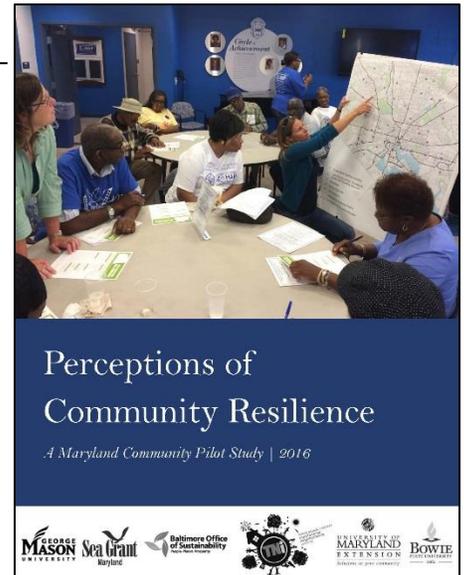


Perceptions of Community Resilience

Report Key Findings

This study represents a partnership with many individuals and organizations—including the City of Baltimore’s Office of Sustainability and Prince George’s County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative—to increase engagement with residents on building resilience in predominantly African American neighborhoods in two areas of the state that are at high risk from climate-related environmental changes and have historically been underserved. The research was conducted as a door-to-door survey in spring 2016 in four neighborhoods of the state—Oliver-Broadway East, Sandtown-Winchester, and Westport in Baltimore, and Glassmanor-Oxon Hill in Prince George’s County. Comparison data is taken from a spring 2016 representative mail survey of Maryland residents. *See the full report at climatechangecommunication.org.*



Baltimore and Prince George’s community residents point to climate change risks. They are more likely to report experiencing health and environmental harms than Marylanders as a whole.

- The four Baltimore and Prince George’s County communities have the same levels of risk perception for climate change—and related effects such as sea level rise, extreme heat, storms, and flooding—as do the residents of the rest of the state.
- The majority of survey respondents in the Baltimore (**57%**) and Prince George’s County (**61%**) neighborhoods identify climate change as likely to cause significant harm in their communities in the next several years.
- Baltimore and Prince George’s County neighborhood residents are more likely than Marylanders generally to say they have experienced water damage caused by heavy rains or flooding (38% Baltimore vs. 15% state) and sewage overflows after rains or storms (**22%** Baltimore/**19%** Glassmanor-Oxon Hill vs. **6%** state). They are also more likely to say they have experienced health harms from storms and flooding than the state at large.
- Glassmanor-Oxon Hill respondents are more likely to say that their health has suffered from pollen than those in Baltimore and Maryland as a whole.
- Chronic medical conditions are more pervasive in the three neighborhoods of Baltimore than they are in the state, particularly for asthma (**23%** vs. **12%**).

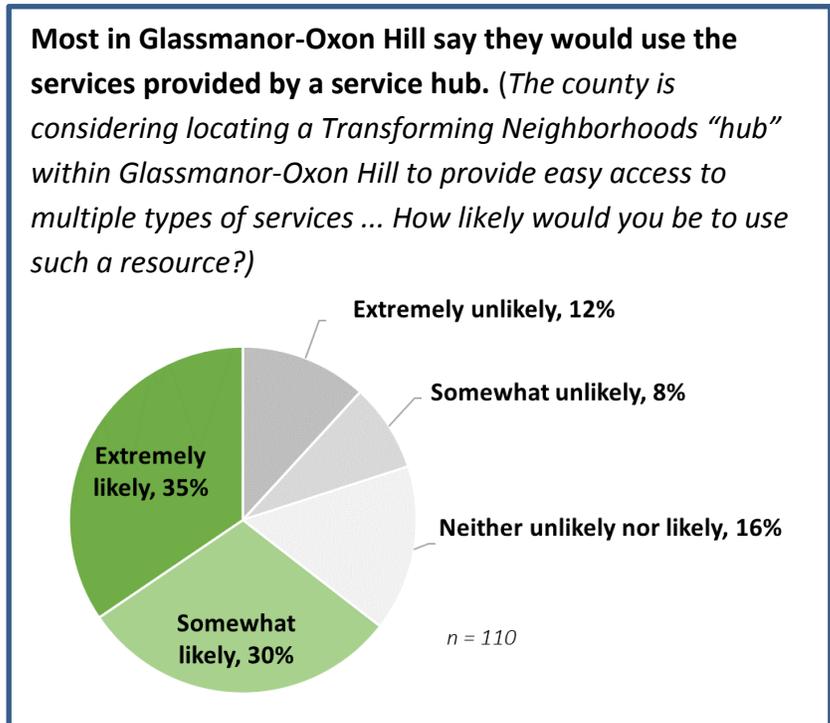
Residents report lower levels of social capital—including community communication—available to address problems. They want information on energy and climate, and governments to take action, including creation of local “resilience hubs.”

- Both the Baltimore and Prince George’s County neighborhoods rank their communities as lower in social capital in terms of both their ability to obtain resources and communicate internally.

- Approximately two-thirds of the Baltimore (65%) and Glassmanor-Oxon Hill (67%) neighborhoods say they support local and state governments taking action to protect their communities from climate change.
- Almost two-thirds of Baltimore respondents (65%) say that they would be somewhat or extremely likely to use a community building that provides shelter, food, water, and other resources during emergency events. The same percentage in Glassmanor-Oxon Hill (65%) say that they would be somewhat or extremely likely to use a centrally located services hub in their community.
- Baltimore and Prince George’s County neighborhood residents are more likely to ask for information on six energy and climate protection topics than people in the state as a whole. Almost a third of Baltimore and Prince George’s County respondents requested information on energy bill assistance (31%)—the topic most requested.

Recommendations include:

- Residents of all four neighborhoods called for more community centers as one of the most important issues. Projects like the resiliency hub pilot in Baltimore and social services hub in Glassmanor-Oxon Hill meet that call, and could potentially bolster both the physical resources and social fabric of the neighborhoods.
- The four neighborhoods are not ambivalent about the role of climate change in their communities, nor the role of government in tackling the problem—they are concerned and supportive of action. This message should be conveyed to their elected local, state, and federal representatives.
- Some highly salient community issues, like trash, tie directly to climate preparedness efforts; others may relate more peripherally. Solutions should thus address not only some of the most critical problems, but simultaneous interests in building resilience to climate impacts and general community development. For example, trash clogs storm drain systems, resulting in flooding during heavy precipitation events, but it also affects community pride and has health implications.
- The neighborhoods described here—especially Baltimore—are already suffering disproportionately from environmental and health risks, and recognize these risks at the same rates as other Marylanders. Additional risk information may be counter-productive.



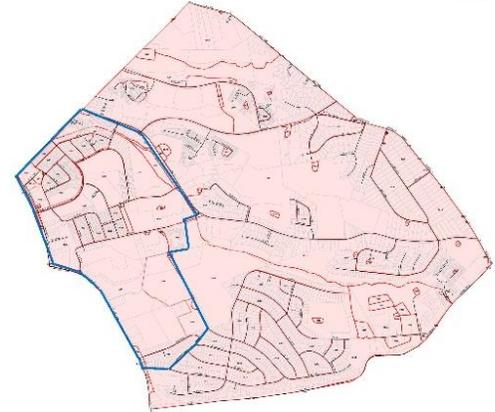
Sample sizes for comparison groups: # people=907, state; # people=228, Baltimore neighborhoods (Oliver-Broadway East, 73; Sandtown-Winchester, 71; Westport, 84); # people=111, Glassmanor-Oxon Hill, Prince George’s County. The error margin for the combined Baltimore sample is +/- 6 pct. points and for Glassmanor-Oxon Hill is +/- 9 pct. points.

Specific Survey Findings for Glassmanor-Oxon Hill

The area surveyed extends within the blue boundary zone:
 Southern Ave. SE to Birchwood Dr. and Dunwoody Ave.;
 Livingston Rd. to Owens Rd.



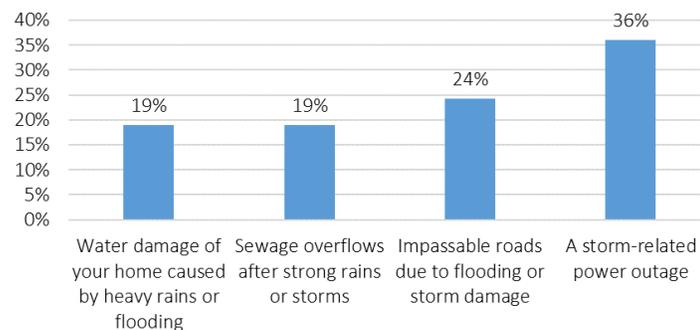
Glassmanor/Oxon Hill TNI Census Blocks



Legend
 Roads
 Property
 Census_Blocks

- The most important community issues include policing (both more visibility and harassment), crime, gun violence, trash, security, cleanliness, and the need for more recreation and playgrounds.
- Polluted drinking water (**62%**) and obesity (**51%**) are both considered to be a major personal health risk by half or more of respondents.
- Six in 10 (**61%**) say climate change is likely to cause significant harm to their community in the next several years.
- More than a third—**36%**—of residents say they have experienced a storm-related power outage in the last 12 months. A quarter (**24%**) have experienced impassable roads due to flooding or storm damage.
- **Three in 10** say that they have insufficient financial resources to cover bills if they are unable to work for 1-2 weeks.
- Glassmanor-Oxon Hill respondents report more deleterious effects on their health from pollen than those in Baltimore neighborhoods. **More than half** say that their health has been moderately or severely harmed by pollen in the last 12 months.
- More than 1 in 10 report chronic medical conditions such as asthma (**17%**), hypertension (**17%**), arthritis (**14%**), and diabetes (**12%**).
- Roughly half disagree that the community has the resources to take care of problems (**51%**), that people trust public officials (**49%**; **33%** neither agree nor disagree), or that they get information from their community to help with home and work life (**51%**).
- Seven in 10 (**65%**) say they would be likely to use a local services hub provided by the county's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative.
- A majority (**66%**) support local and state government actions to protect their community from the effects of climate.

Glassmanor-Oxon Hill experiences threats from heavy storms and rains. (In the last 12 months, have you experienced one or more of the following?)



What is the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative?



The Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) is part of a directive issued by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III to improve the quality of life in vulnerable communities. The goal of the program is to achieve and maintain a thriving economy, great schools, safe neighborhoods and high quality healthcare by utilizing cross-governmental resources in targeted neighborhoods that have significant and unique needs.

The overall strategy is to be proactive in target areas without reducing service delivery outside of these areas. Through the utilization of governmental resources, citizen participation and feedback, the County will develop strategies that will improve service delivery across the entire County.

Barry Stanton, Leader, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Public Infrastructure, (301) 952-4227

Nicole Jackson-Young, Special Assistant, NMYoung@co.pg.md.us

Problems with flooding?

For more information about flood management, flood safety tips and flood insurance, please contact **Yanping Zhang** at (301) 883-5787. For information on the National Flood Insurance Program, contact the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** at (800) 427-4661.

Where can I call for help in an emergency?

- **Call 211** – a Maryland service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 180 languages – to find out about health and human service resources in your community, including shelter in place locations
- **Call 311** to receive general information about Prince George's County Government programs and services including recycling and trash pickup information, road and pothole repairs, and submit a complaint or compliment regarding county services
- **Call (301) 352-1200** to report incidents that require the non-emergency dispatch of Police, Fire, EMS or Sheriff personnel
- **Call 911** to report a life-threatening emergency

