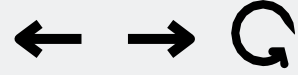




**LET'S  
TALK!**

2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment



Chatham County Public Health Department

# Public Health Update

**Chatham County Board of Commissioners – 01.09.2024**



What is the Community Assessment?



Public Health Update

# What is the Community Assessment?

- ❖ Collaborative effort between the Chatham Health Alliance, the Chatham County Public Health Department, and Chatham Hospital, in addition to community members throughout the county
- ❖ Identifying factors that affect health and well-being in Chatham County
- ❖ Determining the availability of resources within the community to support optimal health for all
- ❖ Chatham Health Alliance uses assessment to select Health Impact Priorities and focus collective action
- ❖ 2024 Community Assessment process has begun!

## Chatham County Community Assessment 2021





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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources



← → ↻ 🔍 Public Health Update

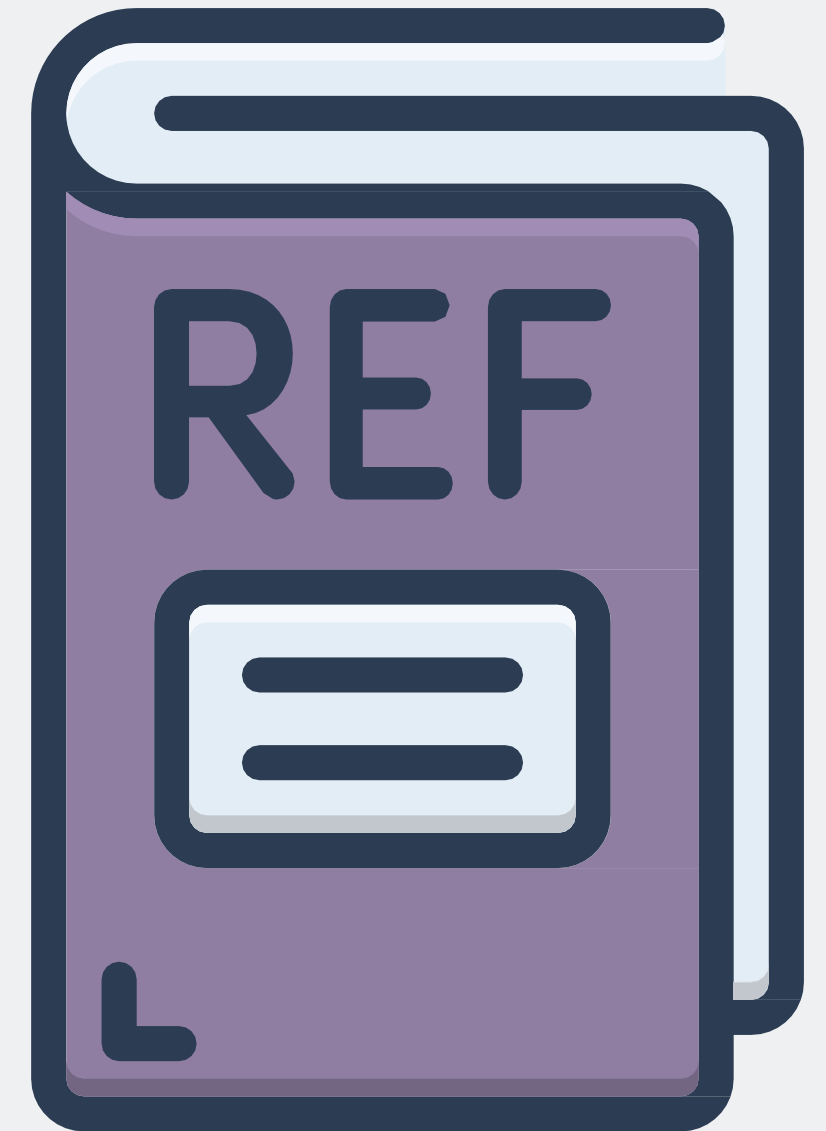
# Data Sources

## Primary Data

- *Chatham County Community Survey (2021)*
- Supplemental community survey (2021)
- Story Circles--qualitative (2021)

## Secondary Data

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2019)
- American Community Survey - U.S. Census Bureau (2020)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
- N.C. Center for State Health Statistics
- Local government agencies, including county and city government, schools
- National, state and local nonprofits





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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Key Findings  
and Themes



Public Health Update

# Health Impact Priorities

- ❖ **Mental Health & Substance Use**
- ❖ **Transportation**
- ❖ **Employment**

Chatham County adults selected water quality as top focus to improve health and quality of life in the community.



**Water  
quality**

- Priorities identified in the previous Community Assessment remain concerns, including access to health care, healthy eating and active living, and economic resilience



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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

Focus Areas



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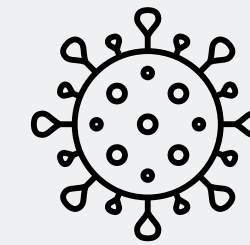
# Focus Areas



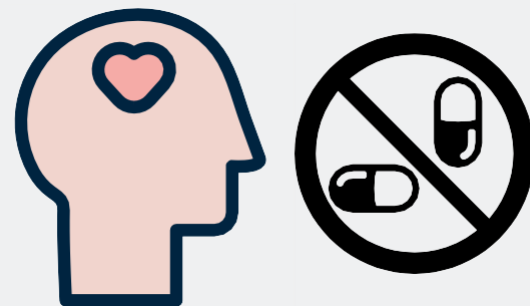
Coordinated  
system of care



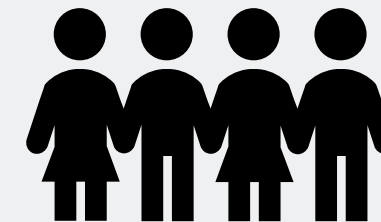
Water Quality



Preparedness/  
Public Trust/  
Workforce



Mental Health &  
Substance Use



Early Childhood  
Services



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2021 Chatham County Community Assessment

What is the Community Assessment?

Data Sources

Focus Areas

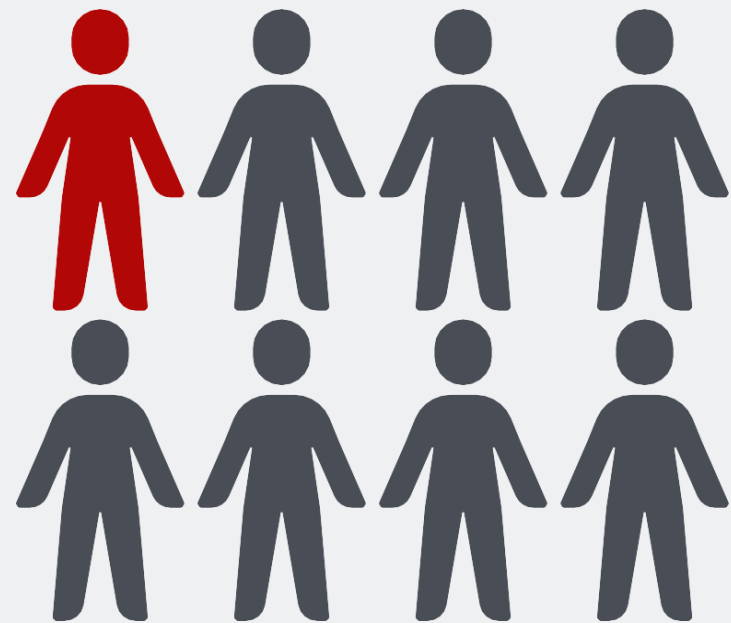
Access to Comprehensive Health Services



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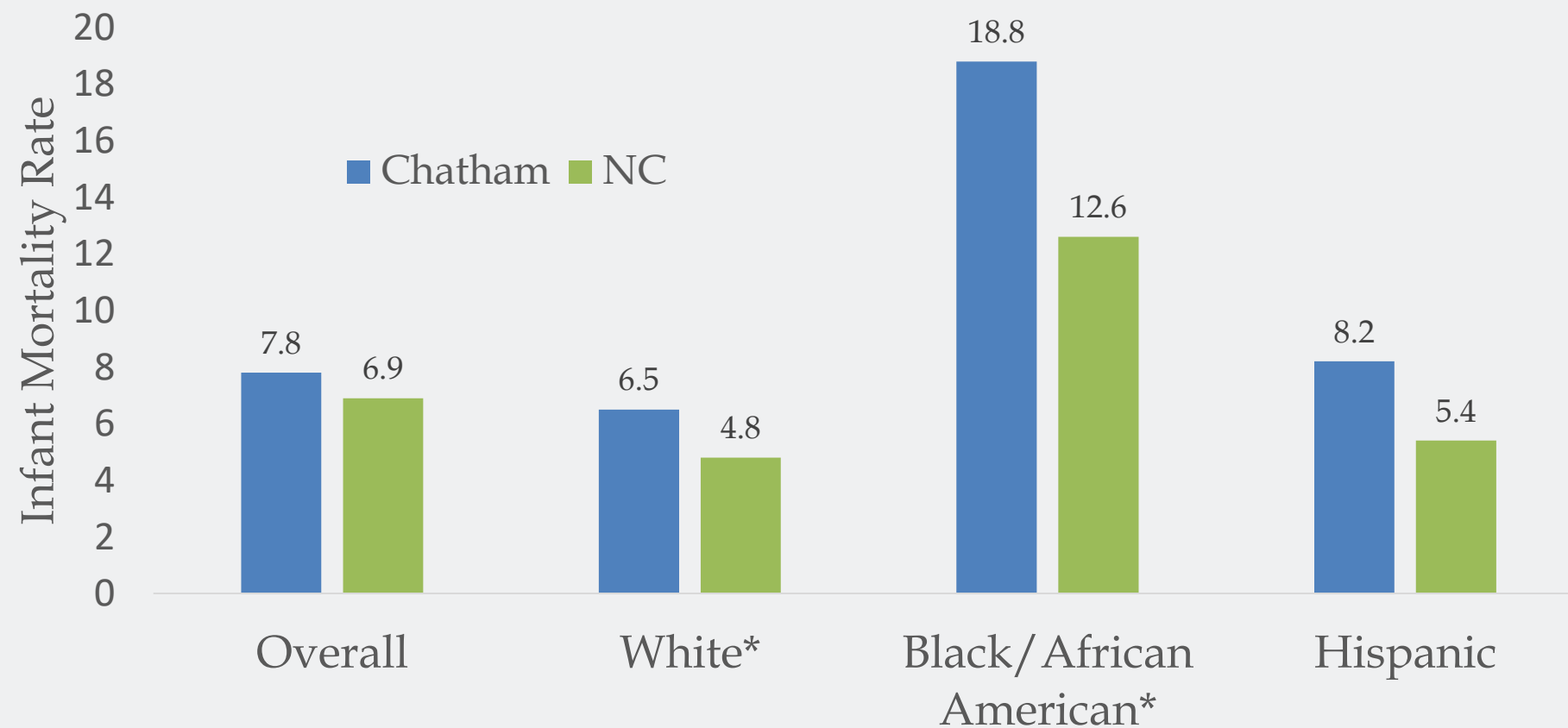
# Access to Comprehensive Health Services



Approximately **1 in 8** Chatham County residents under 65 (12.6%) and over half of non-citizens do not have health insurance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Infant Mortality Rates: Chatham & NC



\*non-Hispanic/Latinx

Source: NC Center for State Health Statistics, 2017-21





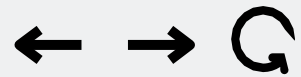
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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

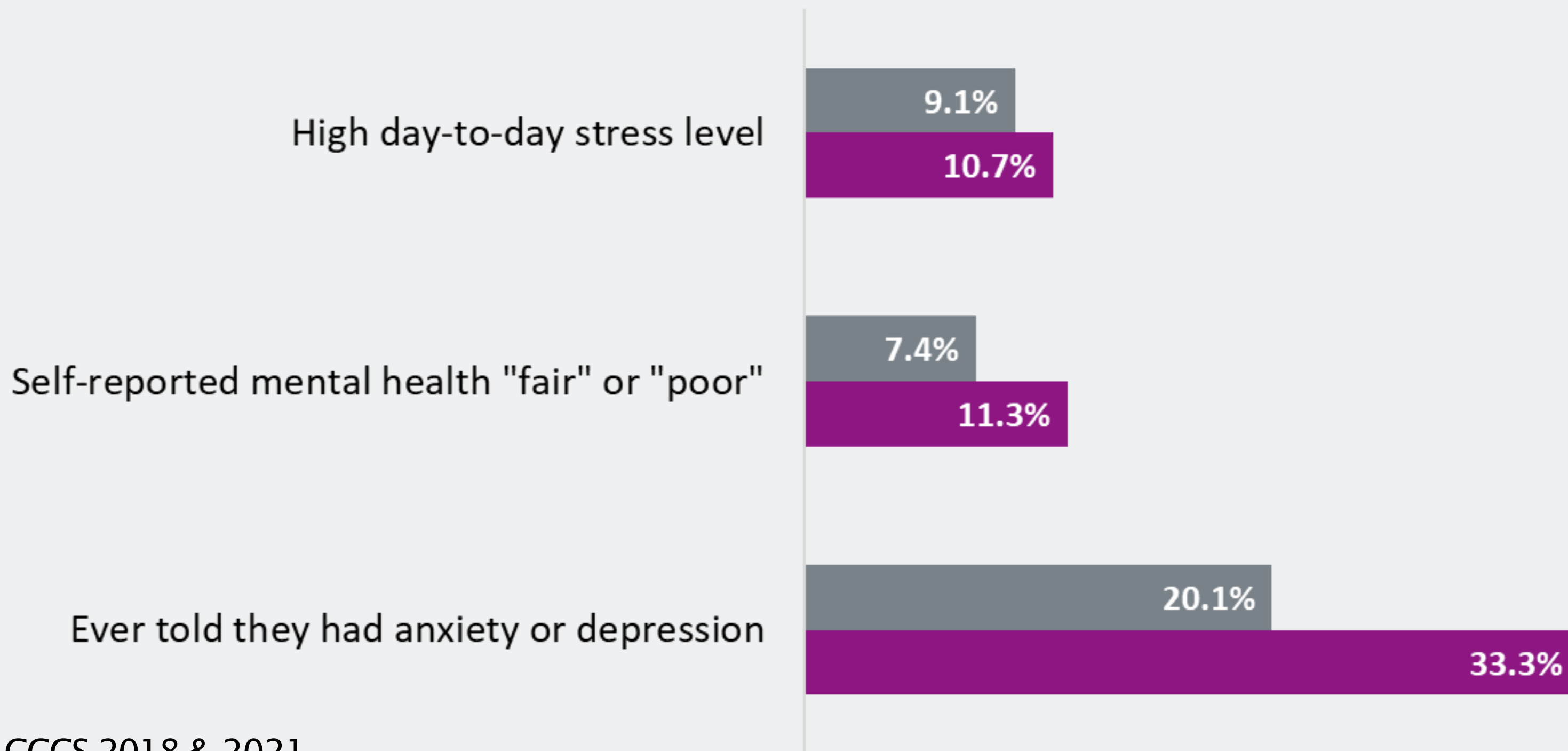
Focus Areas

Mental  
Health



Public Health Update

## Several key mental health indicators worsened among adults in Chatham County from 2018 to 2021.



Source: CCCS 2018 & 2021



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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

Focus Areas

Substance  
Use



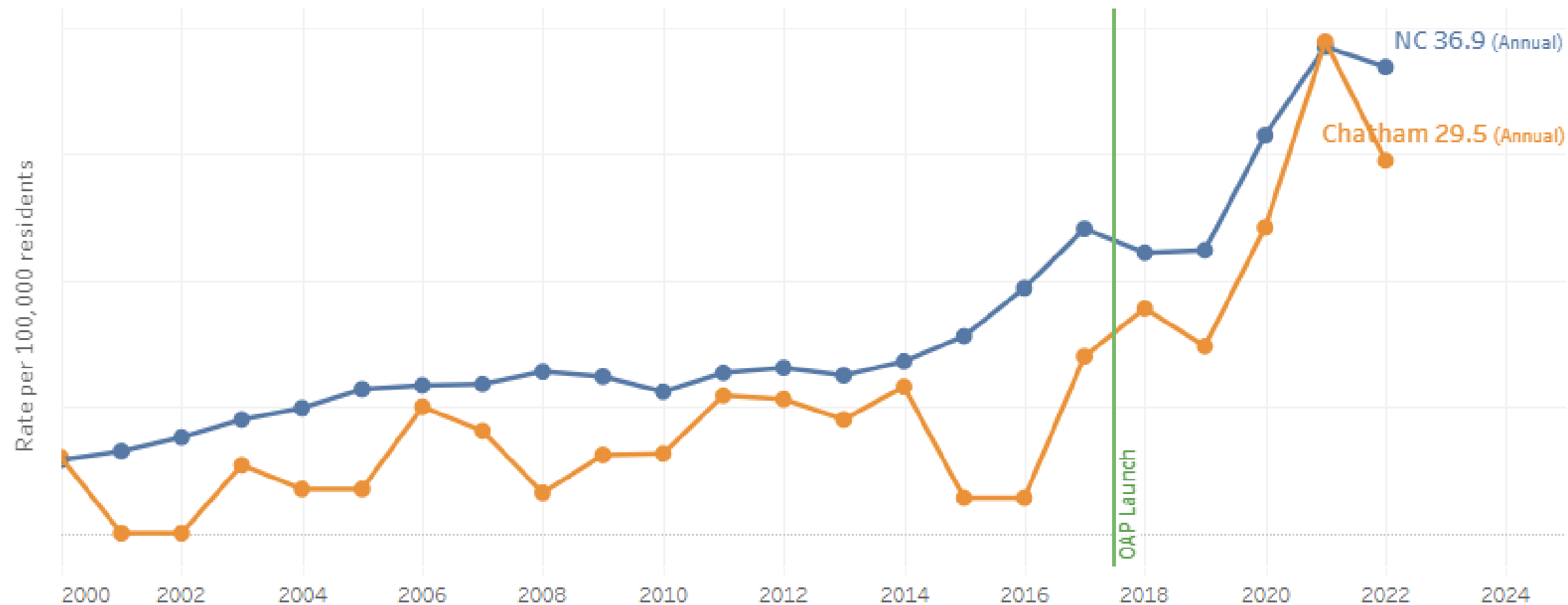
Public Health Update

### Deaths in Chatham

The rate of overdose deaths among residents of **Chatham** in **2022 (Annual)**

was **29.5**.

(Rate per 100,000 residents. Number of deaths: 22)



Source: NC DHHS





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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

Focus Areas

Coordinated  
System of  
Health



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# Building a Coordinated System of Health

- ❖ **It Takes a Community:** Addressing complex public health issues like these requires collaboration, both within and beyond the healthcare system
- ❖ **Partnerships are Key:** Collaboratives like the Chatham Health Alliance, EMBRACe, the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances, the Community Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team, and others drive collective action.
- ❖ **Coordination, not Duplication:** We must work with other health system partners to make whole-person care accessible, effective, and culturally appropriate



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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

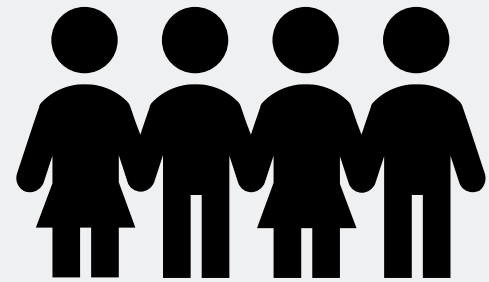
Focus Areas

Early  
Childhood  
Health



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# Supporting Early Childhood Services



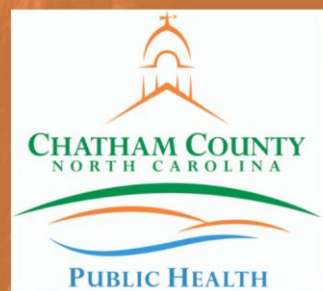
“Recommendation: Grow health and social services to promote early intervention and family wellbeing.”

-Chatham Kids Matter Early Childhood Needs Assessment



## FOCUS ON FATHERS

Bilingual program that works with Chatham fathers to increase family and life-skills competencies to prepare them for a life-long role of mentoring their children



## CHILD CARE HEALTH

Works with childcare programs across the county to improve health and safety in facilities and provide technical assistance in many areas



Address shortfall in grant funding to sustain these important programs.



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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

Focus Areas

Water  
Quality



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# Increasing Access to Water Testing and Treatment

Chatham County adults selected water quality as top focus to improve health and quality of life in the community in the 2021 Community Assessment.

- ❖ Concern around water quality has been high in recent years, particularly with the discovery of chemicals in water supply that are linked to health issues
- ❖ CCPHD focuses on well water and recommends private well owners sample their wells on a routine basis for bacteria, heavy metals, and pesticides
- ❖ Testing (and treatment) can be cost prohibitive for lower-income residents



Pilot program to offer reduced-cost well water testing for lower-income residents.



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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

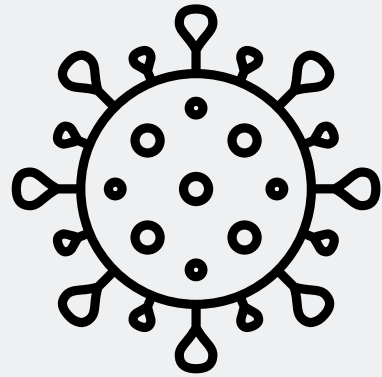
Data  
Sources

Focus Areas

Public Trust,  
Preparedness,  
Workforce



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# Maintaining Public Trust through Strong Workforce

- ❖ The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of public trust to the work we do
- ❖ A strong, prepared public health workforce is critical, both in emergencies and non-emergencies

“Building a stronger, more efficient, and more equitable public health system is necessary to realizing a healthier, fairer, and more prosperous America. But creating this public health system will remain a dream without the people – the workforce – to support these efforts.”

-REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT: Supporting the U.S. Public Health Workforce (May 2023)





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2021 Chatham County  
Community Assessment

What is the  
Community  
Assessment?

Data  
Sources

Focus Areas

Takeaways



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# Takeaways

- ❖ Building a coordinated system of physical and mental healthcare for Chatham residents with effective and accessible wraparound services
- ❖ Addressing ongoing substance use/overdose crisis
- ❖ Supporting early childhood programs by addressing gaps in grant funding
- ❖ Ensuring important services like well water testing are accessible to all
- ❖ Growing trust in the public health system and being prepared for future public health emergencies through strong public health workforce