

## Flint Water Crisis

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint\\_water\\_crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint_water_crisis)

The **Flint water crisis** is an ongoing drinking water contamination crisis in [Flint, Michigan](#).

In 2014, the City of Flint began the undertaking of a water supply switch-over from reliable supplies from the City of Detroit. Initially, the drawing of water from the Flint River was viewed by the City as a temporary fix prior to the City's ultimate switch to a permanent supply which would be provided after the [Karegnondi Water Authority](#)'s construction of a pipeline from Lake Huron, thereby eliminating Flint's long-time dependence on Detroit City water.<sup>[1]</sup>

After the change in water source, the city's drinking water had a series of issues that culminated with [lead contamination](#), creating a serious [public health](#) danger. The corrosive Flint River water caused [lead](#) from aging [pipes](#) to [leach](#) into the water supply, causing extremely elevated levels of lead. As a result, residents had severely high [levels of lead in the blood](#) and experienced a range of serious health problems. The water may also be a possible cause of an outbreak of [Legionnaires' disease](#) in the county that has killed 10 people and affected another 77.

On November 13, 2015, four families filed a federal [class action](#) lawsuit in the [U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan](#) in Detroit against Governor [Rick Snyder](#) and thirteen other city and state officials, and three separate people filed a similar suit in state court two months later. Separately, the [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan](#) and the [Michigan Attorney General](#)'s office opened investigations. On January 5, 2016, the city was declared to be in a state of emergency by the Governor of Michigan, before President Obama declared the crisis as a federal state of emergency, authorizing additional help from the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) and the [Department of Homeland Security](#) less than two weeks later. Three government officials—one from the City of Flint and two from the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#)—resigned over the mishandling of the crisis, and Snyder issued an apology to citizens.