thomas put it "crime is usually about scarcity and survival. Without resources, you're forced to find them wherever you can.

This assumption of malevolence is apparent in the harsh sentencing of, particularly African American, wayne county juveniles as adults.

In such an extremely impoverished community, the assumption of malevolence is again apparent our response to economically generated crimes; whereas those crimes should be perceived as a cry for help they result in fines, jail and prison sentences times and probation, etc.

This assumption of malevolence is even apparent in broad sentiments within the LIVE FREE Safety Assessment across racial lines as adults over age 35 assume that the violence, mostly experienced by younger populations, is due to an inability to verbally resolve conflict rather than the impact of poverty and drugs as reported by younger respondents in the assessment.

Today's ubiquitously racialized political landscape necessitates bold stances. Our present political atmosphere has taught us that if we don't stand up, declare and fight the structural racism apparent in our landscape, it will persist and flourish.

Conclusion

There is often talk of two Detroits. In Detroit's progressive community this usually refers to a prosperous, upwardly mobile multicultural Detroit that is almost completely separate from the impoverished neighborhoods comprised largely of African American and Hispanic communities facing issues like sprawling blight, high rates of crime and violence and food inaccessibility. In fact, the results of the LIVE FREE Safety Assessment seem to suggest that there are several Detroits with pointedly different safety issues and needs. In addition to the strong racial segregation in residential areas, there seems to be a younger Detroit that is deeply impacted by drugs and violence. There seems to be a millennial Detroit that is impacted by violence because of their poverty. Finally, there seems to be an older, more respectable Detroit that may be largely unaware of the issues facing younger Detroiters and believe that communication is the main key to safety in Detroit.

The results of this survey suggest as potential solutions to Detroit's chronic violence problems: drug prevention and harm reduction programming for youth, policies and programs that lend themselves toward providing long term economically stabilizing activity for millennials and the need for honest conversation across generational boundaries to develop structural solutions that work.

The greatest aspiration of this work is to support innovative, culturally appropriate from the ground up organizing efforts. We hope Detroiters sign up to organize. We hope Detroiters call their elected officials. We hope that this report seeds community conversation in unlikely places. We hope those community conversations grow into public action. We hope those public actions mature into progressive policy, local officials being held more accountable, resources spent in our neighborhoods and investments in business in which the ownership and employees reflect the demographics of the community that they serve.

References

A Report on Greater Downtown Detroit 2nd Edition - 7.2 SQ M

"139 Square Miles" report - Detroit Future City

"Foreclosure crisis makes Detroit a city of renters, not homeowners"

John Gallagher, Detroit Free Press Published 8:39 p.m. ET March 20, 2017

"Study finds Detroit's foreclosure crisis fueled by illegal tax assessments"

Violet Ikonomova Metor Times 2017

World Literacy Foundation - The Economic & Social Cost of Illiteracy

Tables

Table 1 - How long have you lived in Detroit? -Source: Survey Monkey

Table 2 - What is your residential zip code? - Source Survey Monkey

Table 3 - What is your last completed level of education? Source: Survey Monkey

Table 4 - What are the top three causes of violence? Source: Survey Monkey

Table 5 -What are the top three causes of violence? (By Gender) Source: Survey Monkey

Table 6 - What are the top three causes of violence? (By Race) Source: Survey Monkey

Table 7 - What are the top three causes of violence? (By Age - 1) Source: Survey Monkey

Table 8 - What are the top three causes of violence? (By Age - 1) Source: Survey Monkey

Moving Toward Solutions

The Force Detroit Model

Participatory Research

Narrative Building

Youth and Millennial Organizing

LIVE FREE Detroit Coalition



The Force Detroit Model



Moving toward Solutions

Participatory Research - Detroit has been the topic of much research and debate; within the last 7 years Detroiters have seen the city go bankrupt, make national news for blight, corrupt officials and failing schools, resurge, benefit from historic philanthropic and private sector investment; and yet so many documentation efforts have failed to appropriately convey the challenges, hope and resilience of long term Detroiters. Force participatory research efforts aim to empower neighborhood organizations and community leaders to lead and capture the experiences of their constituencies and support them to create academically sound research that gives voice to otherwise ignored community concerns.

Narrative Building - Public narratives play a huge role in shaping local and statewide policy and the perception of community issues. Force Detroit pairs our participatory research efforts with narrative building efforts in order to ensure that the community voice is represented in public dialogue about issues. Force offers information sessions to professional news media. Force also supports citizens to share their voice to weigh in on pertinent community issues.

Youth and Millennial Organizing - If we really want to see positive change in Detroit we are going to have to embrace young voices and we're going to have to expand our get out the vote efforts beyond churches and nursing homes. We're going to have to knock on the doors of homes where people are less likely to vote. We're going to have to go to the people instead of asking the people to come to us.

Force seeks to deepen Detroit based youth organizing and civic engagement by coupling media strengths with culturally relevant strategies to inform, engage and connect youth and millennials who statistically are least likely to be engaged to civic infrastructures. Our strategy employs hip hop culture to disseminate civic information and then uses media and technology to spread messages further and engage young Detroit residents in broader conversations about how issues are manifesting in their lives.

LIVE FREE Detroit Coalition

In Detroit's landscape there are many amazing, bold leaders working in the field of violence reduction, anti-criminalization and criminal justice reform. These leaders are some of the very small group of galvanizers that have sharp racial and class analysis and are able to draw in otherwise unengaged, highly criminalized populations to invest in community and civic spaces. All too often these leaders efforts' are unsupported and uncoordinated, and as a result, less successful than they could be. In an effort to strengthen the landscape, Force Detroit is building a coalition with the aim of:

Convene the sector of leaders working to reduce violence, criminalization and impact criminal justice reform;

Support leaders with resources and support to build their capacity and successfully lead advocacy efforts to address LIVE FREE related agendas;

Develop a collective strategy for advancing a LIVE FREE strategy in 2-3 key Detroit neighborhoods and schools; and

Collectively fundraise to support grassroots organizing efforts.

The Founding coalition members are: DreamOf Detroit, HAWA, Live In Peace, The People's Action, Church Of The Messiah, and Force Detroit.



Dream of Detroit is combining community organizing with strategic housing and land development to build a healthy community and empower a marginalized neighborhood. In short, our goal is to build a dense, thriving community on the west side of Detroit based on prophetic values of compassionate living and concern for one's neighbors.





HAWA's mission is to enrich the lives of Muslim women. We particularly focus on underserved Muslim women who are victims of crime as well as assisting those dealing with other difficulties and hardships. HAWA provides these individuals with the tools necessary to become self-sufficient so that they can successfully contribute to the restructuring and rebuilding of our communities.



The mission of **The Peoples Action** is to vastly improve the socio-economic condition of African-Americans and other historically oppressed people. We take action and fight for the human rights and dignity of all human beings facing exploitation and injustice.





Live In Peace's goal is to bring peace to the communities of Detroit by starting with mentorship opportunities in our schools and with youth ages 10-18.



Church of the Messiah is a church that serves and cares for the least of these in our congregation which is made up of 60 % African American male under the age of 30. One of the churches main areas of work, BLVD Harambee, is a non-profit organization helping foster life skills and connect resources for the holistic development of young people in the neighborhood. BLVD Harambee was created by the Episcopal Church of the Messiah to promote Empowerment, Education, Employment, Enlightenment and Entertainment.



National Connections



LIVE FREE National Campaign



Force Detroit is in alignment with the LIVE FREE Campaign. To LIVE FREE means to inhabit a community in which all people – regardless of race – can move through the world as valued beings, with equal opportunity and freedom from violence and unjust incarceration. Together, we are building such a community by preaching, praying and acting to end the national systemic barriers to equality, and working on the ground in neighborhoods every day to reduce the number of gun related homicides and shootings, reduce the number of individuals in jail and prison

facilitates, increase voter participation and engagement of directly impacted populations – to help all persons reach their full potential and live free.

Supporting points

-All people, regardless of race, have inherent value and deserve to live free from violence, access the full rights of American citizenship and reach new opportunities for a better future. And yet, the reality is that black and brown people are criminalized and dehumanized as the country immorally justifies their killing and allows them to get lost in the maze of the broken criminal justice system.

-We know that communities with high crime rates also have high unemployment, underachieving schools and a lack of resources. By fixing the systemic barriers that block us from addressing the root causes of violence, we can reduce violence and end mass incarceration.

-The persistent portrayal of black and brown youth by everyday Americans and the media as violent, dangerous and as the “other” has eroded the moral character of our nation and has left us unwilling and unable to see their humanity and care about their lives.

-When our neighbors call on us, we will answer, because we love and care for their well-being. It is up to us to ensure that when young people wake up to go to school, they can learn and be successful; and when they return home at night, they feel safe and free from violence and trauma.

-People of color – especially young men – are disproportionately impacted by gun violence and mass incarceration. In the past 35 years, nearly 13 times more black children have been killed than the total number of black people lynched in the 86 years between 1882 and 1968.



Force Detroit is a project of the Faith in Action National Network (FIA). FIA, formerly known as PICO National Network, is one of the largest interfaith, multiracial networks in the US. We work in more than 150 cities in 17 states supporting local leaders to develop and advocate for grassroots, community centered policy change. Nationally our efforts address issues such as anti-violence efforts, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, health care advocacy, and more.

We believe in a society free of economic oppression, racism and discrimination in which every person lives in a safe and healthy environment, is respected and included, and has agency over the decisions that shape their lives.

We believe organizing is the best way to address the spiritual and material crises facing our society. It is the best tool we have for standing up to the wealthy individuals and corporate interests profiting from racial and economic oppression and environmental destruction. To create a new society based on equity, sustainability, and love we need to build strong multi-racial people-led organizations that relentlessly press for social change.

Faith in Action has a unique role to play in building a larger movement for change. This contribution flows from our capacity to engage large numbers of people through trusted community institutions, speak prophetically about the moral dimensions of political choices, and bring people together across race, class, religion, urban/suburban/rural, and region to make progress on racial and economic justice.

Our Why?

We're facing a moral crisis over whether we all matter and belong, what voice we have over the decisions that shape our lives and communities, and what obligations we have to one another and to our planet. This crisis is global, but it is especially fierce in the U.S. due to how anti-blackness, White Supremacy, and patriarchy have shaped our society (hurting both communities of color and White communities); our legacy of genocide against Native people; our cultural diversity; the influence of large corporations over our lives and economy; and the myths we've told ourselves about small government and self-reliance.

The struggle over the direction of the country is not just about economics or politics. It is a spiritual struggle over who we are and how we are connected. Many people, especially younger people, have lost faith in institutions and have distanced themselves from traditional religious congregations. But people are still searching for spiritual connection and purpose. Through our organizing work, we believe individuals will be able to say "as a result of my participation in Faith in Action, my life is better and I see the world and myself differently."

THANK YOU!

We must THANK YOU!

Thank you to the folks that took the time to have long conversations with us about the trends that they were seeing in violence in their neighborhood and with their constituencies.

Thank you to those who shared stories, insights and provided invaluable feedback and insight as to dominant themes and factors that helped shape survey questions.

Thank you to all who shared the survey with your networks, constituents, friends, neighbors and family. This body of work would not have been possible without you.

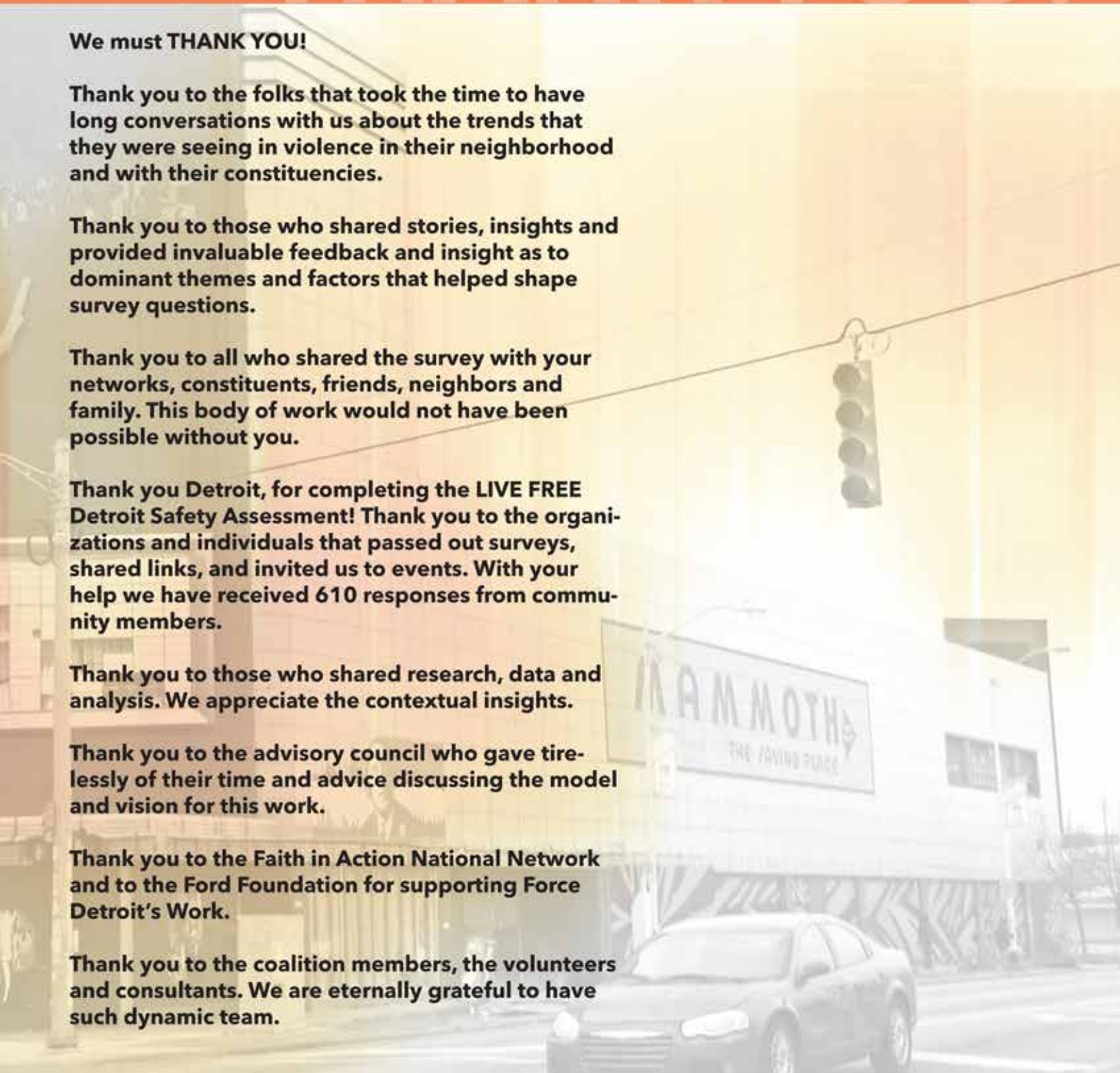
Thank you Detroit, for completing the LIVE FREE Detroit Safety Assessment! Thank you to the organizations and individuals that passed out surveys, shared links, and invited us to events. With your help we have received 610 responses from community members.

Thank you to those who shared research, data and analysis. We appreciate the contextual insights.

Thank you to the advisory council who gave tirelessly of their time and advice discussing the model and vision for this work.

Thank you to the Faith in Action National Network and to the Ford Foundation for supporting Force Detroit's Work.

Thank you to the coalition members, the volunteers and consultants. We are eternally grateful to have such dynamic team.

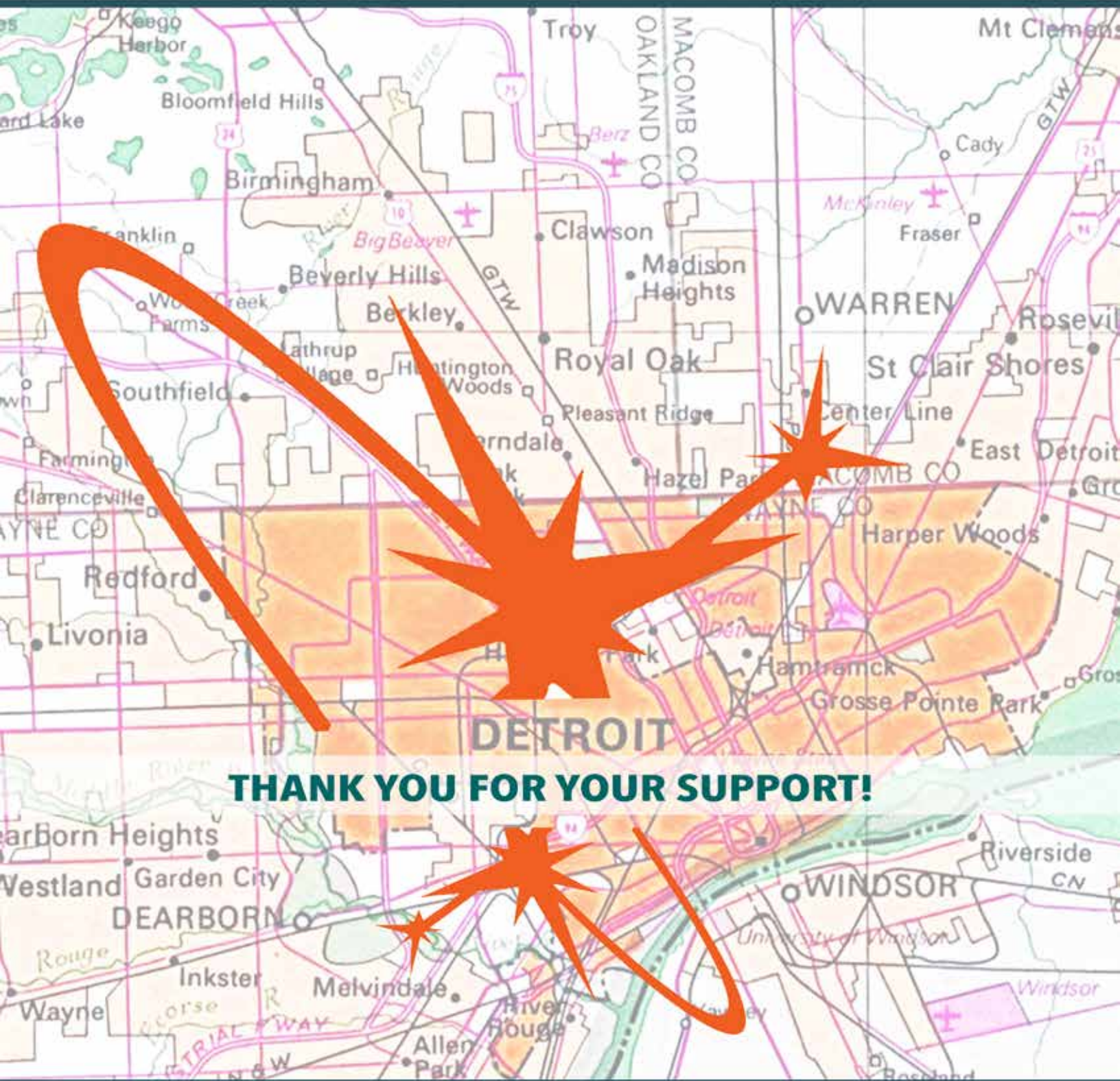




Faithfully Organizing Resources for Community Empowerment



FORCE (Faithfully Organizing Resources for Community Empowerment) is a culmination of interfaith, grassroots and public sector leaders committed to having hard conversations about complex community issues, pushing boundaries and generating creative justice oriented solutions. We leverage media and culturally relevant strategies to connect people least likely to be engaged to civic infrastructures.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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