



MEDIA RELEASE

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RE: Speak to Your Health! Community Survey Data Presentations at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo

Since 2003, Genesee County residents have had the opportunity to participate in the biennial Speak to Your Health! Community Survey, which identifies and monitors community health and quality of life concerns throughout Genesee County. The survey is designed by the Genesee County Health Department, university partners, and several local community organizations. Results of the surveys are available to the public and can be analyzed by gender, race, age, and across time, and mapped geographically to determine trends by neighborhood, zip code, and county. These results can be used for health program planning and evaluation, grant proposals, community education, and policy development.

Preliminary results from the 2015/2016 survey will be presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo taking place in Denver, CO from October 29 – November 2, 2016. The results will be delivered via the following 3 presentations:

- *“Toxic Trauma: Household water quality experiences predict PTSD symptoms during the Flint Water Crisis”* This presentation will show that those who experienced poorer tap water in the midst of a community health crisis over an unsafe municipal water supply experienced greater PTSD symptomatology and were more likely to screen positive for PTSD.

- *“Assessing the relationship of household tap water quality with community health during the Flint Water Crisis”* This presentation will show that those who experienced poorer tap water quality in the midst of a community health crisis over an unsafe municipal water supply experienced worse physical and mental health.
- *“Water quality, stress, and depressive symptoms in Genesee County, MI: Findings from the Speak to Your Health! Community Survey”* This presentation will show that those who experienced poorer tap water quality in the midst of a community health crisis over an unsafe municipal water supply experienced worse mental health.

“Through this study, we found that experiences of poorer tap water quality were associated with adverse mental health conditions in the context of a crisis of toxic contamination in the municipal water supply,” said Survey Committee Co-Chair, Suzanne Cupal, of the Genesee County Health Department. “Sharing these results gives us the opportunity to inform the services that are organized for community emergencies.” The Speak to Your Health! Community Survey Committee is currently analyzing the collected data from the 2015/2016 survey. Once completed, a public presentation of the data will be shared with the community. For more information on the survey, and to see previous year’s results, please visit <http://speak.gchd.us>.

Speak to Your Health! Community Survey
'An aware, empowered, and healthy community'

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