Since April 2014, the environmental injustice known as the Flint Water Crisis has direcly affected thousands of Flint residents. The extent of harm caused by the human-made crisis may never be fully comprehensible including the consequences on health, productivity, and property values. What is less commonly known is how the residents, who faced unique stressors, responded and how they continue to move forward despite inadequate sociopolitical response. As part of a multidisciplinary team, social work researchers were involved in a study to document how residents addressed the adverse effects of dangerous environmental conditions, their challenges and how they gained access to needed resources. Data were collected using a randomized household sampling method of residents of Flint and comparison communities (n=779). Findings will be shared that illustrate the variety of ways in which the community affected by the ongoing crisis experiences the resulting hardships. Although the water crisis induced periods of stress and mistrust, residents demonstrated adaptive capacities that indicate resilience. It galvanized community competence, boosting natural supports and collective efficacy. By assessing and building upon resilience, communities are enabled to identify and strengthen their ability to survive devastating challenges.

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