

CHATHAM COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT



COASTAL GEORGIA INDICATORS COALITION, INC.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Chair: Melanie Wilson
Metropolitan Planning Commission

Treasurer: Linda Cramer
Chatham County

Secretary: Phylicia Anderson
Gateway Community Service Board

Board Member Emeritus: Dr. Otis Johnson

Board Member: Leia Dedic
united way of the coastal empire

Board Member: Taffanye Young
City of Savannah

Executive Director: Kim Clifton

Director of Programs and Partnerships: Tara Jones

Dear Community Partners,

On behalf of the board of directors of Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC), I want to express our deep appreciation for the steadfast support over this past year. As we reflect on the progress we've made together, it is clear that our collective efforts continue to drive meaningful change across our community.

This year we have focused on strategic initiatives that address critical needs throughout Chatham County and the broader Coastal Georgia region. The vital work we are doing to create a healthier, more equitable, and resilient community depends entirely on the collaboration and partnership of organizations like yours.

Our coalition continues to provide invaluable access to community-level indicators and data that inform decision-making across multiple sectors. Beyond data accessibility, CGIC has been instrumental in facilitating partnerships and supporting systems-level change across areas including mental health services, early childhood development, trauma-informed practices, housing stability, and community resilience.

With a decade of work behind us at CGIC, we look to the future, and we ask for your continued commitment to help drive positive change in our community. Residents in our region continue to face significant challenges, and it takes all of us working together to remove barriers and achieve the progress we know our community is capable of when we collaborate for the greater good. Thank you for your continued dedication and support. We are grateful to have you as a partner in this important work, and we look forward to achieving even greater success together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,



Kim Clifton, Executive Director
Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition



ABOUT US

Convening

- Public and private stakeholders
- Community organizations
- Residents

Data Measurement

- Local, regional and national indicators

Partnerships

- Sponsors
- Public, private and government resources

Strategic Alignment

- Community Blueprint
- Healthy People 2030 Framework
- Plan 2040

Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, Inc. (CGIC) is a group of community members and advocates working together for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to planning and accountability. The goal of CGIC is to improve community well-being by engaging and leading the public, civic and private sectors to work collectively in development of strategic priorities that guide policy, programs and resource allocation. The Coalition addresses the growing need to better assess the position and progress of our community's well-being using community-level indicators and performance measures in four priority areas as outline in the *Chatham Community Blueprint*: Economy, Education, Health, and Quality of Life. CGIC serves as the responsible organization for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the *Blueprint* which includes timelines for short, mid- and long-term work to drive future action of the commission and other boards and councils operating in the community. The *Blueprint* strategically moves the community towards the accomplishment of specified goals within the four priority areas.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL
CENTER FOR
EARLY LANGUAGE
AND LITERACY
AT GEORGIA COLLEGE

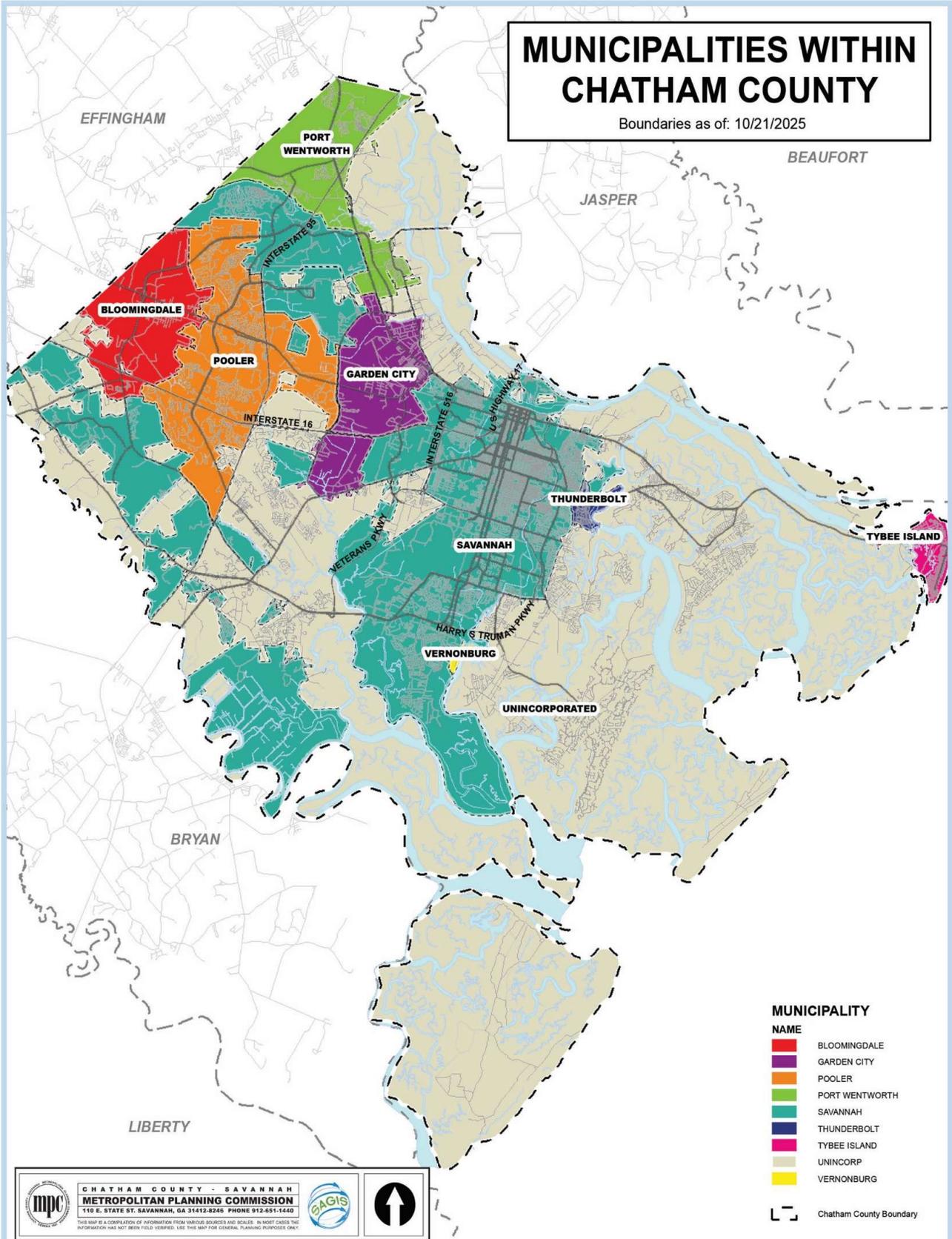


CHATHAM COUNTY
family connection

CHATHAM COUNTY

MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN CHATHAM COUNTY

Boundaries as of: 10/21/2025



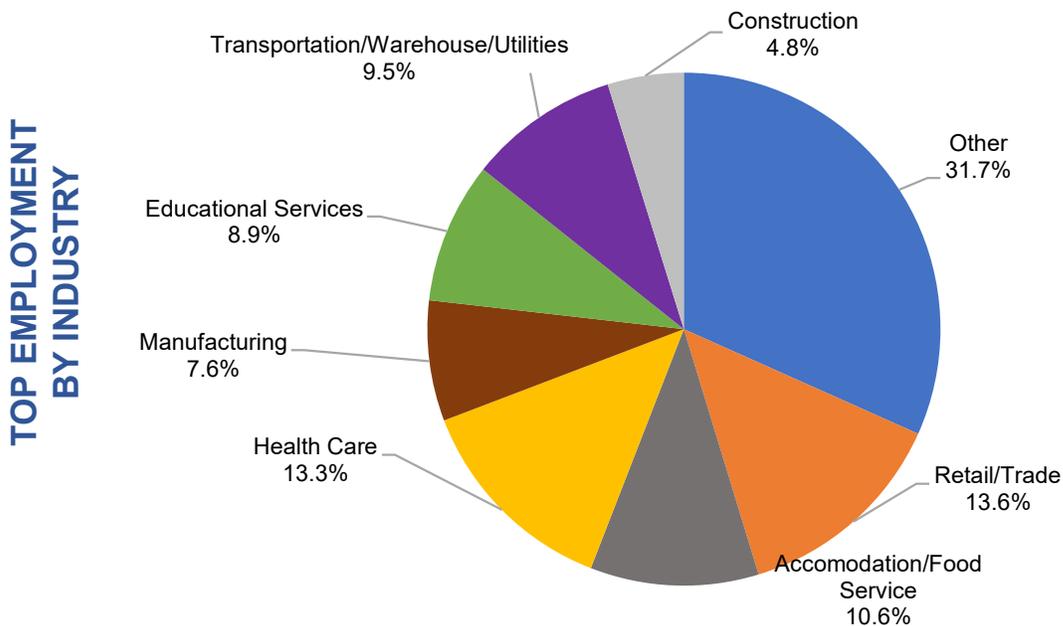
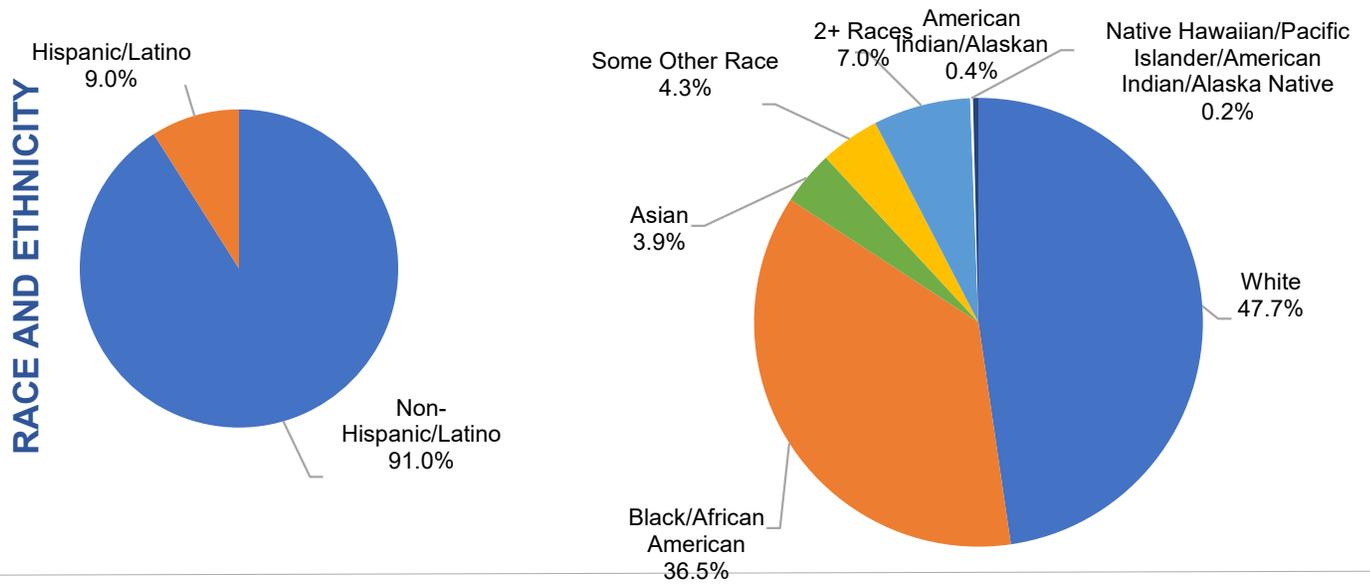
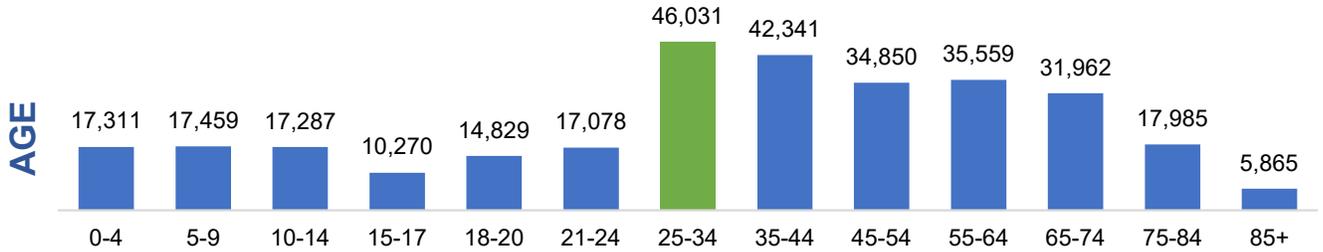
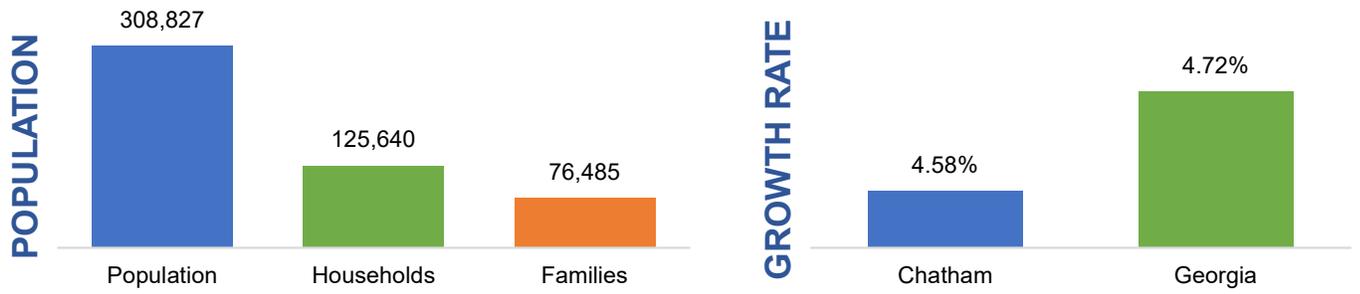

CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
 110 S. STATE ST. SAVANNAH, GA 31412-3245 PHONE 912-551-1449



THIS MAP IS A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND SCALES. IN MOST CASES THE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED. USE THIS MAP FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

MUNICIPALITY	
NAME	
■	BLOOMINGDALE
■	GARDEN CITY
■	POOLER
■	PORT WENTWORTH
■	SAVANNAH
■	THUNDERBOLT
■	TYBEE ISLAND
■	UNINCORP
■	VERNONBURG
	Chatham County Boundary

DEMOGRAPHICS DASHBOARD



Priority Area: Economy

VISION

Chatham County anchors a thriving, business-friendly, regional economy in which all workers are prepared for quality jobs and residents feel empowered to attain a high quality of life.

GOAL 1 Using accurate and reliable data, link current and projected needs of employers through the development of apprenticeship and vocational programs for the placement of individuals with quality employment leading to self-sufficiency.

GOAL 2 Increase economic mobility by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs.

GOAL 3 Implement outreach and programming that leads to economically inclusive entrepreneurial growth and innovation through the enhanced presence of small business support services and collaboration among local businesses.

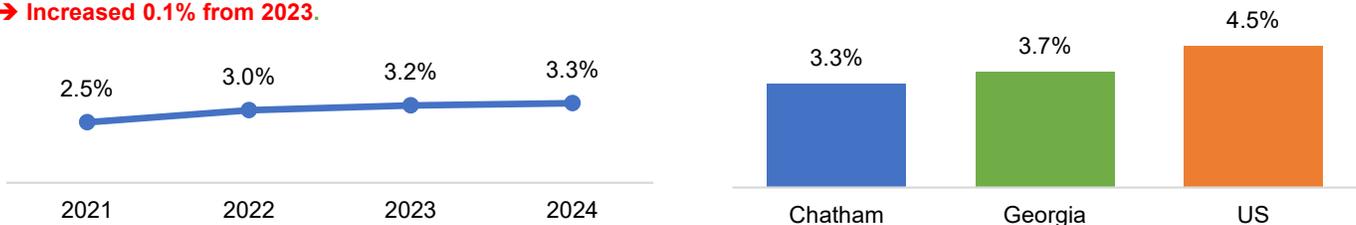
Economy Indicators

KEY INDICATOR A (PART A): UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

As of October 2024, 3.3% of civilians, 16 years of age and over, are unemployed in the Chatham County labor force.

→ Increased 0.1% from 2023.

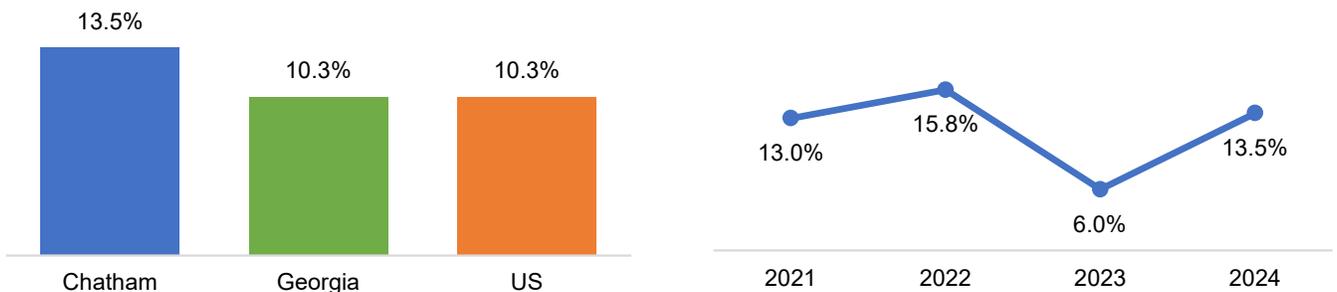


KEY INDICATOR A (PART B): YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

In 2024, 13.5% of civilian youth, ages 16-24, were unemployed in the Chatham County labor force.

→ Increased 7.5% from 2023.



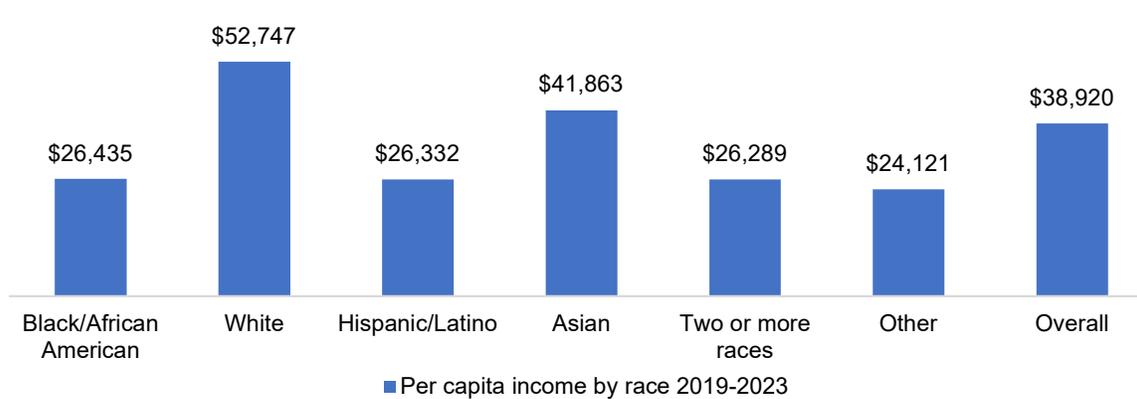
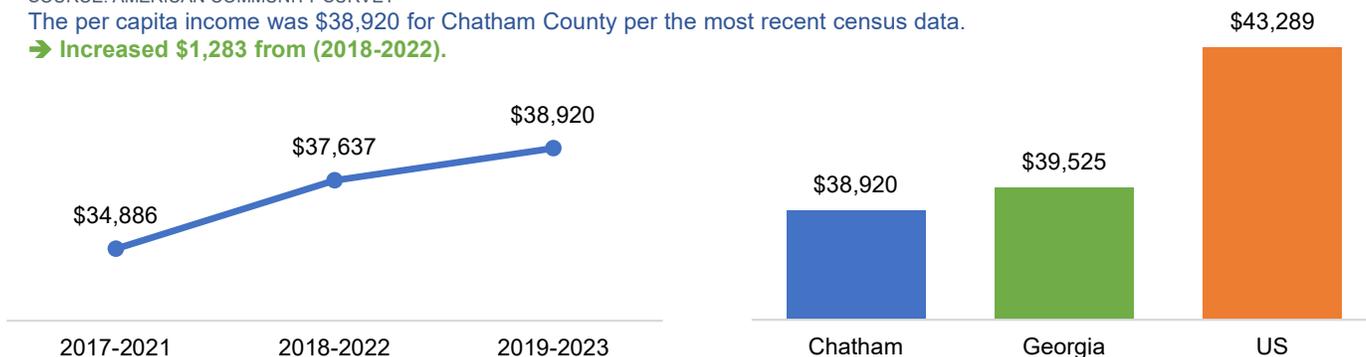
Economy Indicators

KEY INDICATOR B: PER CAPITA INCOME

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The per capita income was \$38,920 for Chatham County per the most recent census data.

→ Increased \$1,283 from (2018-2022).

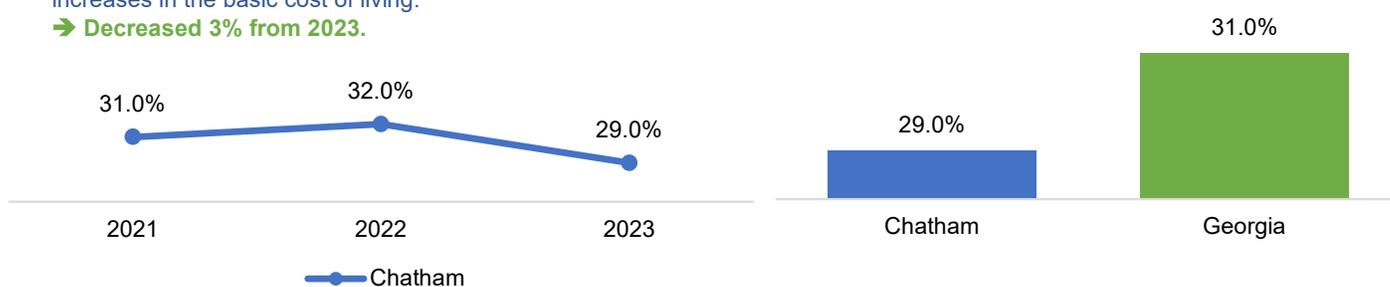


ALICE (ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED)

SOURCE: UNITED FOR ALICE

ALICE households represent men and women of all ages and races who are working but unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, childcare, health care, and transportation due to the lack of jobs that can support basic necessities and increases in the basic cost of living.

→ Decreased 3% from 2022.



HOUSEHOLDS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

SOURCE: UNITED FOR ALICE

This indicator shows the percentage of households with annual incomes below the federal poverty level. → Increased 1% since 2022.



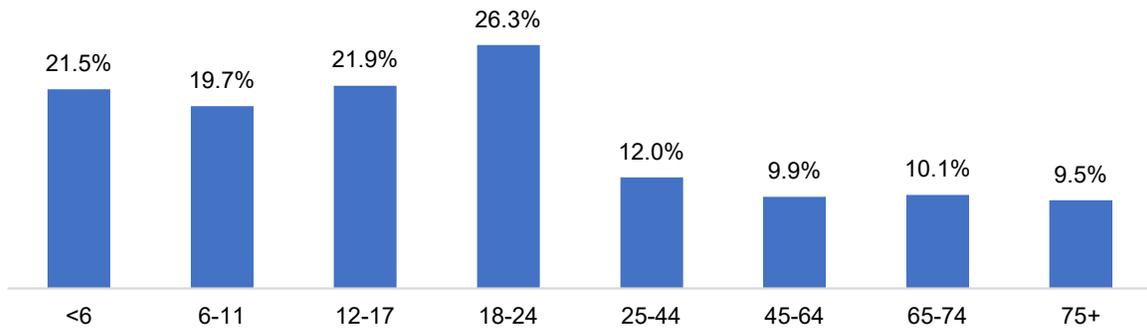
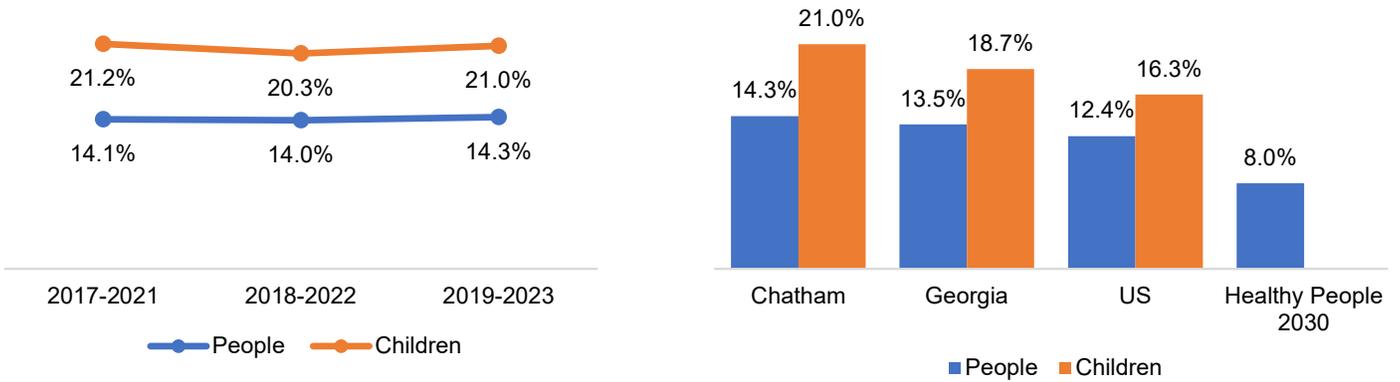
Economy Indicators

KEY INDICATOR C : LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Chatham County rate for people living below the poverty level was 14.3% per the most recent census data. The rate for children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level was 21.0%

- People living below poverty level increased 0.3% from (2018-2022).
- Children living below poverty level increased 0.7% from (2018-2022).

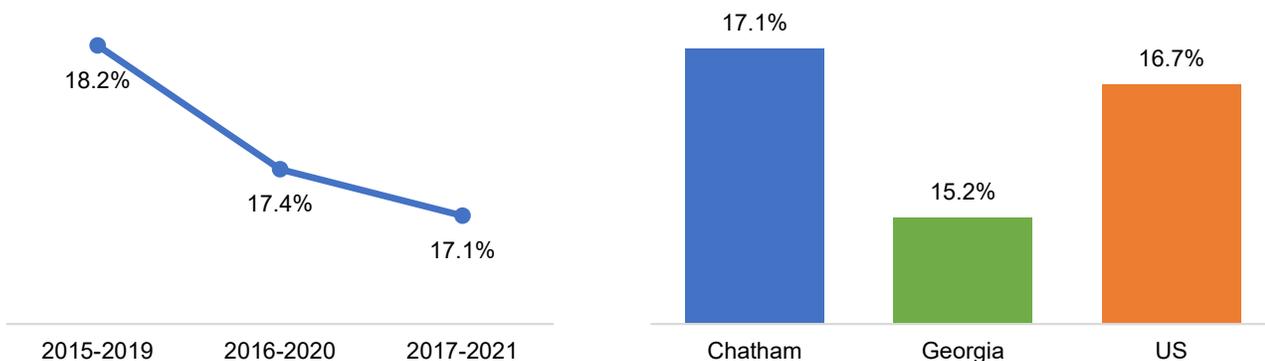


■ People living below poverty by age 2018-2022

KEY INDICATOR D: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEM

SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Chatham County had 17.1% of residents living in conditions with an increased exposure to mold, mildew, pest infestation and other environmental hazards per the most recent County Health Rankings data. → Decreased 0.3% from (2016-2020).



Priority Area: Education

VISION

From early childhood education through post-secondary achievement, Chatham County's innovative and inclusive educational systems are a model of academic excellence that enable students to have the knowledge, skills and ability to succeed at their chosen pathways.

GOAL 1 Ensure equitable access of critical life skills including financial, social, and conflict resolution skills are available to parents/legal guardians and taught to all students through the use of technology, community partnerships, and counseling.

GOAL 2 Implement career track, internship, and mentorship programs between employers and students; while increasing leadership development programs between community organizations, businesses, and public schools to prepare students for employment and promote upward mobility.

GOAL 3 Promote parental involvement in schools by teaching parents to advocate for their child(ren), facilitating better communication between parents and school leadership, and eliminating barriers to parent engagement.

GOAL 4 Ensure families and community members have the ability to promote and reinforce literacy and numeracy instruction that takes place in a student's learning environment.

Education Indicators

ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN AGED 0-4 IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

SOURCE: GEORGIA'S CROSS AGENCY CHILD DATA SYSTEM

Information from Georgia's Cross Agency Child Data System (GA CACDS) summarizes participation for children ages 0-4 in early childhood services at state and county levels. The system identifies service gaps, creates opportunities for analysis and research, and provides an aligned and integrated approach to demonstrate how the state is meeting the needs of its youngest learners. All data has been updated from previous years.

CHATHAM COUNTY	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Babies Can't Wait	3.3%	3.3%	3.5%
Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)	7.4%	9.7%	10.2%
Children 1st	6.4%	8.0%	6.2%
Early Head Start	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%
Head Start	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%
Home Visiting	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%
Preschool Special Education	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%

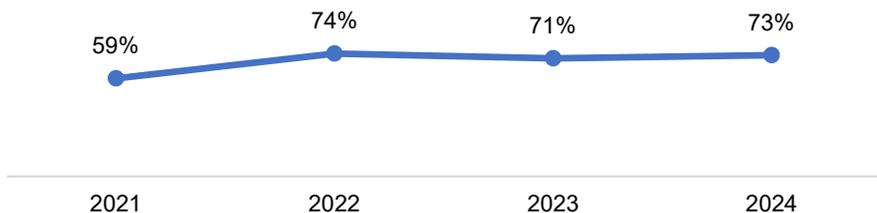
Education Indicators

KEY INDICATOR A: QUALITY RATED CHILDCARE CENTERS

SOURCE: CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

In Chatham County, 73% of out-of-home child-care settings were Quality Rated in 2024.

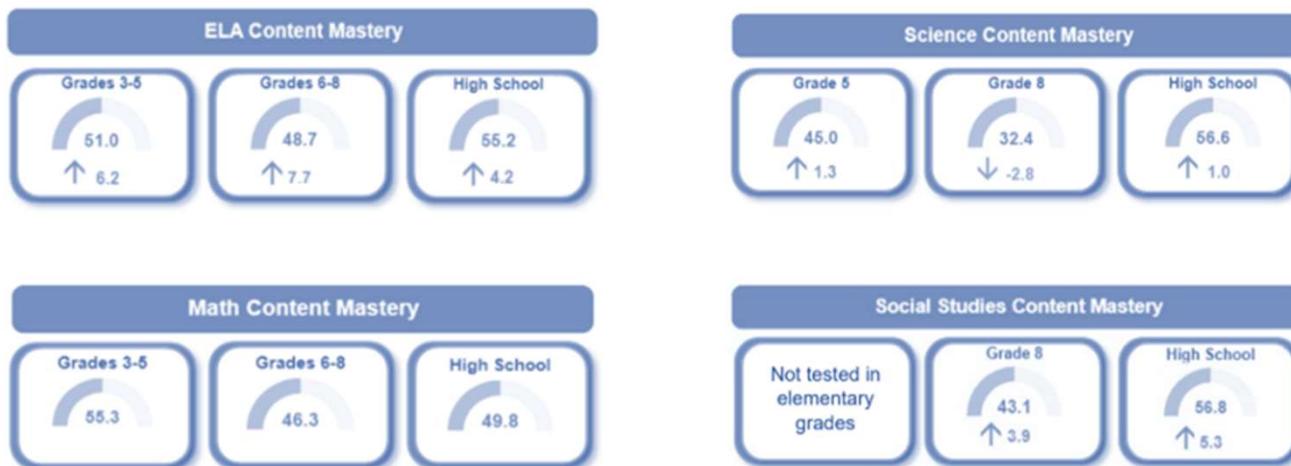
➔ Increased 2% from 2023.



DISTRICT PERFORMANCE FAST FACTS

SOURCE: SAVANNAH CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

SCCPSS earned gains across nearly all content areas and grade bands in SY 2024. ELA and Math showed the strongest overall gains, with nearly all schools improving ELA achievement and nearly all secondary schools improving math proficiency. Reading on Grade Level rates improved alongside overall ELA achievement. The district also saw Content Mastery gains in Social Studies across all grade bands and in Science at elementary and high school levels. Middle grades science was the only area showing a slight decline.



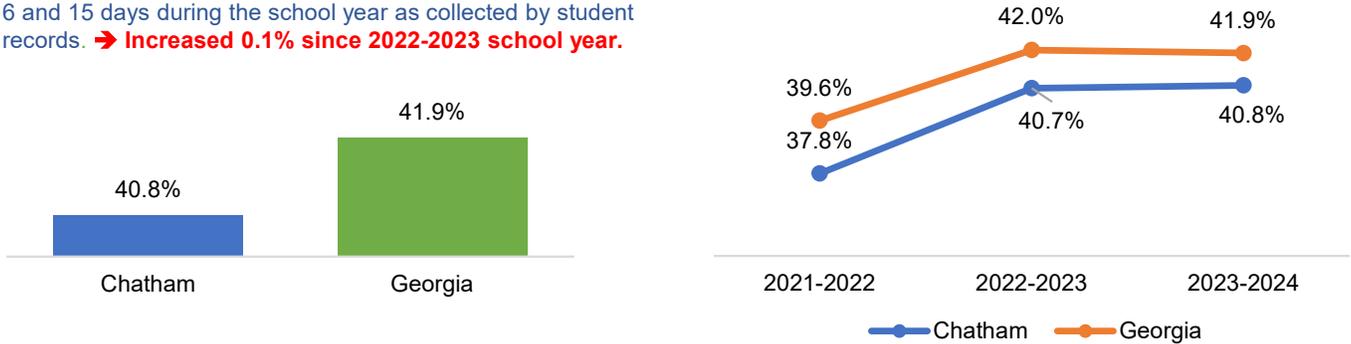
- English Language Arts (ELA) Content Mastery scores ranged from 48.7 in middle grades to 55.2 in high school.
- ELA Content Mastery improved across all grade bands with gains of 4.2 points in high school, 6.2 points in elementary grades, and 7.7 points in middle grades.
- Math Content Mastery scores ranged from 46.3 in middle grades to 55.3 in elementary grades.
- Math Content Mastery scores are not comparable to previous years due to the change in math standards in SY 2023-2024.
- Science Content Mastery scores ranged from 32.4 in 8th grade to 56.6 in high school Biology.
- Content Mastery increased by 1.3 points in Grade 5 Science and 1 point in high school Biology but declined by 2.8 points in 8th Grade Science.
- Social Studies Content Mastery was 43.1 in 8th grade and 56.8 in high school U.S. History.
- Social Studies Content Mastery improved by nearly 4 points in middle grades and more than 5 points in high school.

Education Indicators

ATTENDANCE

SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This indicator displays the percent of students missing between 6 and 15 days during the school year as collected by student records. → **Increased 0.1% since 2022-2023 school year.**



CONTENT MASTERY

SOURCE: SCCPSS DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

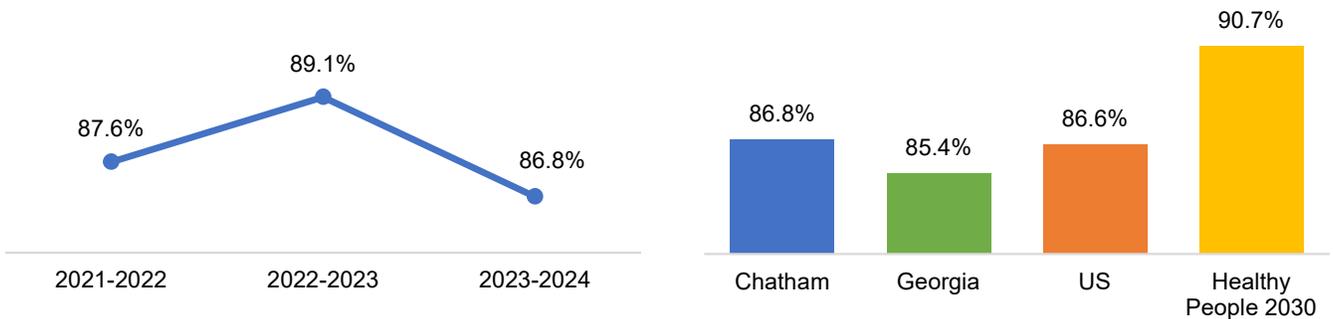
Content Mastery shows the percentage of SCCPSS students achieving at the level necessary to be prepared for the next grade, college, or career. These measures are for the 2023-2024 school year. → **All increased since school year 2022-2023.**



KEY INDICATOR E: GRADUATION RATE

SOURCE: SCCPSS DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

86.8% of SCCPSS students graduated from high school in school year 2023-2024. This includes data from the 4-year cohort. → **Decreased 2.3% from school year 2022-2023.**

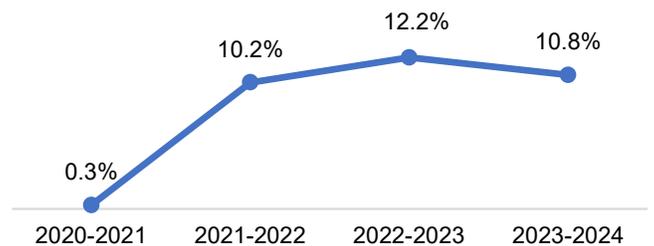


PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIOR INCIDENTS

SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This indicator shows the percent of students with a discipline incident. Incidents may result in In School Suspension, Out of School Suspension, or Expulsion.

→ **Decreased 1.4% from school year 2022-2023. (Public schools were not attended in person or were hybrid during the 2020-2021 school year.)**



Priority Area: Health

VISION

Chatham County has a culture of health including equal access to quality and affordable healthcare, chronic disease prevention, health inclusive policies, and environmental design.

GOAL 1 Effectively address mental health by educating the public and reducing stigma, increasing early intervention programs, removing gaps and barriers, and increasing access to treatment including returning and detained residents, children, adolescents, and the homeless.

GOAL 2 Invest in community-based and employer-based health resources to increase health equality by providing access to preventive health services, health education and strategies to encourage individuals and families to adopt healthy behaviors.

GOAL 3 Instill healthy practices in schools by providing comprehensive health education, nutrient-rich foods, opportunities for physical activity, and prevention education including resiliency skills (emotional intelligence) towards behavioral health.

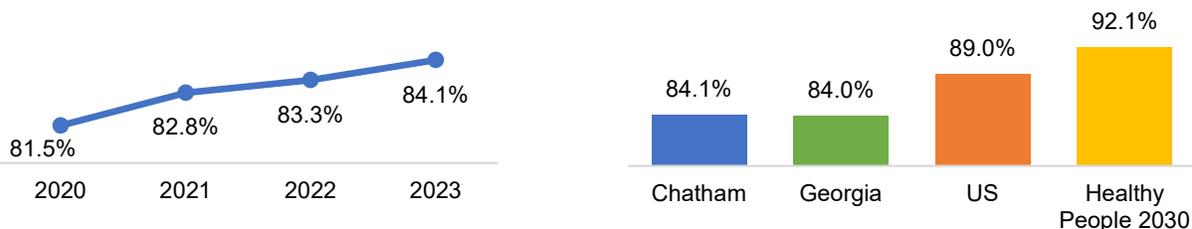
GOAL 4 Increase access to healthy food for populations that are most likely to be food-insecure such as older adults, children, those in poverty, and those that live in food apartheid areas.

Health Indicators

KEY INDICATOR A (PART A): ADULTS WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

SOURCE: SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES

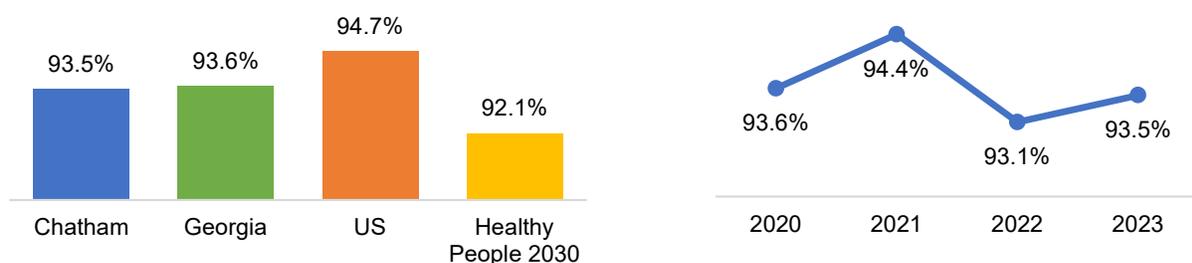
In 2023, 84.1% of adults aged 18-64 years old in Chatham County have health insurance. → Increased 0.8% from 2022.



KEY INDICATOR A (PART B): CHILDREN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

SOURCE: SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES

In 2023, 93.5% of children 18 years old and younger in Chatham County have health insurance. → Increased 0.4% from 2022.



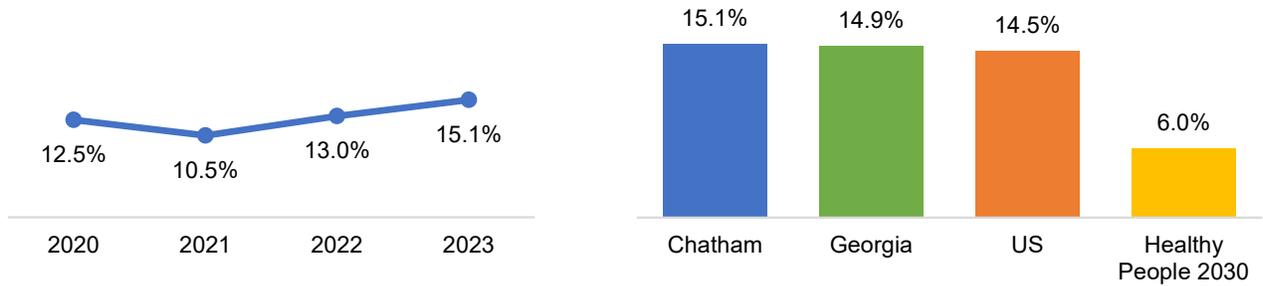
Health Indicators

KEY INDICATOR B: FOOD INSECURITY RATE

SOURCE: FEEDING AMERICA

15.1% of Chatham County residents are food insecure in 2023.

➔ Increased 2.1% from 2022.

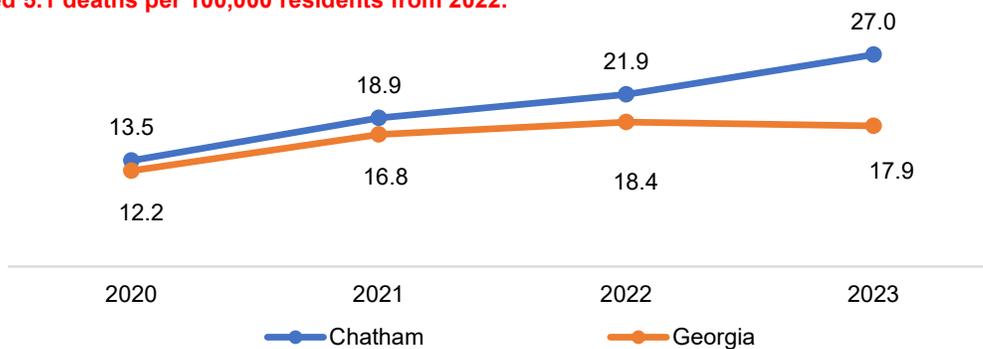


AGE ADJUSTED DEATH RATE DUE TO OPIOID OVERDOSE

SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2023, 27 deaths from opioid overdose occurred per 100,000 residents in Chatham County. A total of 76 deaths related to opioid overdose were reported in Chatham County in 2023, making the county tied for 5th in Georgia for the highest number of opioid overdose related deaths. (Figures have been updated for previous year based on DPH data.)

➔ Increased 5.1 deaths per 100,000 residents from 2022.

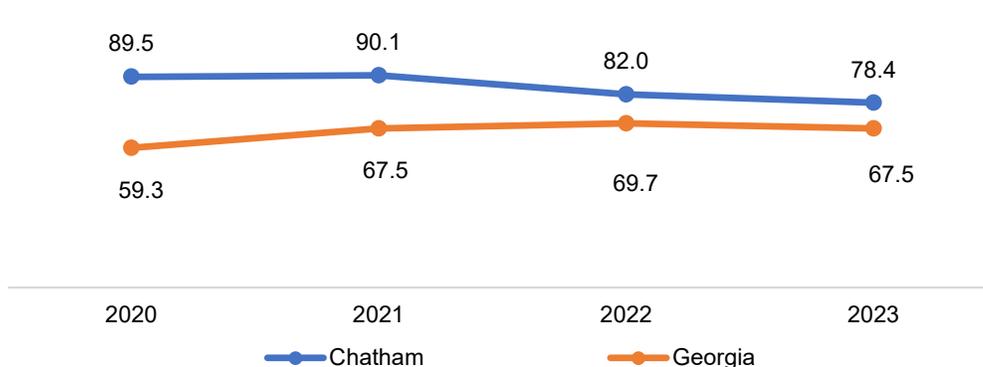


AGE ADJUSTED ER RATE DUE TO OPIOID OVERDOSE

SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2023, the ER rate due to opioid overdose rose to 78.4 visits per 100,000 residents. The rate in Chatham County has been consistently higher each year than the rate for the state of Georgia.

➔ Decreased 3.6 ER visits per 100,000 residents from 2022.

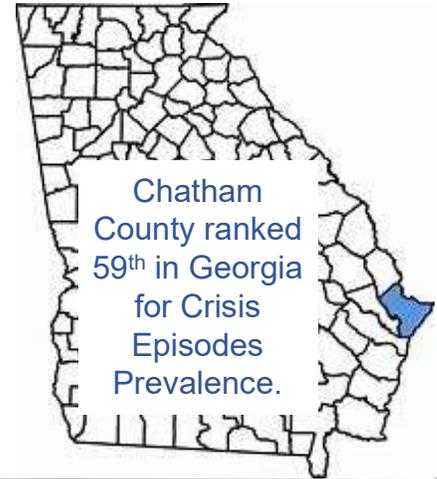


Health Indicators

988 SUICIDE CRISIS LINE

SOURCE: 988 CRISIS LINE

The 988 Suicide Crisis Line established in July 2022 to improve access to crisis services in a way that meets our country's growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs. 988 provides easier access to the Lifeline network and related crisis resources. This data is from January-December 2024.



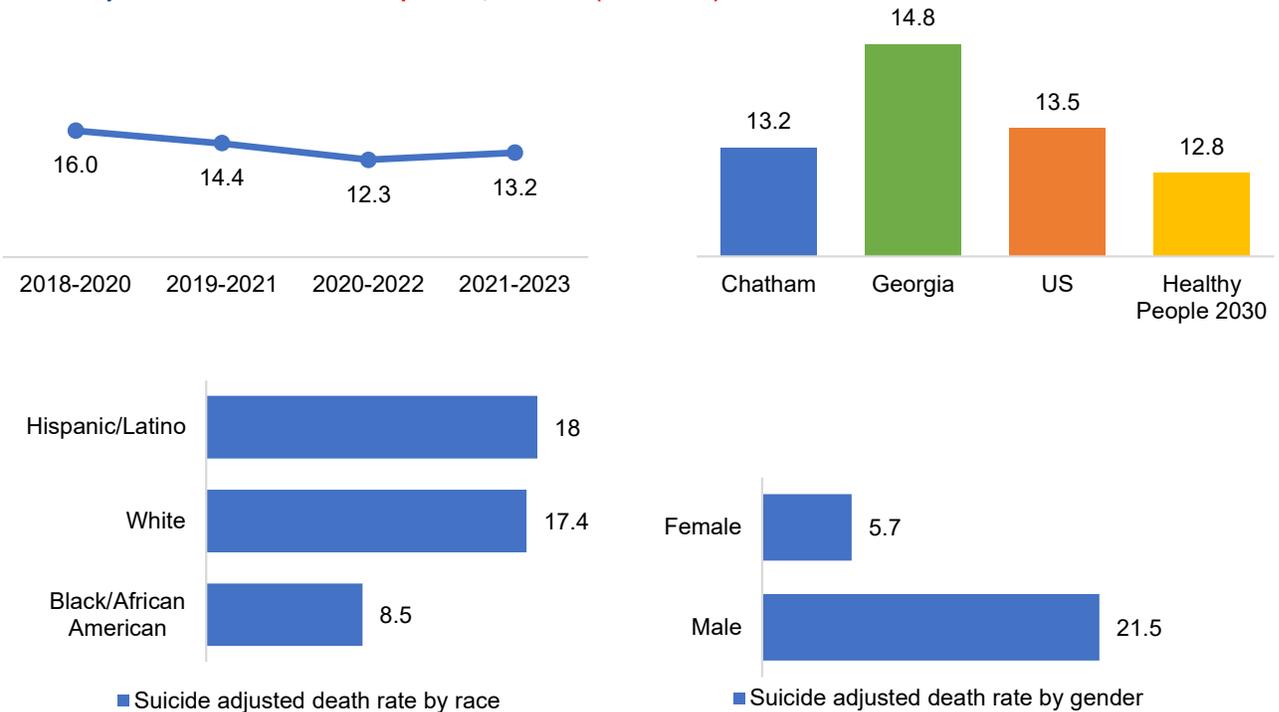
Jan-Dec 2024
2,558 crisis episodes
from Chatham County

Jan-Dec 2024
3.1% of statewide crisis
episodes were from
Chatham County

AGE ADJUSTED DEATH RATE DUE TO SUICIDE

SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OASIS

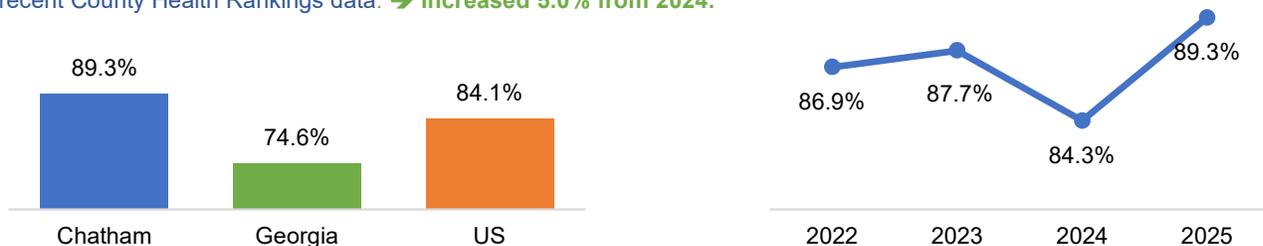
Per the most recent OASIS data, there were 13.2 deaths per 100,000 residents of Chatham County. → Increased 0.9 deaths per 100,000 from (2020-2022).



KEY INDICATOR D: ACCESS TO EXERCISE OPPORTUNITIES

SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

89.3% of Chatham County residents have some access to exercise opportunities per the most recent County Health Rankings data. → Increased 5.0% from 2024.



Data Sources

Data forms the foundation for analysis and provides insights in decision-making. It highlights how evaluations guide future actions, reveal inefficiencies and habits, uncover gaps and opportunities, and support informed choices for businesses and organizations. Additionally, data helps optimize strategies, solve problems, and strengthens arguments.

The Chatham Community Blueprint relies on data to determine progress made towards goals and objectives, and to discover areas where unmet needs persist.

These are just a few of the data sources used to compile the 2025 Chatham Community Blueprint Status Report. To measure success, it is vital that we both house and share data across systems.



Priority Area: Quality of Life

VISION

Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active and healthy environment inclusive of the area’s history, natural resources, public mobility and efficient government.

GOAL 1 Ensure better quality of life through multifaceted strategies of public safety. The strategies include reducing crime by focusing on asset building; meeting community needs; expanding visibility and capacity of resources and programs provided by first responders; and building trust between law enforcement and residents.

GOAL 2 Promote and provide equitable neighborhood connectivity and build environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations, and education about health benefits.

GOAL 3 Develop local and regional collaboration among organizations to improve the delivery of social services and to expand resources including but not limited to behavioral health and public health services.

GOAL 4 Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

GOAL 5 Natural Resource Goals: Conserve and protect our natural resources from impacts of climate change, to plan for the conservation and protection of our natural resources, and to ensure that planning considers land use and development impacts to our community’s natural resources and built environment.

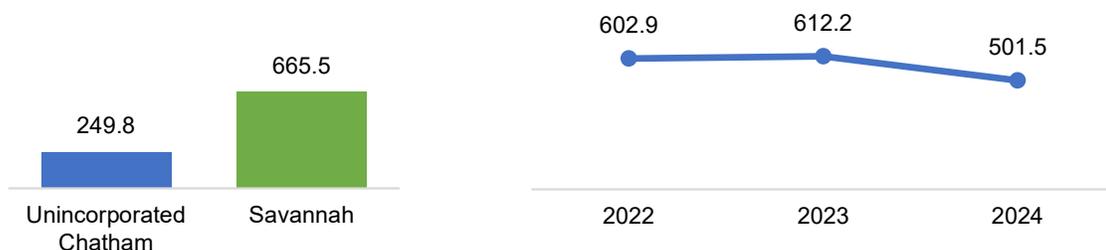
Quality of Life Indicators

KEY INDICATOR A: VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

SOURCE: THE SAVANNAH AND CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS

In 2024, 249.8 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of unincorporated Chatham County and 665.5 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of City of Savannah. A combined rate of 457.6 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of the two jurisdictions. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults.

→ Decreased 154.6 since 2023.



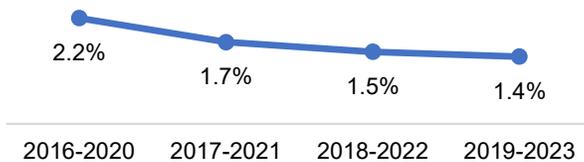
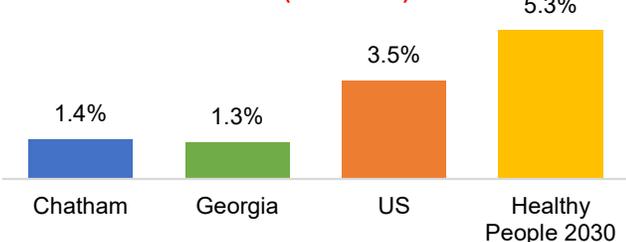
Quality of Life Indicators

KEY INDICATOR B: WORKERS COMMUTING BY PUBLIC TRANSIT

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

1.4% of Chatham County's workers aged 16 years and older commute to work by public transportation.

➔ **Decreased 0.1% from (2018-2022).**



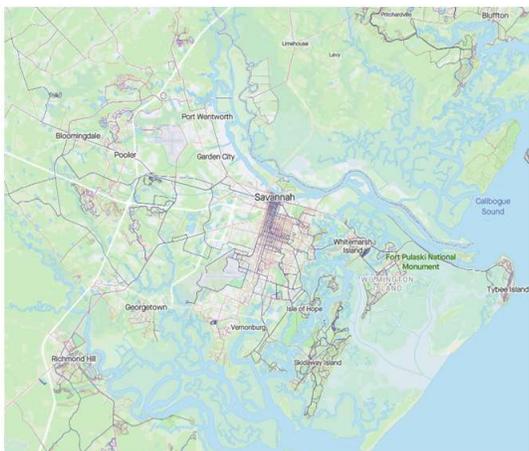
KEY INDICATOR C: MILES OF SAFE, PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

SOURCE: CHATHAM-SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

CGIC is working with Chatham-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission on a study to measure miles of safe, pedestrian-friendly transportation, including bike lanes, sidewalks, and shared use paths within the county. This indicator will be reported upon completion of that study. These maps show the volume of pedestrian and bike volume within the county, concentrated in more densely populated areas. Continuing this measure will show growth and help officials in planning for future improvements.

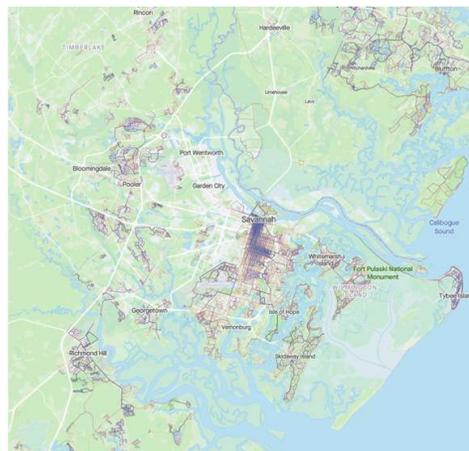
Bicycle Activity in the Chatham County Region

August 2023-July 2024



Pedestrian Activity in the Chatham County Region

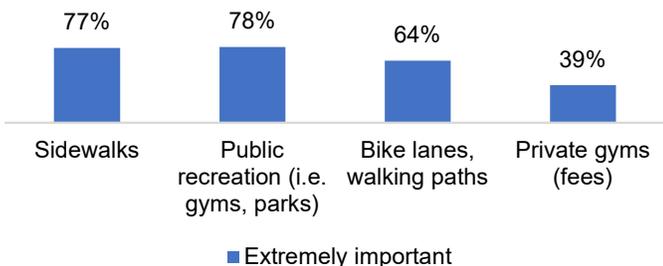
August 2023-July 2024



IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE SPACES

SOURCE: HEALTHY SAVANNAH

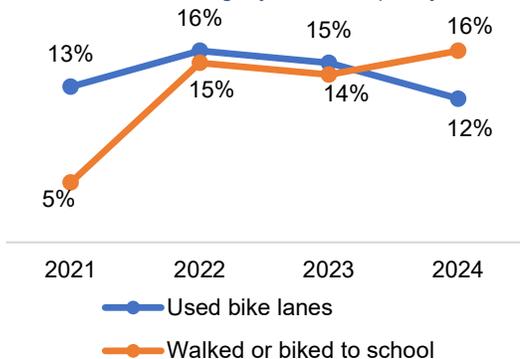
A majority of community members feel active spaces are extremely important. Public (free) spaces are considered more important than private (cost associative) spaces. This indicator is from year 2024 surveys of 523 residents.



USE OF BIKE LANES

SOURCE: HEALTHY SAVANNAH

Bike lane usage and the percentage of residents who walk or bike to school increased slightly while those who used bike lanes decreased slightly since the past years.

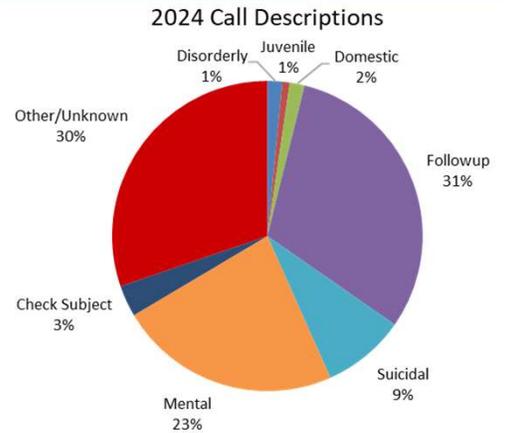


Quality of Life Indicators

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT

SOURCE: SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

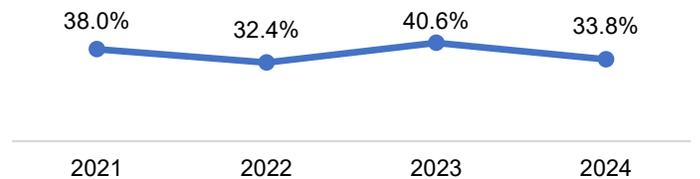
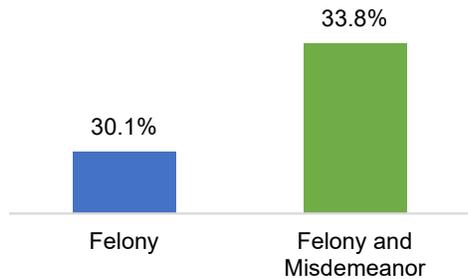
The Savannah Police Department Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) aims to improve child safety, permanency, and family well-being by intervening with families affected by parental substance use and involvement with the justice system and child protective services. Its goal is to reduce reliance on jail for individuals who may require alternative services for behavioral health or substance abuse issues.



KEY INDICATOR D (PART A): RECIDIVISM RATE FOR ADULT OFFENDERS

SOURCE: CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

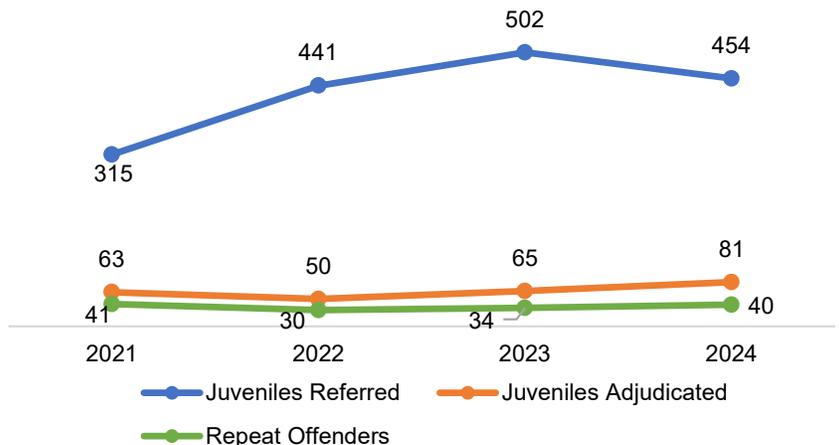
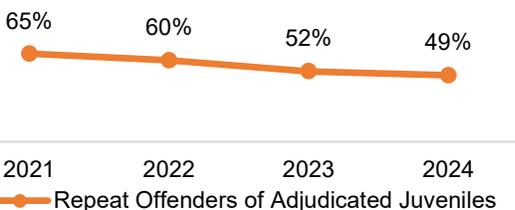
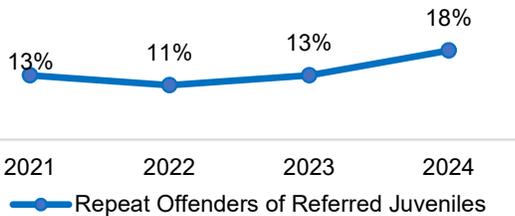
In 2024, the rate of recidivism in Chatham County shows that 30.1% of adults have been rearrested with a felony charge within the last 3 years. The overall 3-year recidivism rate is 33.8% for felonies and misdemeanors. → **Decreased 6.8% since 2023.**



KEY INDICATOR D (PART B): RECIDIVISM RATE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

SOURCE: CHATHAM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

NOTE: The recidivism rate for referred juveniles in 2024 was 18% (81 of 454 youth). The percentage of all adjudicated juveniles who re-offended was 49% (40 of 81 youth). These are juveniles who reoffended (or re-engaged) in criminal behavior within the previous 3 years. The number of referrals for delinquency decreased from 2023 to 454 as compared to 502 in 2023. This was a decrease of 10%. Recidivism is defined by the number of referrals, the number of previous adjudications within the same time period, and the number of repeat offenders in the last 3 years. → **Increased 5% from 2023.**



PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



And many more...



**COASTAL GEORGIA INDICATORS
COALITION**
SAVANNAH, GA
WWW.COASTALGAINDICATORS.ORG