



Public Health Update

Chatham BOC Budget Retreat

January 2026

Overview

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today!

This presentation will highlight:

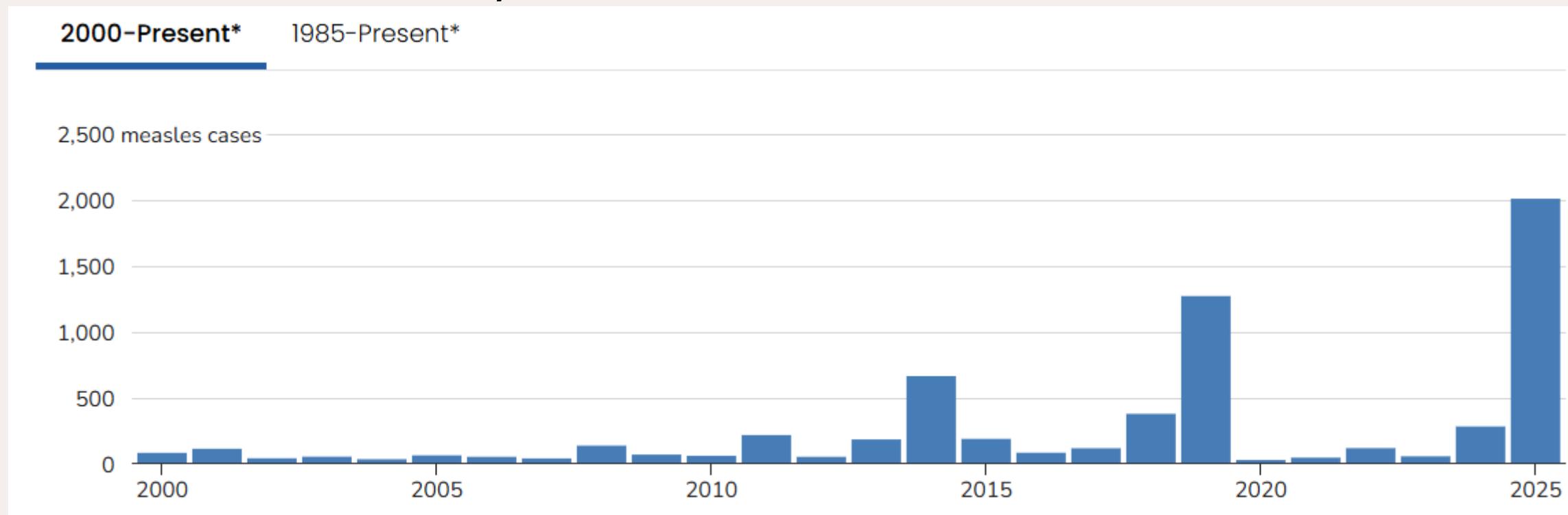
- ❖ The state of public health (Where we are)
- ❖ Our focus as a department
- ❖ How you can support

Where we are

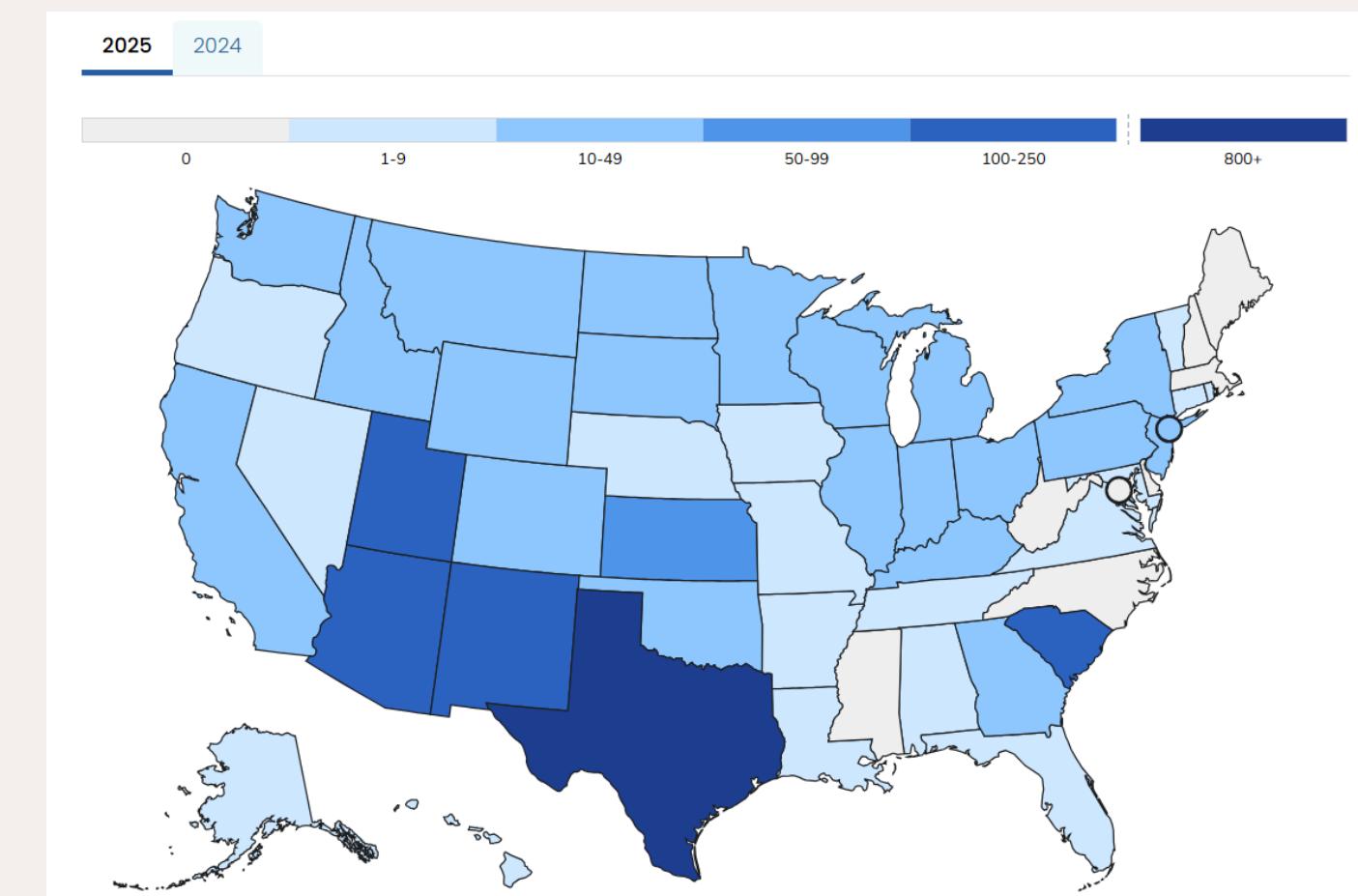


- 2025 has been a unique and challenging year for public health
 - We're seeing a rise in vaccine-preventable illness in US (Measles)

Measles Cases by Year in US



Measles Cases by State, 2025



*Note: There have been no confirmed cases of measles among North Carolinians in 2025

Where we are



- 2025 has been a unique and challenging year for public health
 - Rise in vaccine-preventable illness (Measles)
 - Concern about vaccine coverage given recent trends and confusing messaging at federal level

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

IVAC International Vaccine Access Center

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HOME > ACROSS THE U.S., CHILDHOOD VACCINATION RATES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Across the U.S., Childhood Vaccination Rates Continue to Decline

Published August 20, 2025

VACCINES

MORE FROM INTERNATIONAL VACCINE ACCESS CENTER

Protecting Children's Health: Ensuring Vaccine Access Through Strong State Policies

December 19, 2025

Routine vaccination rates for kindergarten children continue to decline in the U.S., while exemptions from school vaccination requirements, particularly non-medical exemptions, have increased. These trends began

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Kindergarten Routine Vaccination Rates Continue to Decline

Authors: Elizabeth Williams, Jennifer Kates, and Josh Michaud

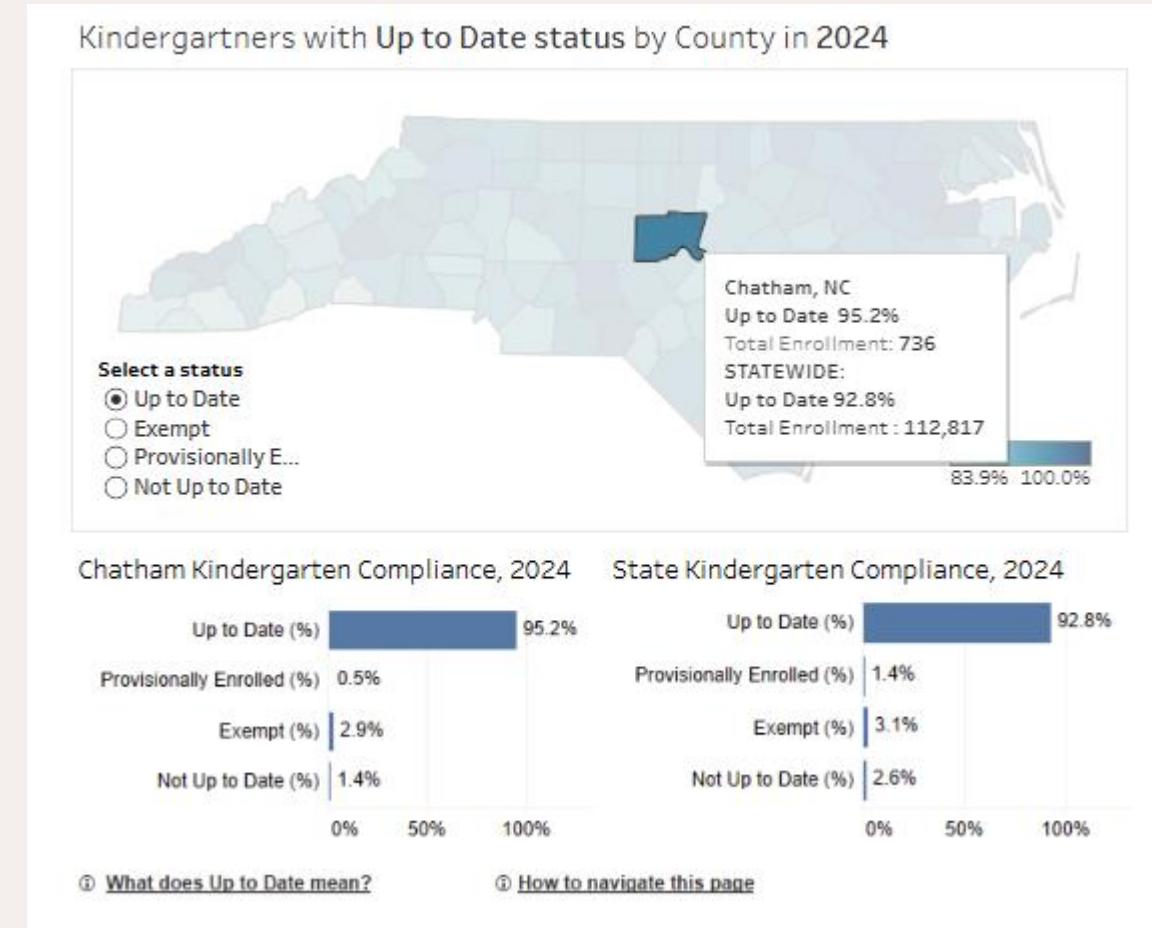
Published: Aug 5, 2025

Print Email Copy Link

Editorial Note

This brief was updated on September 3, 2025 to correct the title of Figure 2.

Routine vaccination rates for kindergarten children continue to decline in the U.S., while exemptions from school vaccination requirements, particularly non-medical exemptions, have increased. These trends began

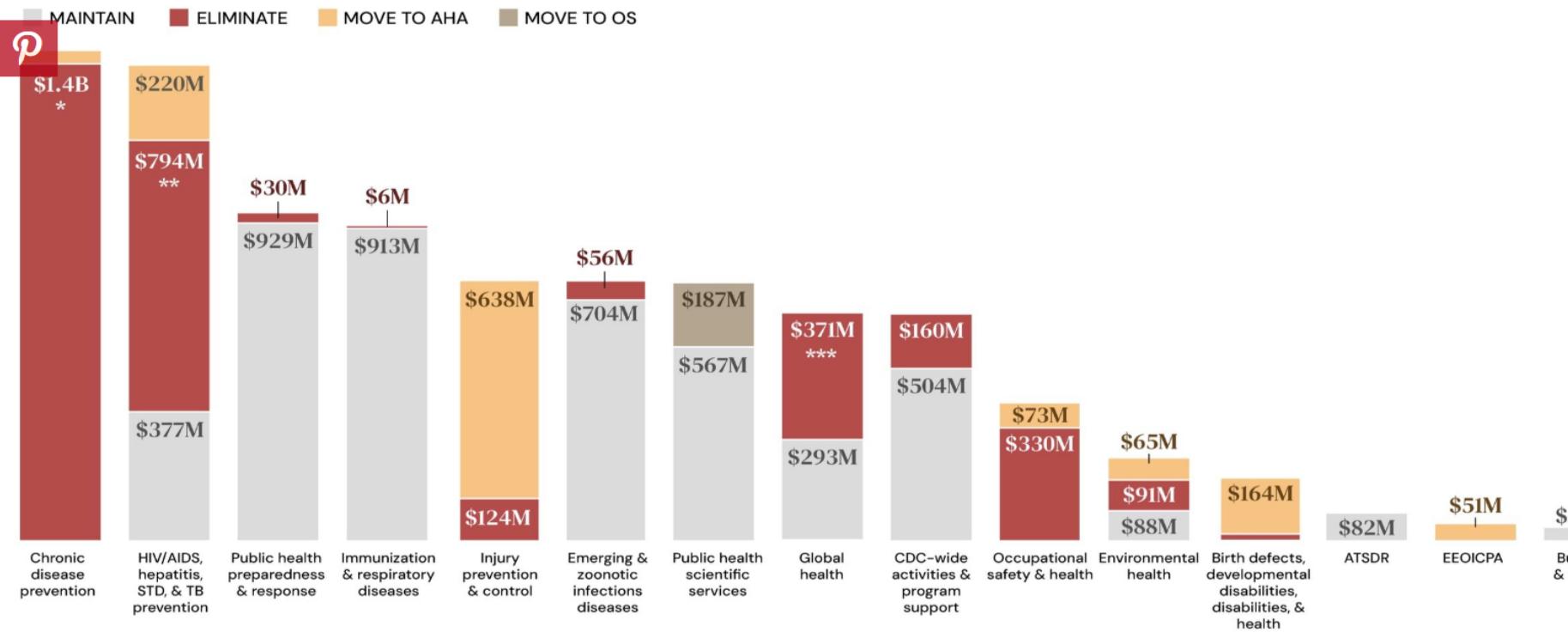


Where we are



- 2025 has been a unique and challenging year for public health
 - Rise in vaccine-preventable illness (Measles)
 - Rising concern about vaccine coverage given confusing messaging at federal level
 - Funding cuts and uncertainty at federal, state levels
 - Federally funded programs
 - Medicaid

What programs are impacted?



Current funding amounts per Congressional Appropriation line are overlayed with OMB and HHS reorganization plans.

Source: NACCHO presentation 6/2025



MEDICAID

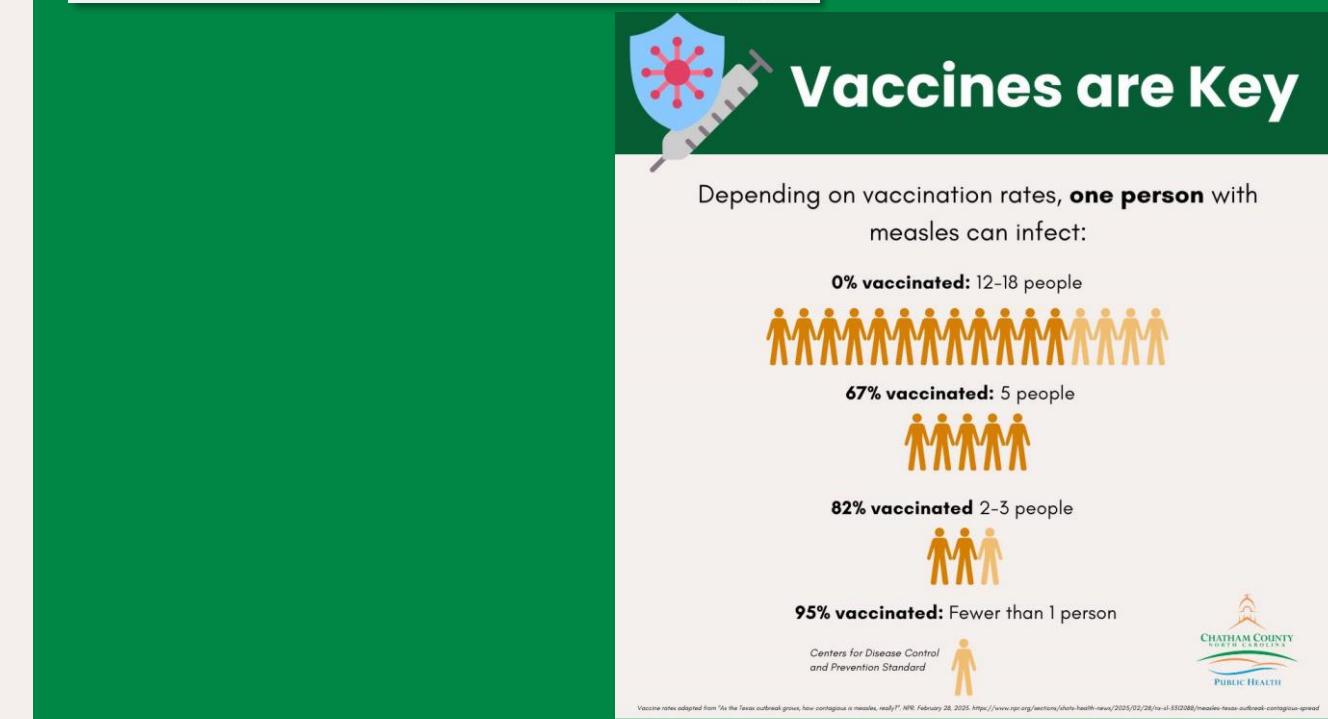
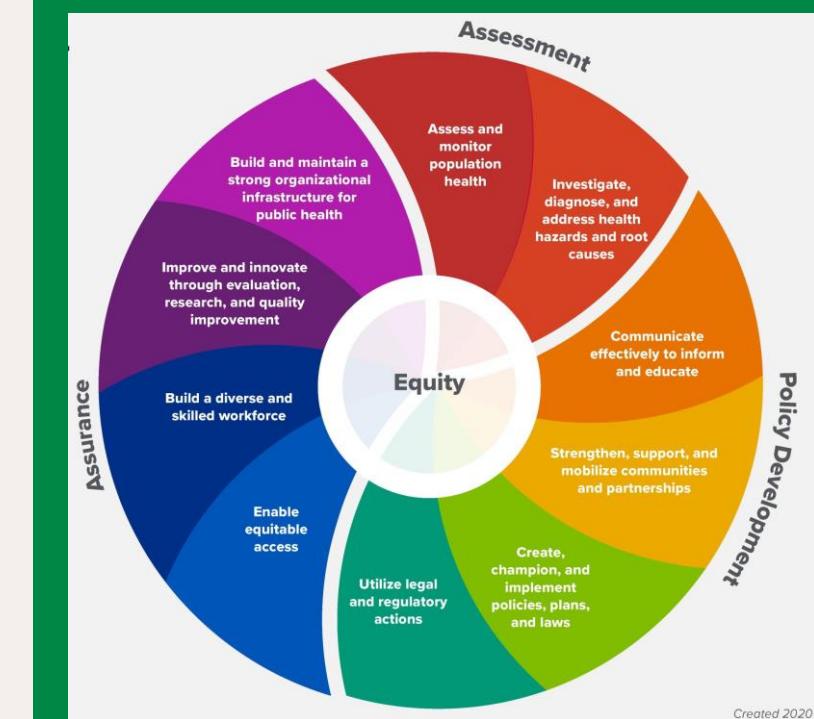
Stein restores Medicaid rates amid budget shortfall, urges legislature to act

by Jaymie Baxley and Ashley Freddie December 11, 2025

By Jaymie Baxley and Ashley Freddie Gov. Josh Stein put an end to North Carolina's Medicaid brinkmanship Wednesday, restoring funding and abandoning efforts to reduce payments to

Where we are locally

- ❖ Remain committed to providing high-quality public health services to the Chatham community
 - Communicating accurate, evidence-based public health messages
 - Gathering and sharing meaningful local data
 - Delivering high-quality, equitable services
 - Enhanced community engagement and strong partnerships
- ❖ Funding cuts concerning, but diversified funding puts us in a better position than many
 - Deeply grateful for strong local support



Community and Partnership Engagement



Community Engagement Specialist, Jiona Mills

- **Health Ministry Collaborative**

Receive and plan education and resources on health topics including opioid overdose prevention, mental health, food safety, men's health

- **Community Advisory Council**

Provide guidance on health communication and outreach strategies

- **Suicide Prevention Coalition**

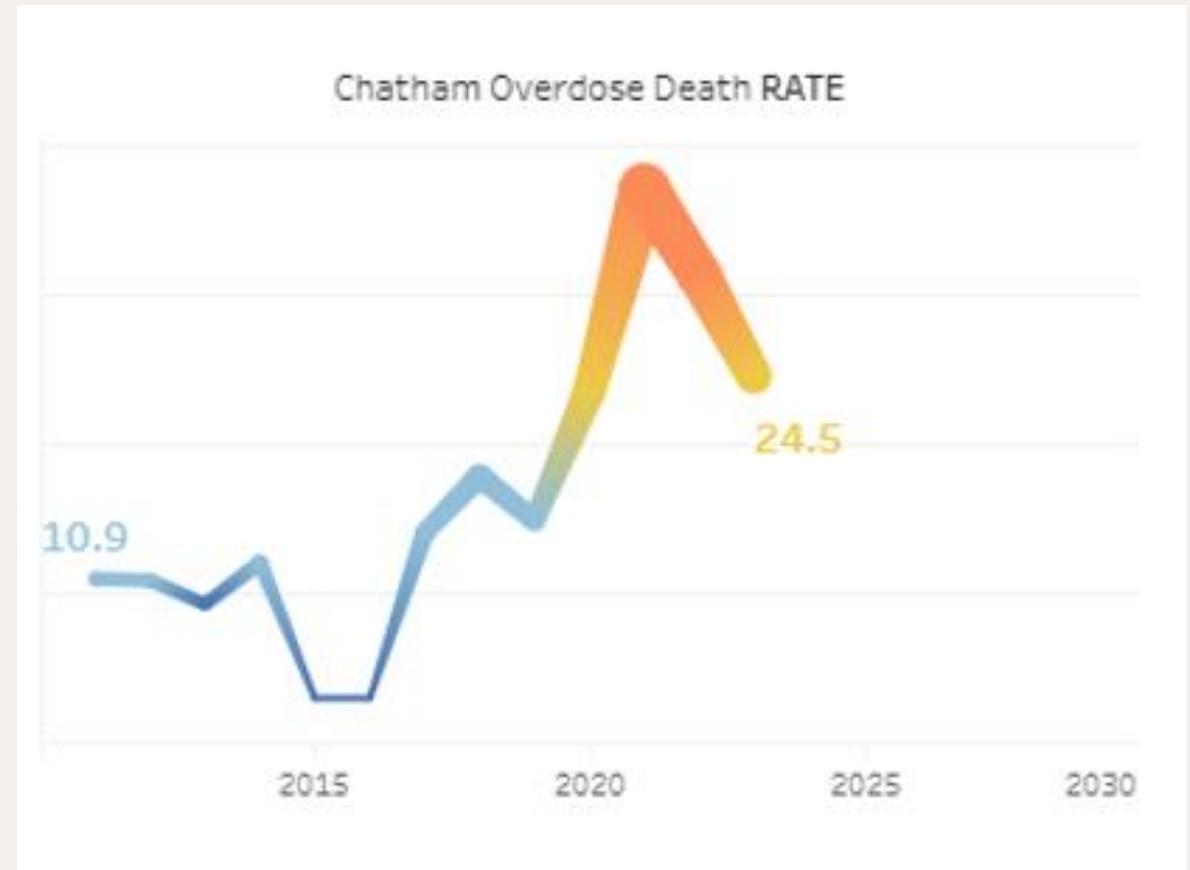
Develop strategic plan goals and strategies including offering trainings, develop support groups, and provide firearm education and resources



Community and Partnership Engagement

Opioid Settlement

- Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances
Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Amanda McNamara
- Contracts awarded this fall: evidence-based treatment and early intervention
- Providing funding for naloxone, harm reduction supplies, certify peer support specialists, housing assistance, transportation

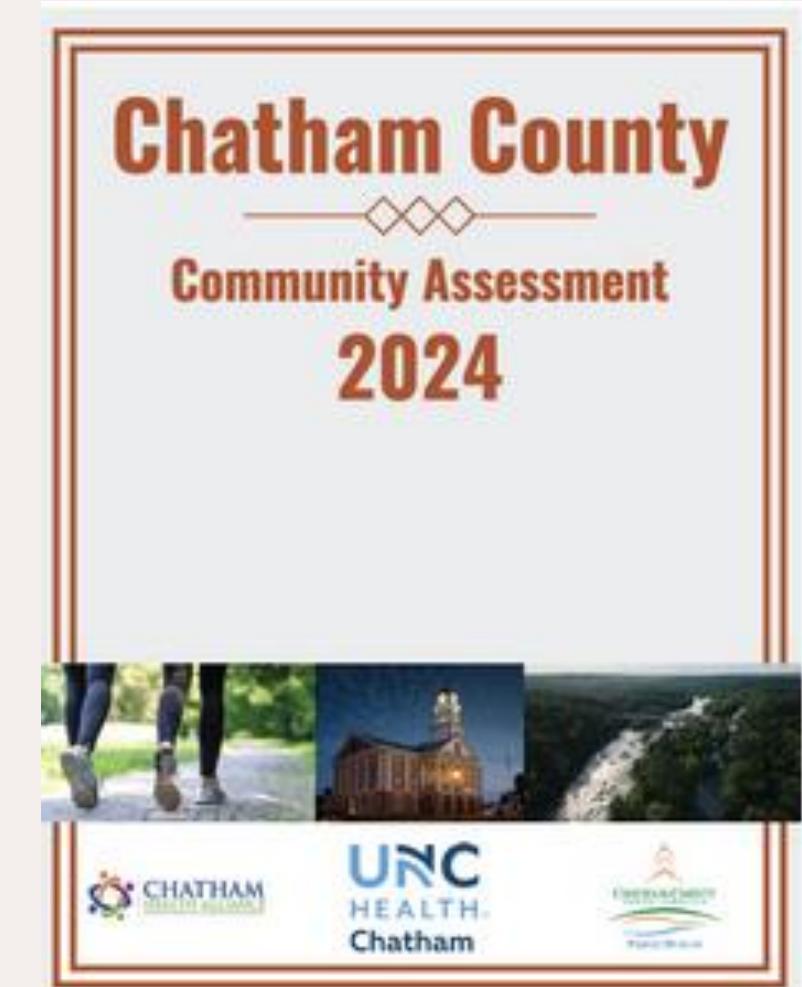


Source: <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data>

Community and Partnership Engagement



- 2024 Community Assessment released
Received special recognition from NC DHHS for excellence for the 2024 Community Health Assessment
- Over 330 Chatham residents participated in the fall 2025 Chatham County Community cohort survey
- Population Health Data Scientist, Alec Higgins
- Chatham Health Alliance continues to advance work on the three Community Health Improvement Priorities that were identified from the 2024 Community Assessment: Activities for Youth and Young Adults, Healthcare Access, and Substance Use: Treatment and Support
- A new resource directory



Communications and Marketing

- **Communications Strategist, Kyle Pasche**
- Promoting factual and science-based public health messages, services, and resources
 - Print, digital, radio
 - Photography and videography
- Successful internship projects
 - NC Public Health Pathways Program
 - NC Region 5 Public Health Collaborative
- Key role in a new regional public health communications collaborative

Chatham County Public Health Department NC
November 24 at 9:24 AM · [See more](#)

Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others from many serious diseases. Research confirms that vaccines are safe and effective, and many people you know ar... [See more](#)

FACT CHECKED

VACCINES & AUTISM

- Scientists have repeatedly found no link between autism. A concern is likely involved and environmental factors.
- There is no scientific evidence linking autism to vaccines. A concern is likely involved and environmental factors.
- The increase in autism is likely due to better awareness, improved diagnosis, and updated

Chatham County Public Health Department NC
December 18 at 11:50 AM · [See more](#)

Following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's approval of the new hepatitis B vaccination recommendation issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. See more

[See translation](#)

The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, featuring two figures (a Native American and a European settler) holding a plow and a sheaf of wheat, with a ship in the background, all within a circular border with the text "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA" and the dates "MAY 20, 1775" and "APRIL 12, 1776".

NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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New Clinical Services!



HIV Prevention

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a once-a-day medication for adults and adolescents that protects against getting HIV.

After testing for HIV and other STIs, our clinic can prescribe you PrEP.

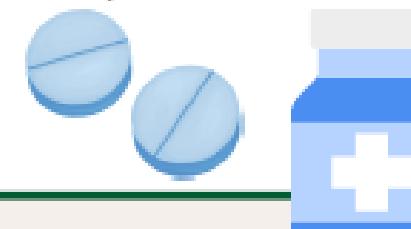
We offer PrEP to those without insurance at low-cost.

Opioid Use Treatment

Are you or is someone you know interested in treatment for opioid use?

We now offer medications (Subutex and Suboxone) to help manage opioid cravings and withdrawal symptoms.

Treatment is free for Chatham residents.
Therapy is available, but not required.



Hepatitis C Treatment

We now offer Epclusa, a once-a-day medication for 12 weeks **to treat patients with Hepatitis C at no-cost for those who qualify.**

To learn more or schedule an appointment, call (919) 742-5641!



Siler City Clinic
1000 S. Tenth Ave.
Siler City, NC 27344



Scan the QR code to learn more about our services!



www.chathamcountync.gov/clinicalservices

Well Sampling & Repair Program

- Launched new private well testing program in 2025
- Aim: To increase sampling of private wells through education and affordability
- Sliding fee based on residential building value
- Additional options for no-cost testing for households with children under 6
- Well repair program to address contamination in partnership with Preserving Home, Inc.

Grateful to Commissioners for making this possible!



Is Your Well Water Safe? Test It to Be Sure!

The Chatham County Public Health Department's Environmental Health Division recommends testing your water:

- **Every year:** Check for bacteria (Total and Fecal Coliform).
- **Every two years:** Check for metals, minerals, nitrates, and nitrites.
- **Every five years:** Check for pesticides and petroleum chemicals.



Testing is the **only** way to make sure your well water is safe to drink.
Routine well water testing can also help you catch problems **early**.

Note: Only use a lab that is certified to test water for the contaminants listed above.



Call **919-542-8208**
to learn more!



How you can support

- ❖ Amplify our public health message
- ❖ Help us promote new services and initiatives
- ❖ Continued financial support and flexibility
- ❖ Consider request for additional leadership position
 - Deputy Health Director would provide additional operations support and address span of control as we grow
- ❖ Additional compensation for bilingual staff
 - Developing incentive pay program for Spanish-speaking hires and staff would support recruitment and retention