2024 Community Assessment

Chatham County

About the Community Assessment

- Partnership between Chatham Health Alliance, Chatham County Public Health Department and UNC Health Chatham

- **How is the Community Assessment used?**
  - Meet CCPHD and Chatham Hospital accreditation
  - Understand community needs
  - Grant writing
  - Strategic planning for CHA, CCPHD, and Hospital

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Report At a Glance

Chapters

- Background
- County Description
- Data Collection Process
- Health Impact Priorities
- Life Expectancy
- Basic Necessities
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Healthcare
- Community
- Family and Education
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Substance Use
- Built Environment and Economy
- Environmental Health
- Safety
- Infectious Disease

Acknowledgements and Appendicies

- Sponsors
- Survey Data + Methodology
- Focus Group Data + Methodology

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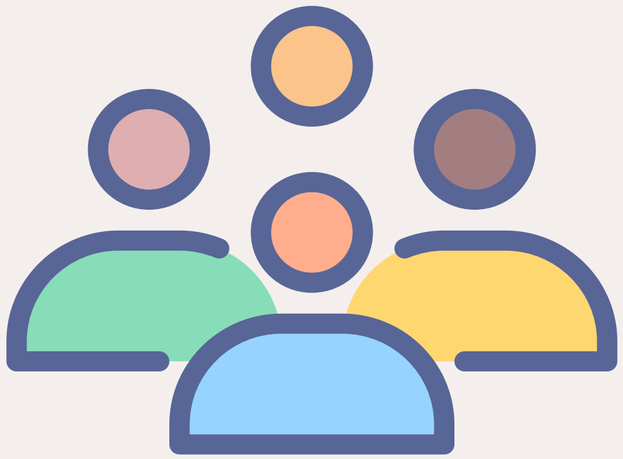
Key Findings

- Health gaps continue to affect many areas of well-being in Chatham County.
- Ongoing concerns include mental health, substance use, transportation, and jobs, with new priorities like healthcare access and youth activities.
- Growth in Chatham County brings both new opportunities and new challenges.



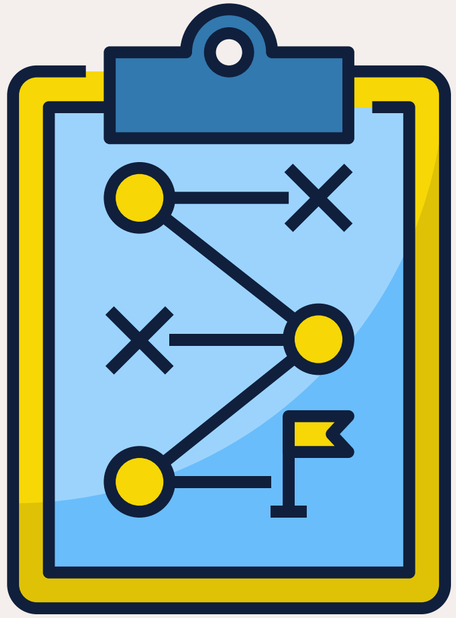
Community Priorities

1. **Infrastructure and Environment**
2. **Housing and Social Services**
3. **Healthcare**

Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.

Community Strategic Plan

- Developed using Results-Based Accountability.
- Strategic Planning Retreat Held in November 2024
- Bimonthly Action Meetings held to work on the Community Strategic Plan.



Health Impact Priorities

- **Healthcare Access**
  - 1 in 12 Chatham County adults said they did not have a health provider they usually visited when they were sick or needed advice about their health.
- **Activities for Youth and Young Adults**
  - **12%** of Chatham County youth are considered “Opportunity Youth,” or youth ages 16-24 who are not working or in school.
- **Substance Use: Treatment and Support**
  - Among Chatham County residents who looked for help with drug use, **26.4% found that help was available to them, 26.4% said it was easy to find, 20.3% said it was high quality, and 20.3% said it was affordable**.
    - 67.4% said it was none of the above.

Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.

Activities for Youth and Young Adults

All Chatham county youth and young adults have opportunities to engage in their communities through restorative, protective, relevant, and healthy activities.

- Develop a marketing and communications plan to increase the awareness of existing youth and young adult opportunities.
- Increase the availability of spaces for youth by youth through advocacy and participation in planning efforts.
- Increase the representation and participation of youth on advisory boards and commissions in the county.

Identified current marketing and communication strategies of agencies, organizations, and businesses in Chatham who provide activities for youth and young adults.

Shared use agreements for potential community spaces throughout Chatham County.

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Healthcare Access

All people in Chatham have access to the healthcare options they need and want.

- Develop an interagency physical and mental health care collaborative in Chatham County
- Develop and increase availability of nontraditional and innovative health care delivery methods, such as mobile and telehealth options.

Established a Systems Navigator network and held inaugural meeting to discuss referral processes and barriers to care.

Established a Healthcare Leadership Collaborative and held inaugural meeting to share agency and program updates and align priorities.

Working on a plan to increase mobile health events by collaborating with agencies with mobile health units.

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Substance Use: Treatment and Support

Everyone in Chatham County has the ability to live healthy, full lives regardless of any substance use impacts.

- Establish a referral process between substance use treatment facilities and programs and healthcare providers.
- Develop a county wide communications plan for substance use resources.
- Increase the number of community spaces available to people in Chatham County.
- Advocate for policies that support the building and maintenance of recovery housing in Chatham County.

Behavioral Health/Substance Use provider list created and provided to healthcare providers to improve referral process.

Added a question about marketing and information sharing to Opioid Settlement Funds application.

Exploring using the Community Resource Hub to provide peer support and resources to the community.

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Data Overview

- **Basic Necessities**
  - *Housing*
    - Median monthly housing costs rose nearly 10%
      - **$983** to **$1076** *(2020-2022)*
  - *Food Insecurity*
    - 12.6% of Chatham residents were food insecure,
      - Average meal costs have increased by over **$0.70** since 2019, now **$4.27.**

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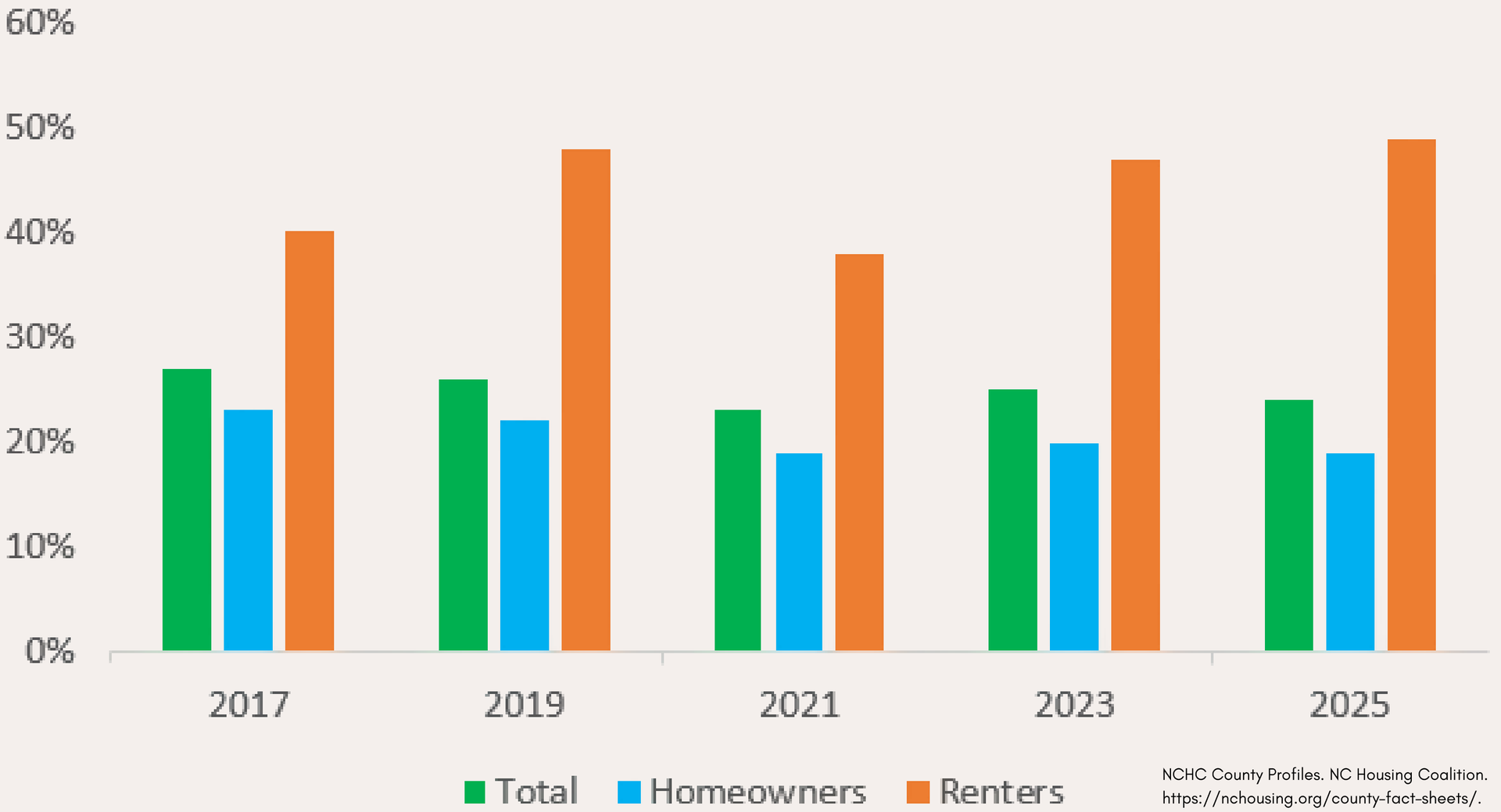
[1]S2503: Financial Characteristics. 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables. United States Census. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S2503?q=S2503:%20Financial%20Characteristics&g=160XX00US3761860
[2]Map the Meal Gap. Feeding America. https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/overall/north-carolina.

Cost Burden Rates in Chatham County

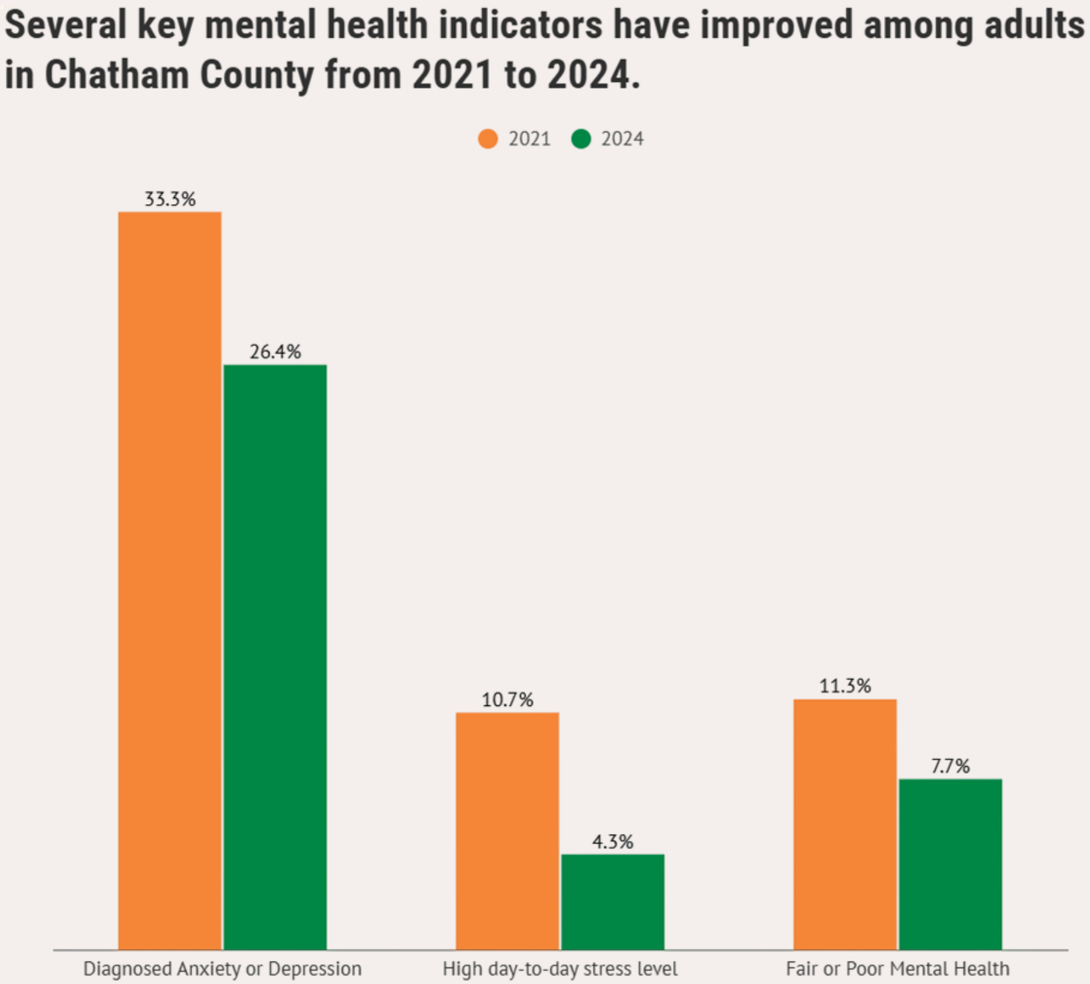


NCHC County Profiles. NC Housing Coalition. https://nchousing.org/county-fact-sheets/.

Data Overview

- **Mental Health**
  - In 2024, **26.4%** of Chatham adults reported that they had been diagnosed with depression or anxiety
  - In 2021, **40.5%** of Chatham County high school students said they had felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row
    - Highest for Black female students

[1]Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024
[2]Chatham County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Chatham County Schools. 2021.
[3] Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham County Public Health Department. 2021.

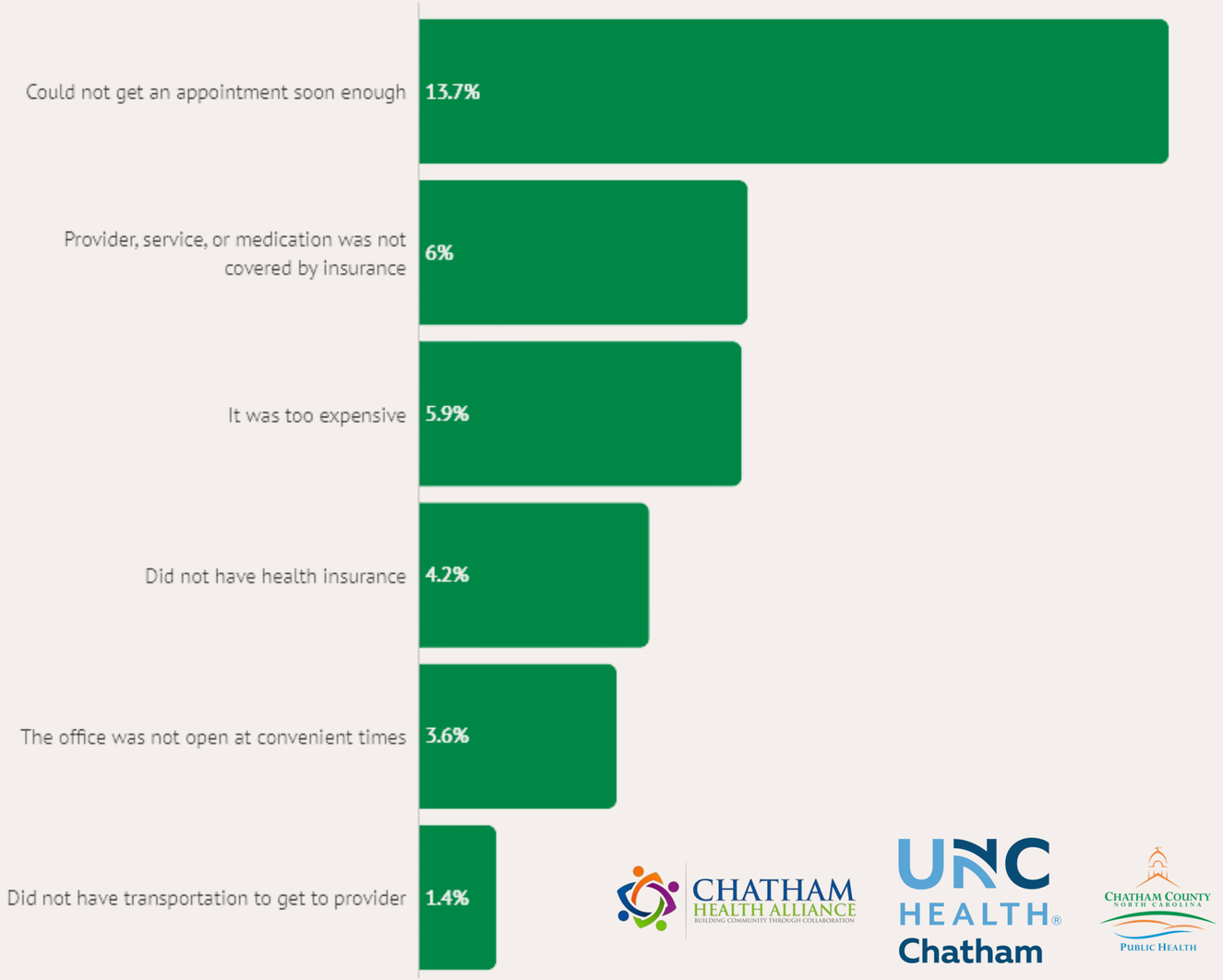


Data Overview

- **Healthcare**
  - Around **1 in 8** Chatham County adults do not have health insurance
    - Hispanic/Latino adults in Chatham County were much more likely to report they did not have health insurance in the past year
  - About **26%** of Chatham residents without a regular healthcare provider say lack of health insurance is a barrier.

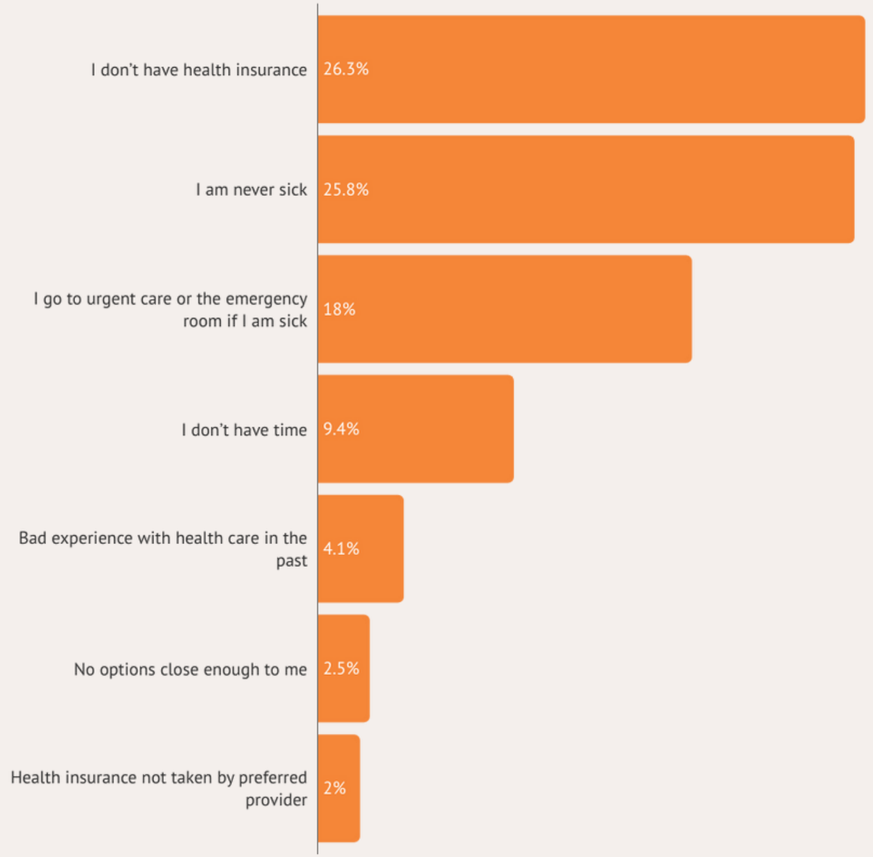
[1]S2701: Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables Chatham. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2701?q=Health+Insurance&g=050XX00US37037.
[2] Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.

Not being able to get an appointment soon enough is the top barrier to healthcare access in Chatham County.

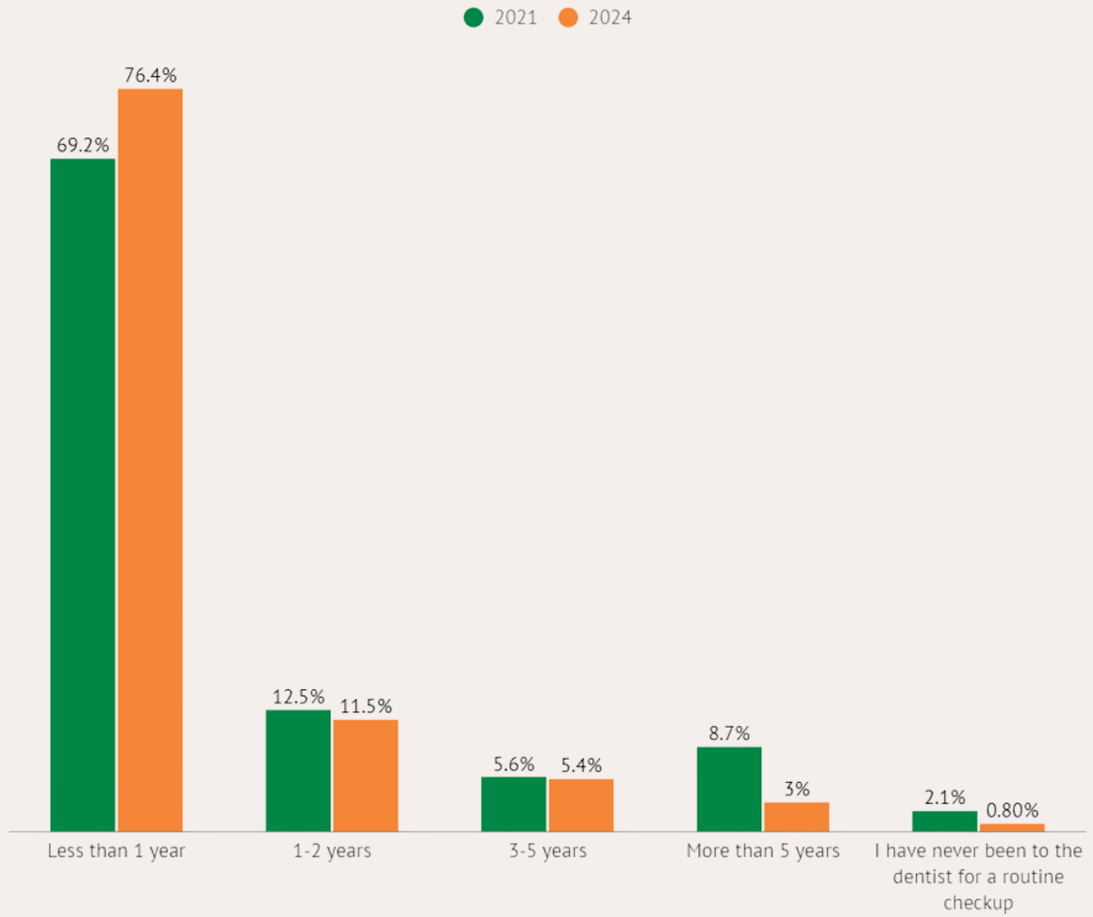


Data Overview

Not having health insurance is the top barrier to having a regular health provider in Chatham County.



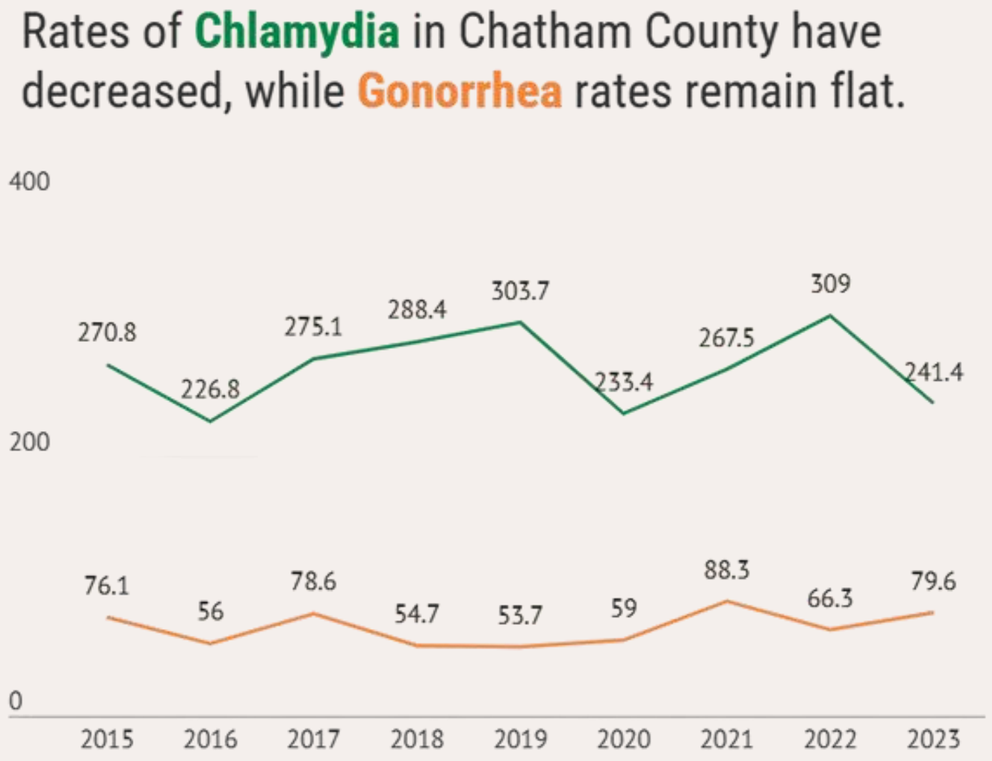
Chatham County residents were more likely to report a recent routine dental visit in 2024 vs. 2021.



Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.

Data Overview

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health**
  - In Chatham County, the most common STIs are chlamydia and gonorrhea
    - Chatham has fewer reported cases per population than North Carolina or the U.S.

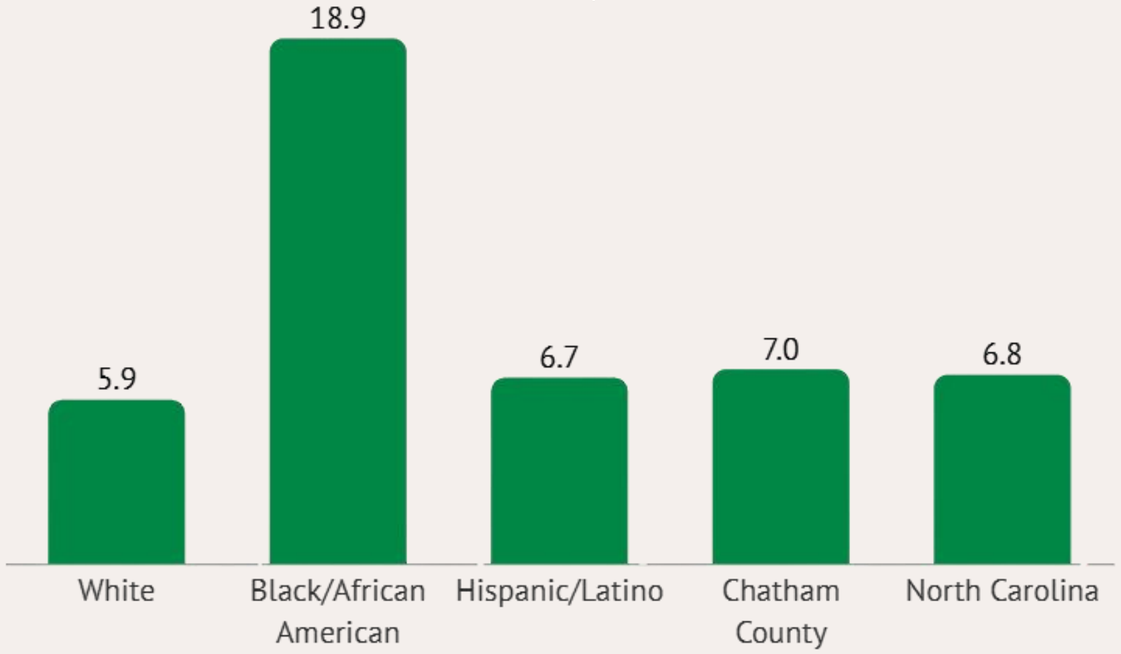


[1]NCDHHS. NCD3: North Carolina Disease Data Dashboard. https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/figures.html.

Data Overview

Infant mortality for Black/African American Chatham County residents is higher than for other groups.

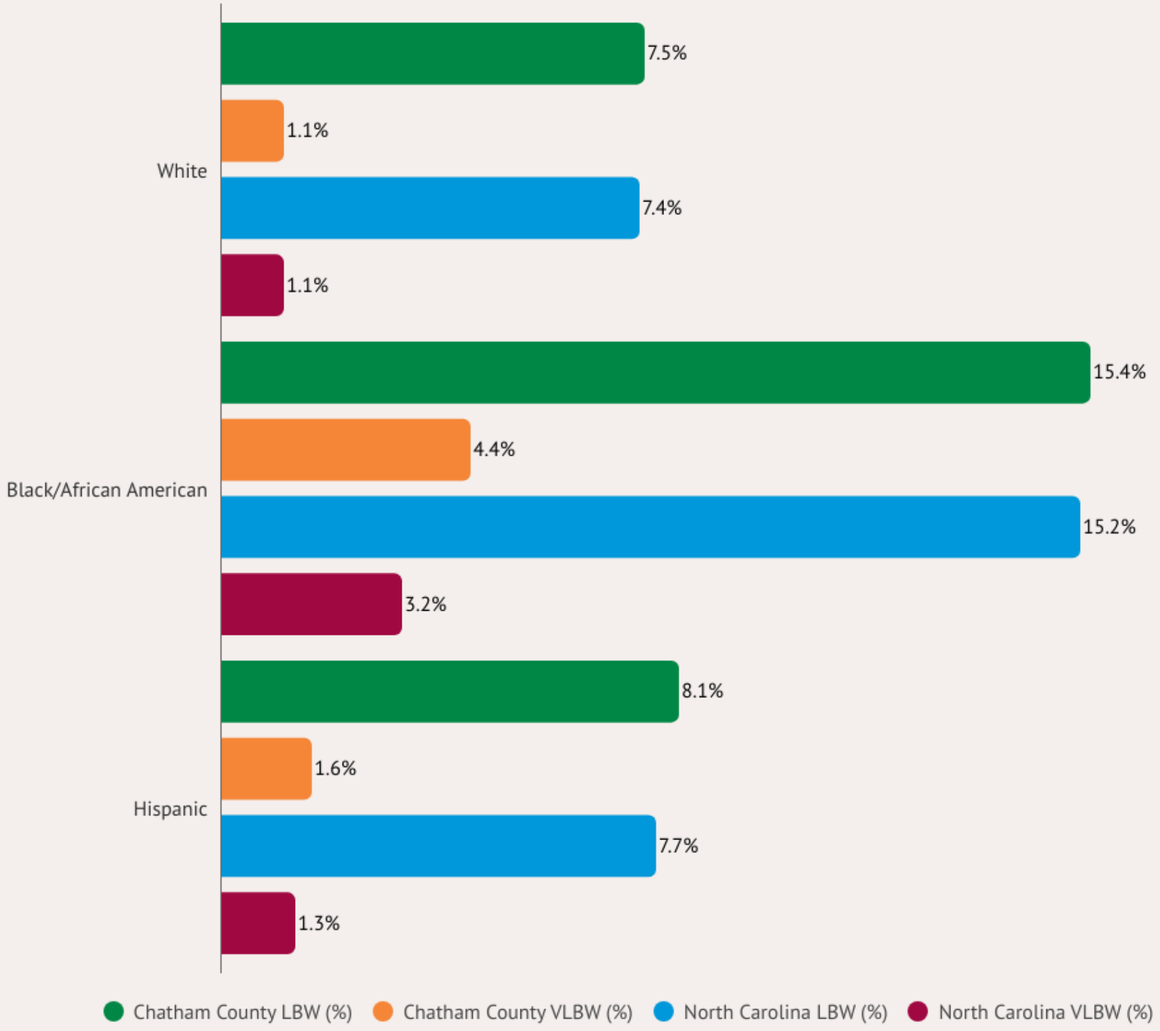
**deaths per 100,000 births*



Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.

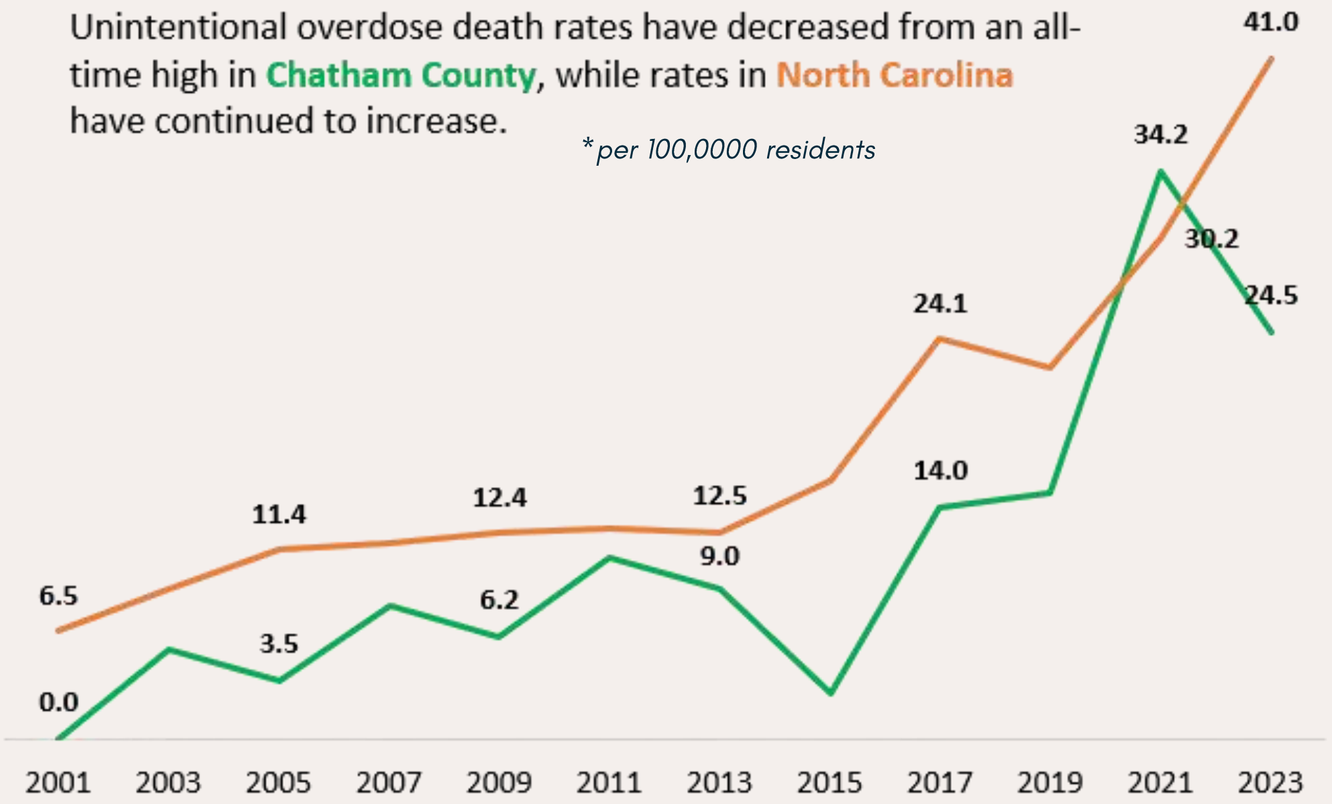
Black/African American residents experience a higher percentage of low and very low birth weights in the county and the state.

This is also true for Hispanic/Latino residents.



Data Overview

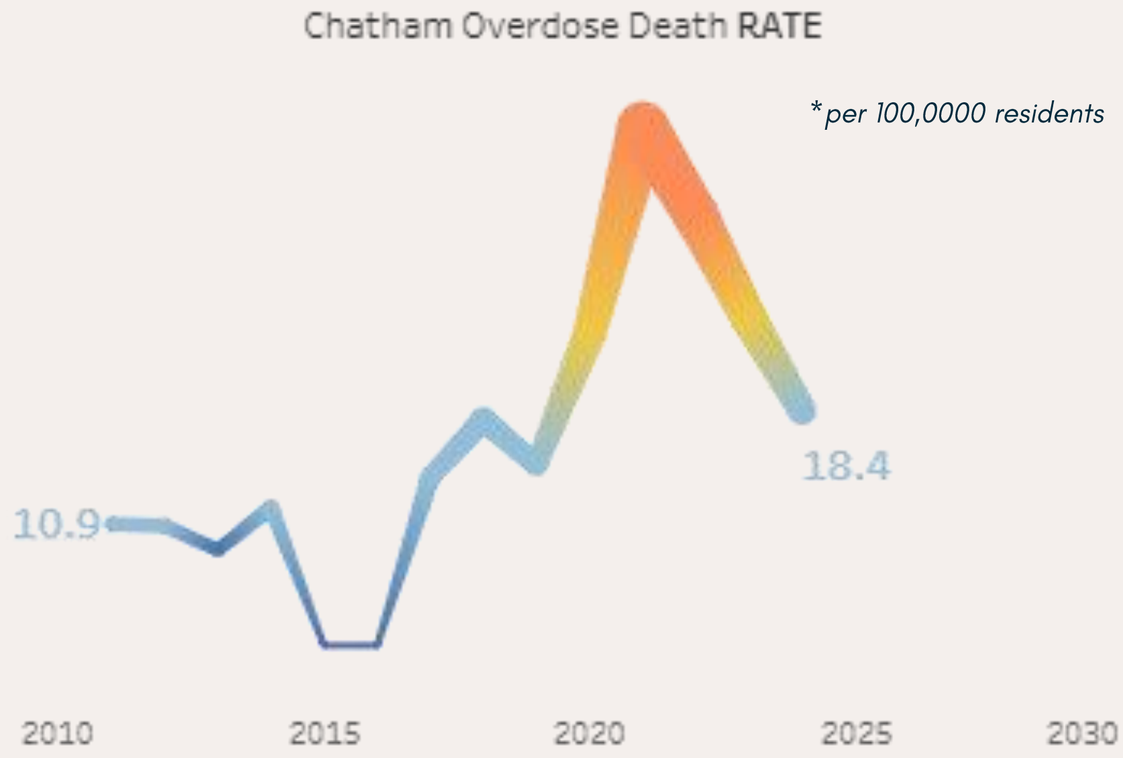
- **Substance Use**
  - **2.4%** of Chatham County adults reported using illicit substances in the past year *(2024)*
  - Chatham County had **37.4 opioid overdose ER visits per 100,000** residents *(vs. NC 119 per 100k)*
    - ***40%*** *decline from 2023*



[1]Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.
[2]Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan Data Dashboard. NC Department of Health and Human Services. https://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioid-and-substance-use-action-plan-data-dashboard. .

Data Overview

- **Substance Use**
  - 2024 Overdose Death Rate
    - 25% decrease from 2023
      - *18.4 out of 100,000 residents vs 24.5*
    - Mirrors local and national trends



[1]Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan Data Dashboard. NC Department of Health and Human Services. https://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioid-and-substance-use-action-plan-data-dashboard. .

Data Overview

- **Built Environment and Economy**
  - *Infrastructure*
    - **1 in 5** Chatham County adults want more sidewalks and bike lanes to improve health and quality of life.
  - *Transportation Barriers*
    - No sidewalks **(1 in 7 adults)**
      - Hispanic/Latino adults were more likely to report not being able to afford gas.
      - Women were more likely to report not being able to afford a vehicle.

[1]Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance; 2024.

Data Overview

- **Environmental Health and Equity**
  - *Water Quality*
    - **57%** of residents who prioritized infrastructure and the environment said water quality was their top concern.
      - **21%** of Chatham County wells test above the maximum contaminant level for iron and **33%** test above for manganese (out of 1,544 and 1,539 tested wells)
  - *Heat*
    - Heat-related emergency room visits increased by **30%** in 2024 (vs. 2021)

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[1]Chatham County Community Survey. Chatham Health Alliance. 2024.
[2]North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Chatham County Well Water Quality. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/wellwater/county_A-I/chatham.pdf.
[3]Chatham News & Record. Chatham County Makes Plan to Keep Cool. June 27, 2024. https://chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/chatham-county-makes-plan-to-keep-cool,16993.

Next Steps

- **2024 Community Assessment reveals improvements to health in the county, while disparities remain**
- Our plan to disseminate the Community Assessment includes:
  - *A large book*
  - *A small booklet*
  - *Community presentations*
  - *Media (TV, radio and more)*
  - *Social Media*
- Print materials will be available for the public

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Report available online: www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports

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