

CHATHAM COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT **2021 STATUS REPORT**



2021-2022 COASTAL GEORGIA INDICATORS COALITION EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

INTERIM CHAIR: **Melanie Wilson**
Metropolitan Planning Commission

TREASURER/CHARTER BOARD MEMBER: **Linda Cramer**
Chatham County

SECRETARY/CHARTER BOARD MEMBER: **Jennifer Wright**
Memorial Health University Medical Center

CHARTER BOARD POSITION: **Brynn Grant**
United Way of the Coastal Empire

BOARD MEMBER: **Mark Johnson**
Gateway Community Service Board

CHARTER BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS: **Dr. Otis Johnson**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **Lizann Roberts**

Dear Community Partners,

Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC) is committed to improve community well-being by engaging and leading community, civic, and private sectors to work collectively in the development of strategic priorities that guide policy, systems, environment, programs, and resource allocation. Thank you for your continued participation.

The Chatham Community Blueprint, a community-wide strategic plan which integrates concurrent planning processes from various partner organizations, aims to provide residents with an opportunity to be engaged in and have a voice in our community. In Fall of 2021, we conducted an online survey and 8 community meetings in each district of Chatham County engaging residents to gain feedback on the (American Rescue Plan Act) ARPA, Blueprint goals, and listened to recommendations on priorities.

Common takeaways from both the in-person meetings and online survey include:

- Better access to mental health and other social services for both children and adults;
- Accessible public transportation, especially for low-wealth communities;
- Global warming changes and easier recycling, solar power use, and lower air pollution;
- Public safety such as speed bumps in neighborhoods, sidewalks, and street lighting;
- Education opportunities with mentorships and community centers with extended hours; and
- Affordable housing and homelessness.

Serving as the Chatham Family Connection Collaborative, the contributions and commitment from our community partners provided the basis for our community planning endeavors within the Chatham Community Blueprint framework. CGIC has a growing record of initiating public-private partnerships to address some of the most challenging community issues, specifically:

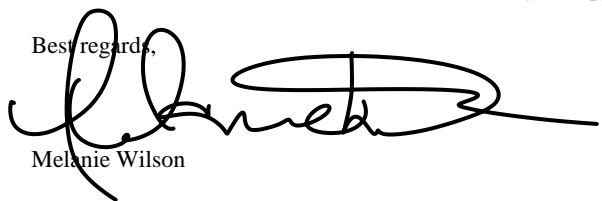
- Community Data Platform development, a robust system to share data across systems in a HIPAA compliant platform,
- Early Care and Learning Initiatives increasing Quality Rated Childcare,
- Racial Equity and Leadership (REAL) Task Force's Racial Equity Index and Reporting,
- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health CDC Grant Evaluation Team,
- Resilient Coastal Georgia, a collective impact initiative with over 100 partners who are committed to building a trauma informed and resilient community, and
- Savannah Police Department's Behavioral Health Unit, providing a coordinated response with first responders and behavioral health facilities.

On behalf of the Executive Leadership Board, we are pleased to issue the 2021 Status Report.

Residents in our community continue to face significant challenges, let's stay committed to remove barriers and make the great progress we know our community is capable of when we work together for the greater good.

Your dedication and contributions to our community are appreciated by all.

Best regards,



Melanie Wilson



ABOUT US

Convening

- Public and private stakeholders
- Community organizations
- Residents

Data Measurement

- Local, regional and national indicators

Partnerships

- Sponsors
- Public, private and government resources

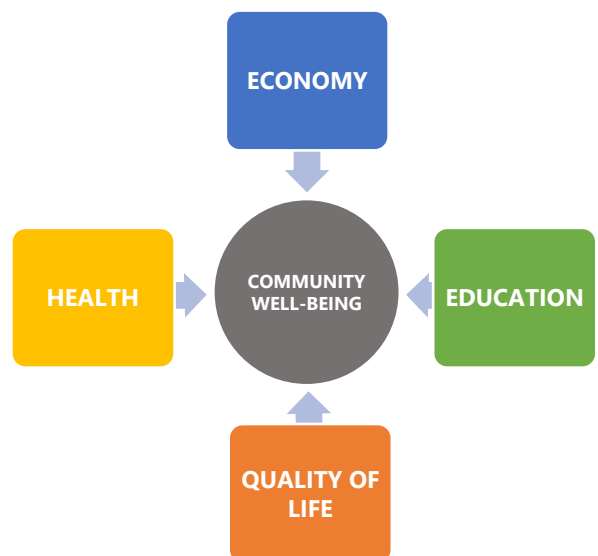
Strategic Alignment

- Community Blueprint
- Healthy People 2030 Framework
- Plan 2040

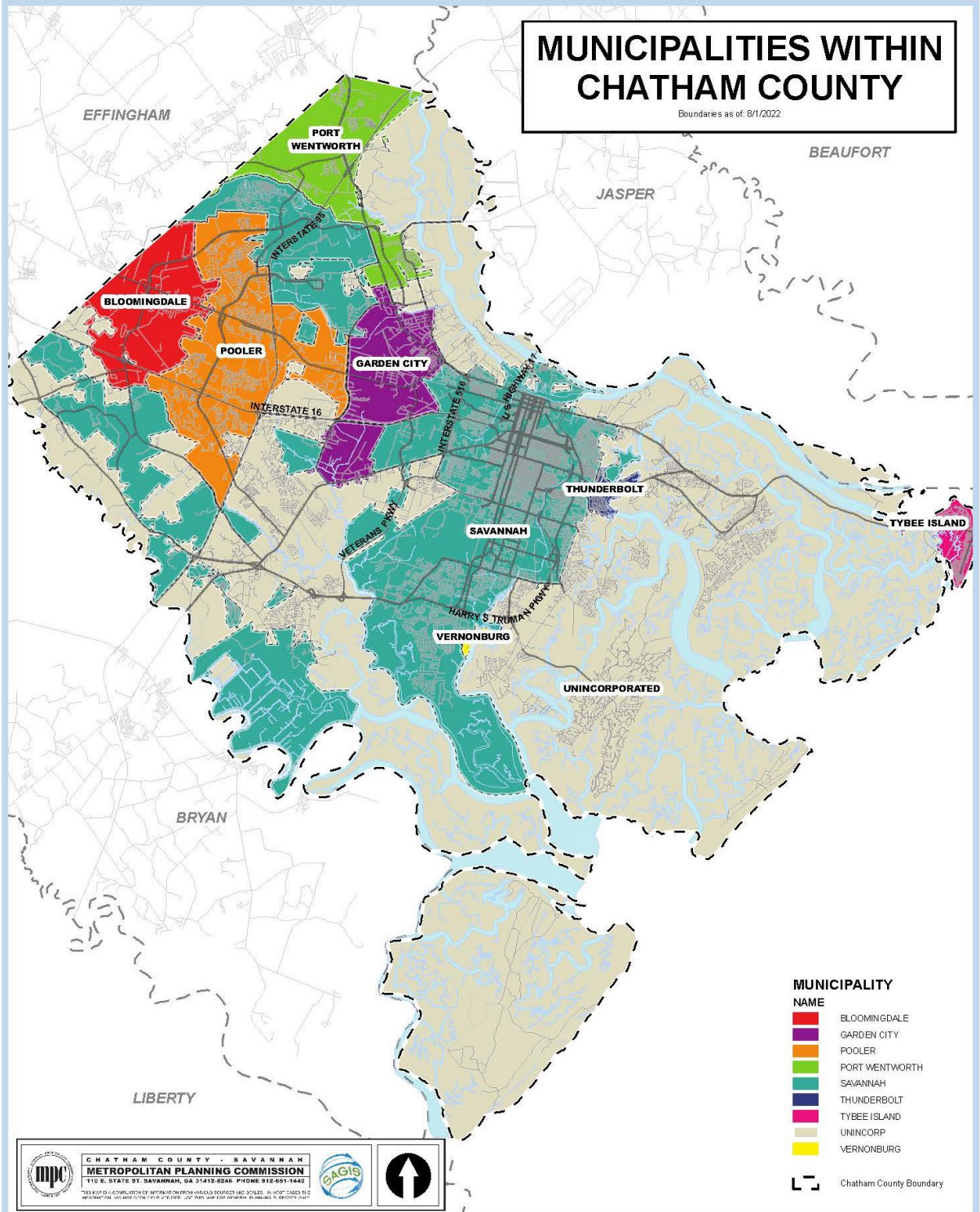
Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, Inc. (CGIC) is a group of community members and advocates working together for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to planning and accountability. The goal of CGIC is to improve community well-being by engaging and leading the public, civic and private sectors 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. Indicators and performance measures are data points that can be useful in assessments by helping to track and measure community health.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS

Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, Inc. (CGIC) serves as the responsible organization for the development, implementation and evaluation of the *Chatham Community Blueprint*. Adopted by Chatham County Government, the *Blueprint* 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: Economy, Education, Health and Quality of Life.

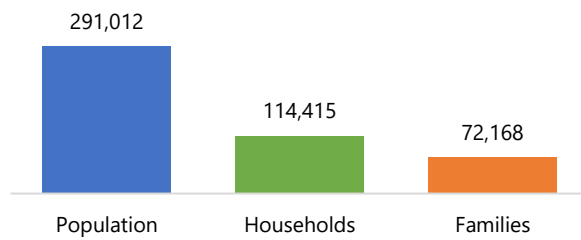


CHATHAM COUNTY

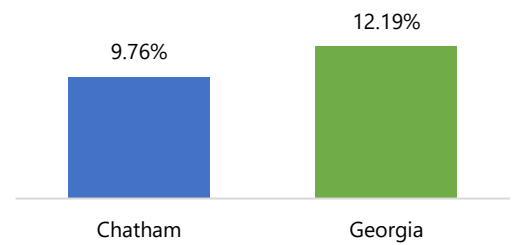


CHATHAM COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

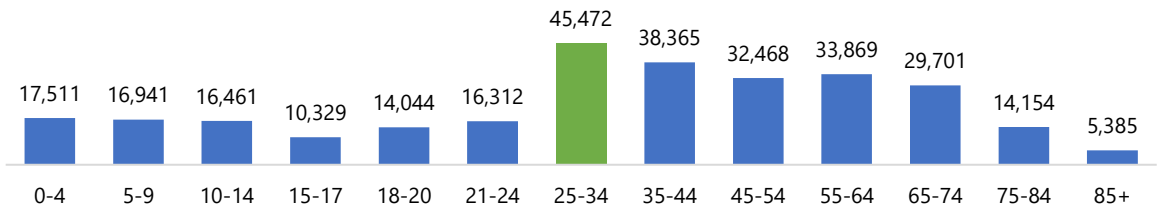
POPULATION



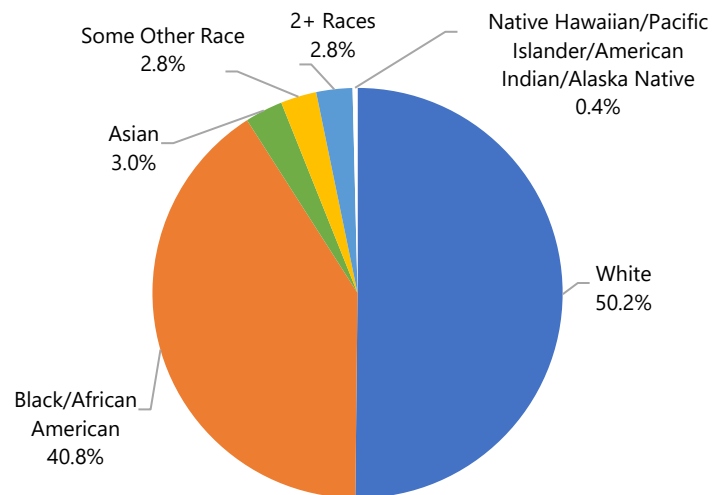
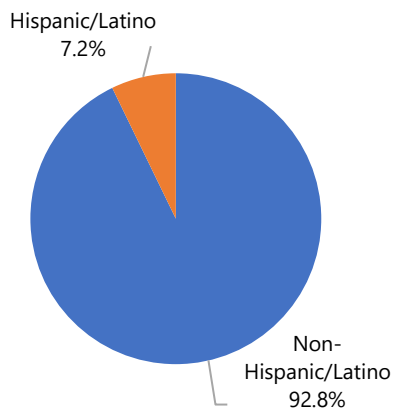
GROWTH RATE



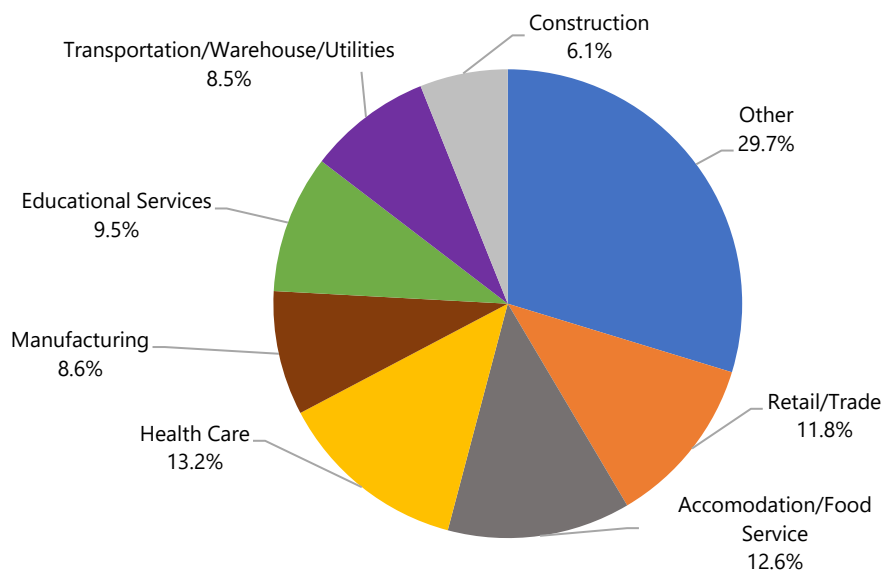
AGE



RACE AND ETHNICITY



TOP EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY



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 Facilitate lifting individuals out of poverty by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the working poor, ex-offenders, and those struggling with mental illness.

GOAL 3 Guide entrepreneurial growth through the enhanced presence of small business support resources and facilitate collaboration among local businesses to promote innovation.

Pathway Home Grant

The Pathway Home 2 initiative at Savannah Technical College is serving participants in Coastal State Prison, Effingham County Prison, and Long State Prison. The initiative is named Coming Home to the Coast: Integrated Reentry for a Better Life. The program has trained 44 individuals, 11 of whom have already transitioned back into the community and are gainfully employed. Participants have received welding, manufacturing and logistics industry recognized credentials. The program expects to serve over 100 new participants in the next 6 months. The program has been building strong relationships with employers and support service providers to meet critical needs like housing, mental health, and more. The program is supported by a \$3,965,000 grant from the US Department of Labor.

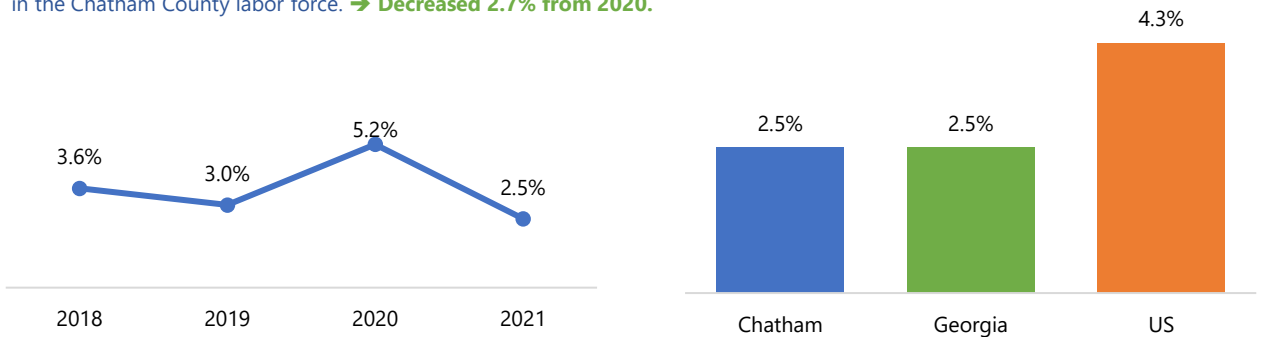


Economy Indicators

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

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

As of October 2021, 2.5% of civilians, 16 years of age and over, are unemployed in the Chatham County labor force. → **Decreased 2.7% from 2020.**

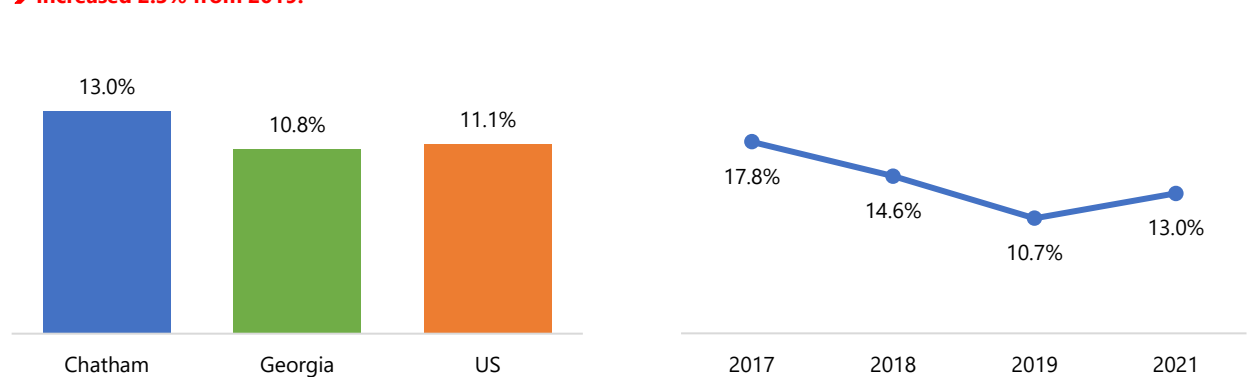


KEY INDICATOR A (PART B): YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2021 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

In 2021, 13.0% of civilian youth, ages 16-24, were unemployed in the Chatham County labor force.

→ **Increased 2.3% from 2019.**

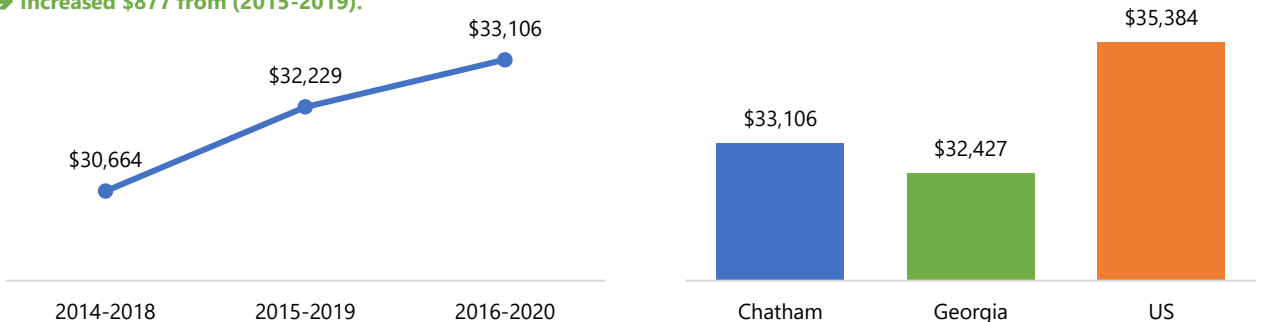


KEY INDICATOR B: PER CAPITA INCOME

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The per capita income was \$33,106 for Chatham County per the most recent census data.

→ **Increased \$877 from (2015-2019).**



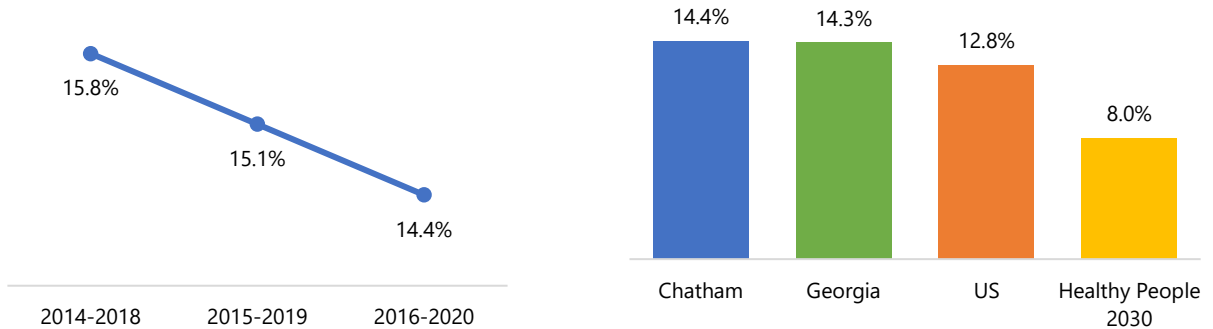
Economy Indicators

KEY INDICATOR C (PART A): PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Chatham County poverty rate was 14.4% per the most recent census data. This indicator shows the percentage of people living below the federal poverty level.

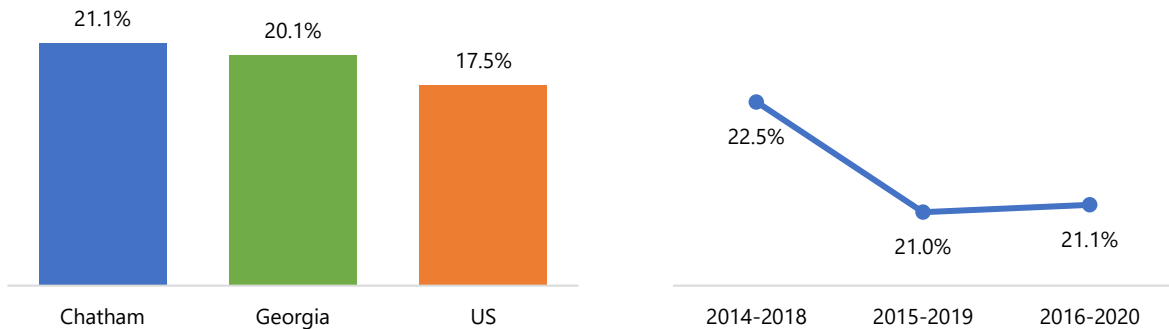
→ Decreased 0.7% from (2015-2019).



KEY INDICATOR C (PART B): CHILDREN LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

21.1% of people under the age of 18 are living below the federal poverty level per the most recent census data. → Increased 0.1% from (2015-2019).

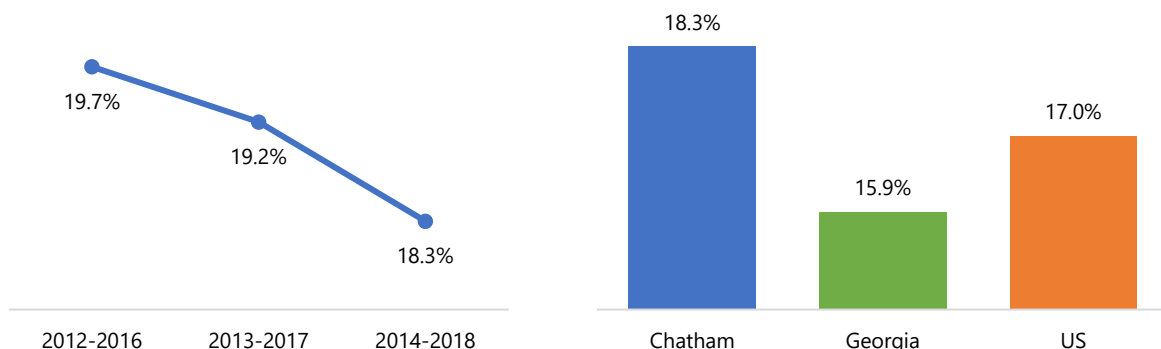


KEY INDICATOR D: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEM

SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Chatham County had 18.3% 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 0.9% from (2013-2017).



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 attain the knowledge, skills and ability to succeed at their chosen pathways.

GOAL 1 Ensure that financial skills, social skills, and conflict resolution skills are being offered to parents and taught to all students through use of technology, community partnership, and counseling for parents and children.

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

GOAL 3 Incentivize and 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.

Road to Resilience

The Way Forward 2026 is a 5-year comprehensive strategic plan developed for the Savannah

Chatham County School System with the vision of preparing all students to be successful and productive citizens. The district partnered with the Georgia School Board Association, Inc (GSBA) which assisted with the planning process by facilitating a Board workshop, community online survey, focus group meetings, a planning team and an action team.



Priority goal areas for the plan:

1. Student success, academic achievement, and life readiness
2. Family engagement and stakeholder partnership
3. Recruitment, selection, retention, and talent development
4. Fiscal responsibility and resource stewardship.

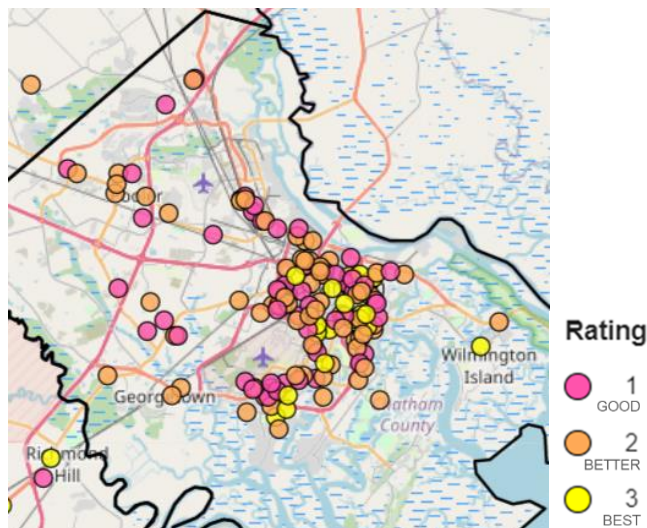
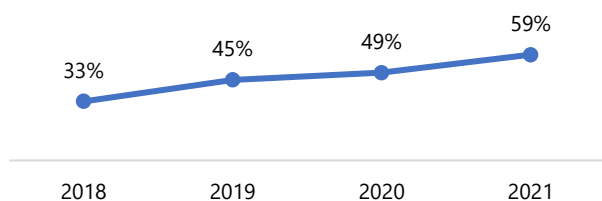
Adopted in September 2021, The Way Forward 2026 plan defines a road map which guides decision making and funding from the board level down to classroom level to help prepare students for graduation and the path to Employed, Enrolled or Enlisted (3Es). Reimagining education together means "One Team, One Goal: Student Achievement."

Education Indicators

Due to COVID-19, the 2019-2020 in-person school year ended early, and remote learning began. In addition, the 2020-2021 school year included combinations of remote learning, hybrid learning and in-person instruction. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic into school year 2020-21, certain previously reported testing measures were unavailable.

KEY INDICATOR A: QUALITY RATED CHILDCARE CENTERS

SOURCE: THE ANNIE E CASEY FOUNDATION'S KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER
In Chatham County, 59% of out-of-home child-care settings were Quality Rated in 2021. → Increased 10% from 2020.



SOURCE: GET GEORGIA READING

KEY INDICATOR B: ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN AGED 0-5 IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

SOURCE: GET GEORGIA READING

Information from the Georgia's Cross Agency Child Data System (GA CACDS) summarizes participation for children ages 0-5 enrolled in various early childhood services at the state and county levels. The system identifies service gaps, creates opportunities for analysis and research, and provides an integrated and aligned approach to demonstrate how well the state is meeting the needs of its youngest learners.

CHATHAM COUNTY	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Babies Can't Wait	581	627	624
Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)	1,721	1,948	2,111
Children 1st	4,662	4,818	4,733
Georgia's Pre-K	2,381	2,391	2,285
Georgia's Rising Kindergarten	60	30	13
Home Visiting	115	102	121
Preschool Special Education	841	900	821
Quality Rated Subsidy Grant	36	50	39

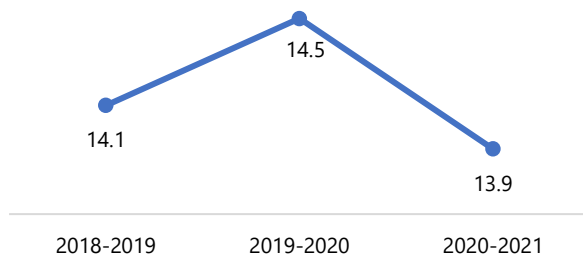
Education Indicators

KEY INDICATOR C: STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

SOURCE: SCCPSS DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

This indicator shows the average number of public-school students per teacher for the entire system. The student-teacher ratio gives a rough idea of the amount of individualized attention from teachers that is available to each student.

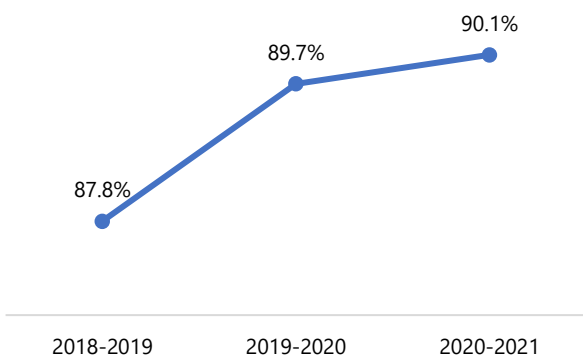
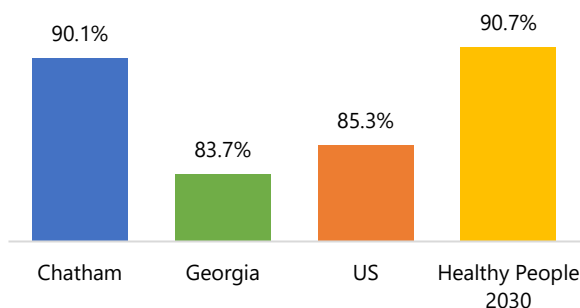
→ Improved 0.6 from school year 2019-2020.



KEY INDICATOR E: GRADUATION RATE

SOURCE: SCCPSS DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

90.1% of SCCPSS students graduated from high school in school year 2019-2020. → Increased 0.4% from school year 2019-2020.



VIRTUAL LEARNING SUPPORT SY 2020-2021

SOURCE: SCCPSS DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

In March of 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic dictated the closure of school buildings across the nation. Due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from the pandemic, State Superintendent Richard Woods, the State Board of Education, Governor Brian Kemp, and the U.S. Department of Education worked to implement an extensive set of local, state, and federal waivers designed to provide Georgia school districts maximum flexibility in order to focus more on student and staff health, safety, and well-being.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic into school year 2020-21, certain previously reported testing measures were unavailable. Even though testing across the district saw changes, the SCCPSS has maintained its priority and focus on supporting students and staff. These are just a few ways the school system supported students.



1 to 1 Technology for
for virtual learning
at home



10 Wi-Fi on Wheels Buses
for connectivity to personal
or school-issued devices



10,000+ Hotspot Devices
through a partnership with
T-Mobile



1,613,919 Meals Delivered
through curbside pickup for
breakfast and lunch

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 particularly as it impacts incarcerated individuals, children, and adolescents.

GOAL 2 Ensure access to and invest in community-based health resources for citizens to increase health equality while optimizing their health and wellness with preventive healthcare services, health education and strategies to motivate individuals and families to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors.

GOAL 3 Instill healthy practices in schools by providing comprehensive health education, nutrient-rich foods, opportunities for physical activity, and prevention education including, but not limited to violence prevention .

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 deserts.

Road to Resilience

912 Food Farmacy (a program of the Forsyth Farmers' Market) offers participants free nutrition classes each month along with free produce vouchers that can be used at the Forsyth Farmers' Market or on Farm Truck 912. Forsyth Farmers' Market partners with local health clinics to serve low-income individuals who have or are at risk for diet related chronic diseases. This program focuses on improving community health through nutrition education, increased access to fresh and local foods, and financial incentives for purchasing these healthy food items.

1,653 SNAP sales at Forsyth Farmers' Market

1,154 SNAP sales at Farm Truck 912

SNAP users doubled from 15% to 31% of total customers

The total amount spent at Farm Truck 912 was three times higher than previous years



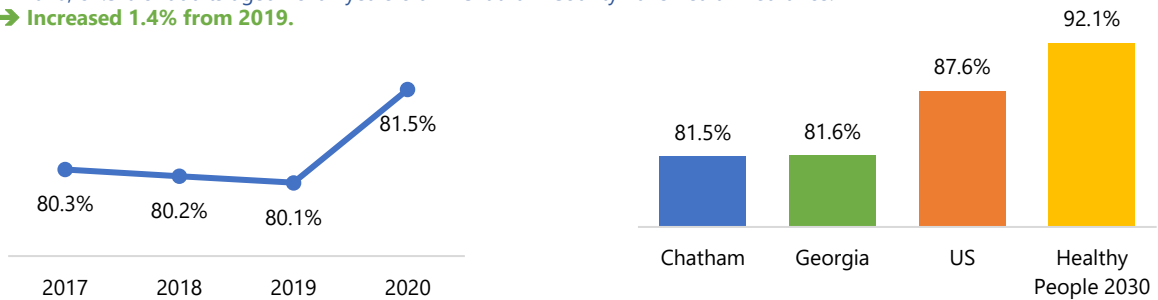
Health Indicators

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

SOURCE: SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES

In 2020, 81.5% of adults aged 18-64 years old in Chatham County have health insurance.

→ Increased 1.4% from 2019.

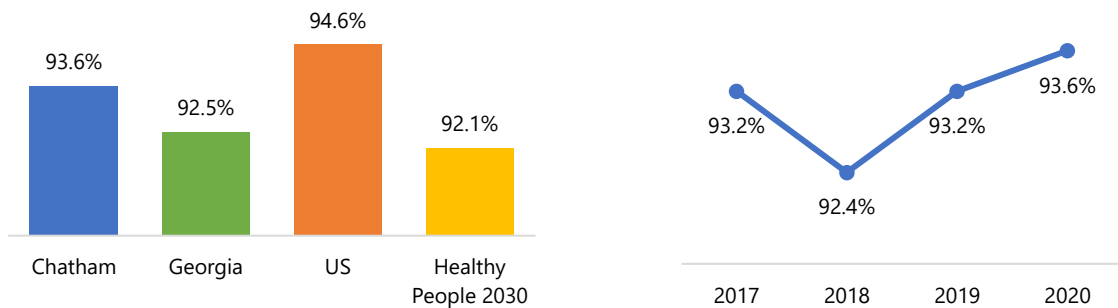


KEY INDICATOR A (PART B): CHILDREN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

SOURCE: SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES

In 2020, 93.6% of children 18 years old and younger in Chatham County have health insurance.

→ Increased 0.4% from 2019.

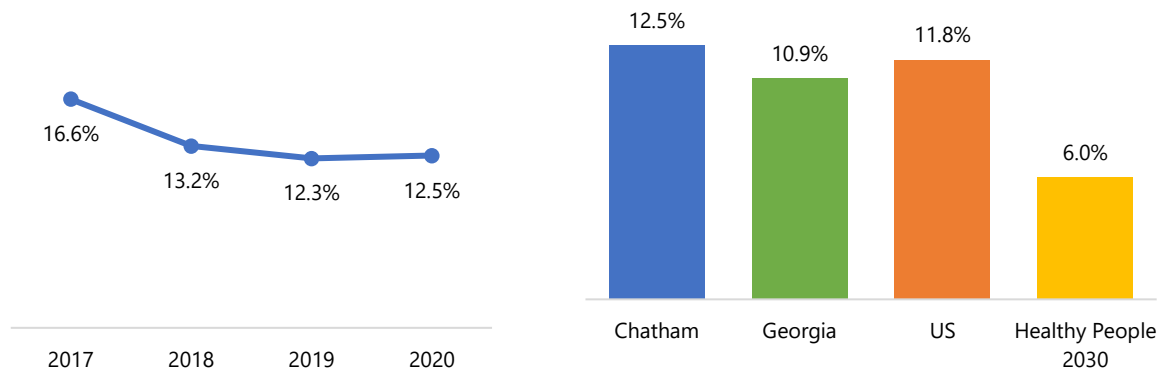


KEY INDICATOR B: FOOD INSECURITY RATE

SOURCE: FEEDING AMERICA

12.5% of Chatham County residents are food insecure in 2019.

→ Increased .2% from 2019.



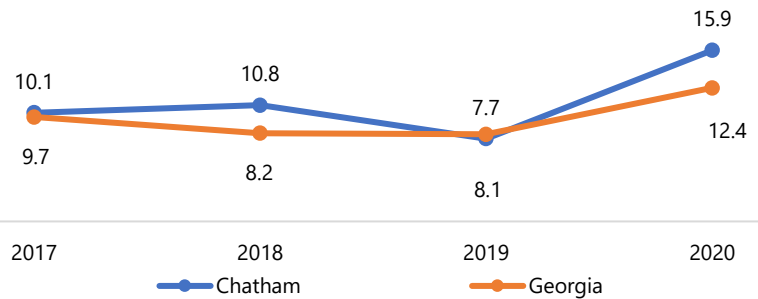
Health Indicators

AGE ADJUSTED DEATH DUE TO OPIOID OVERDOSE

SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2020, 15.9 deaths from opioid overdose occurred per 100,000 residents in Chatham County. A total of 45 deaths related to opioid overdose were reported. Chatham County is again ranked 6th in Georgia for the highest number of opioid overdose related deaths. (Figures have been updated for previous year based on DPH data.)

→ Increased 8.2 deaths per 100,000 residents.

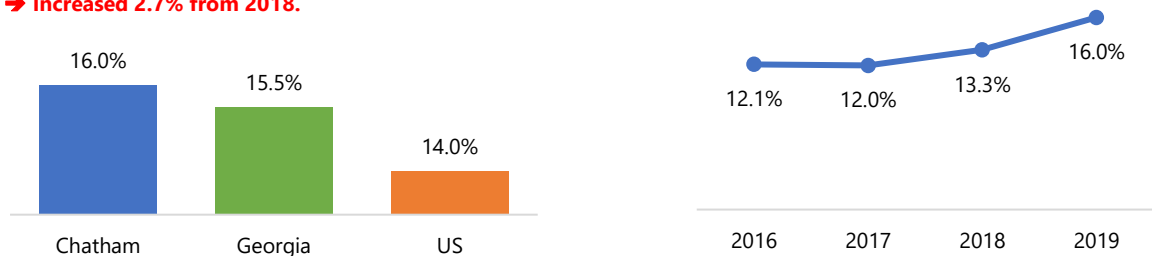


KEY INDICATOR C: FREQUENT MENTAL DISTRESS

SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

In 2019, 16.0% of adults reported 14 or more days with mental distress in the previous 30 days. (Beginning with 2018, the CDC's BRFSS has updated their modeling procedure for producing small-area estimates.)

→ Increased 2.7% from 2018.



SUICIDE ADJUSTED DEATH RATE

SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OASIS

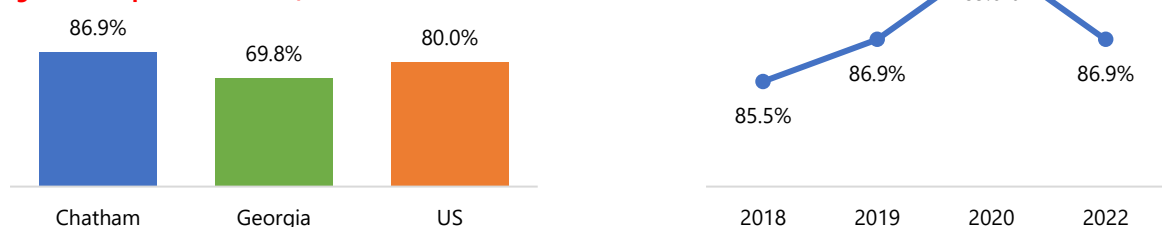
Per the most recent OASIS data, there were 16.0 deaths per 100,000 residents of Chatham County. → Decreased 1.6 deaths per 100,000 from (2017-2019).



KEY INDICATOR D: ACCESS TO EXERCISE OPPORTUNITIES

SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

86.9% of Chatham County residents have some access to exercise opportunities per the most recent County Health Rankings data. → Decreased 2.7% from 2020. (No figure was reported for 2021.)



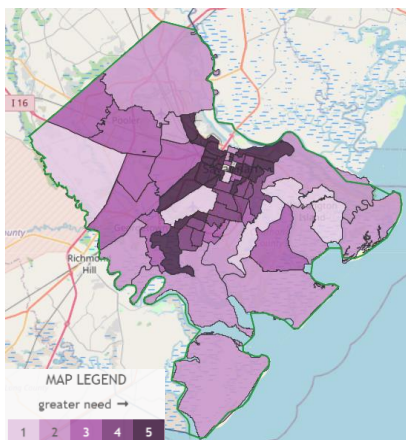
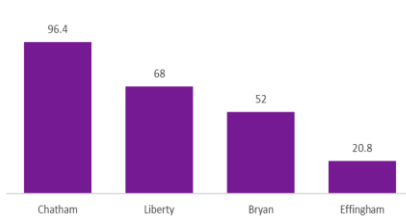
SocioNeeds Index Suite

The SocioNeeds Index Suite provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes on a wide range of topics.

- Indexes justify and validate investments for prevention and early intervention.
- Communicate areas for shared action by healthcare, public health, social services, community organization, business, and other.
- Inform policy and interventions at the regional level.

Mental Health

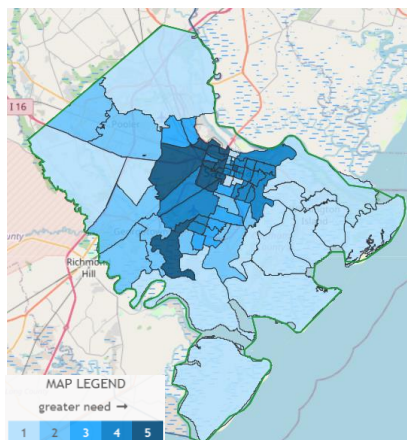
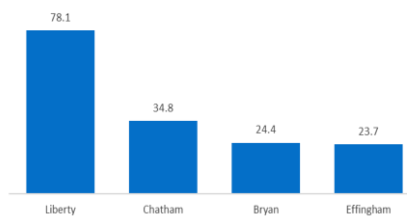
Mental Health Index
(higher value shows greater need)



Mental Health Index is a measure of social determinants and health factors correlated with self-reported poor mental health. The darker census tracts show the areas of most need.

Health Equity

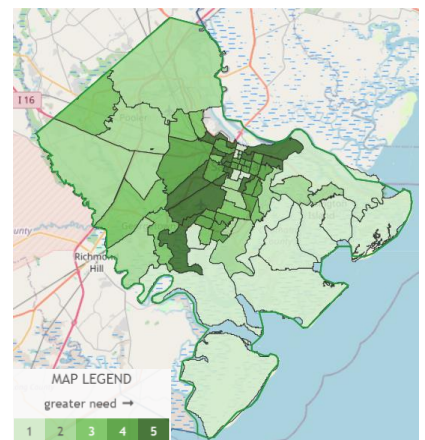
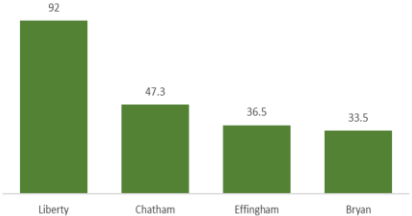
Health Equity Index
(higher value shows greater need)



Health Equity Index is a measure of social determinants correlated with preventable hospitalizations and premature death. The darker census tracts show the areas of most need.

Food Insecurity

Food Insecurity Index
(higher value shows greater need)



Food Insecurity Index is a measure of food access correlated with economic and household hardship. The darker census tracts show the area of most need.

Interactive maps are available at www.coastalgaindicators.org/indexsuite with interactive options for county, zip code, and census tract.

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 Reduce crime, particularly abuse and violence, by building trust between law enforcement and residents, focusing enforcement in high crime areas, and expanding the visibility of police to ensure all residents feel safe.

GOAL 2 Promote and provide 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 similar organizations to improve the delivery of social services and to expand the continuum of services.

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

Road to Resilience

Chatham County Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission was created as a collaboration of all municipalities in Chatham County to help youth and stop gang crime. The commission, signed into existence by Governor Brian Kemp in April 2021, will serve as a model throughout the state as an early intervention strategy to engage kids at a young age to help them before they get involved with crime. Gun violence is high on the priority list for the commission which launched the 912 Rescue Mission in November which engages residents in the initiative. The CCGPIC has partnered with F.R.E.S.H. Start, a DJJ job placement program. SCAD and Feed the Hungry have participated in meal programs to improve food insecurities. The Show Us Your Guns grant was secured to help those with a simple firearm possession charge to avoid having a permanent record after the gun is confiscated. (Does not apply to convicted felons or those charged with use of a firearm).

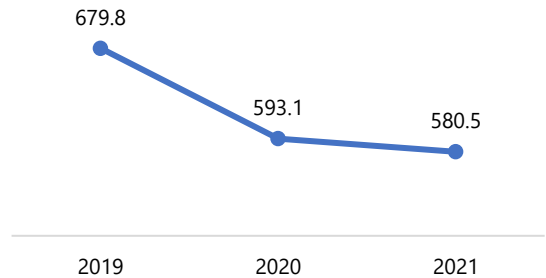
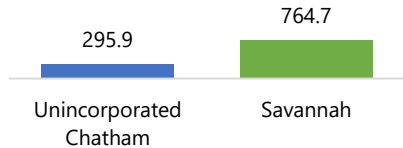


Quality of Life Indicators

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

SOURCE: THE SAVANNAH AND CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS

In 2021, 295.9 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of unincorporated Chatham County and 764.7 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of City of Savannah. A combined rate of 593.1 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 residents of the two jurisdictions. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults. → **Decreased 2.1% from 2020.**

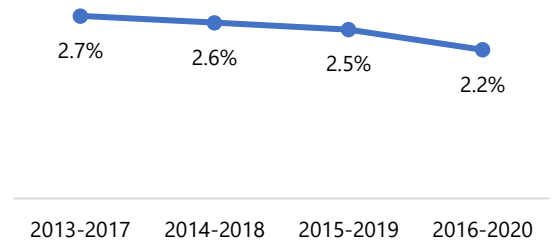
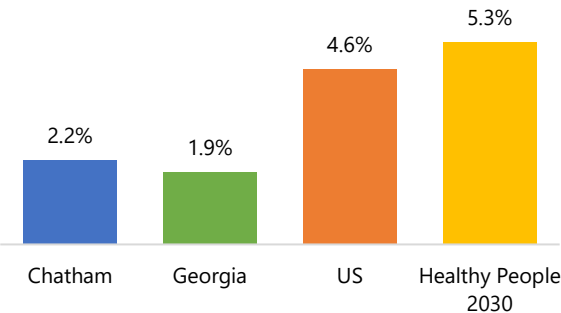


KEY INDICATOR B: WORKERS COMMUTING BY PUBLIC TRANSIT

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

2.2% of Chatham County's workers aged 16 years and older commute to work by public transportation.

→ **Decreased 0.3% from (2015-2019).**



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

SOURCE: CHATHAM-SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

There are a total of 625.8 miles of safe, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly paths of transportation within Chatham County. This data focuses on paths with transportation purposes. These numbers omit paths inside of gated communities but includes sidewalks on Hunter Army Air Base as the public does have some access. → **Increased by .75 miles added.**

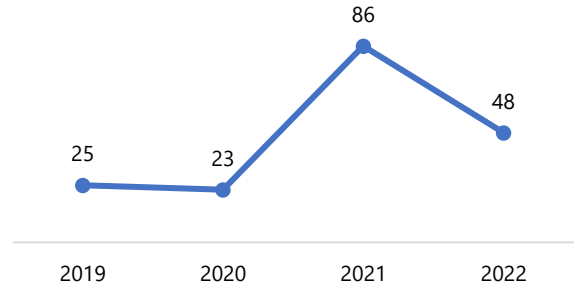


Quality of Life Indicators

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT RANKINGS

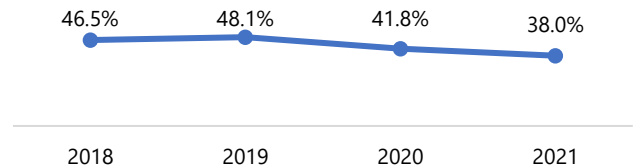
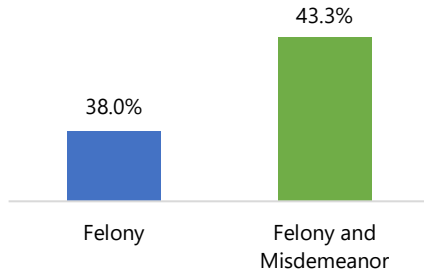
SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKING

The 2022 Physical Environmental Ranking for Chatham County is 48. The ranking is based on a summary composite score calculated from the following measures: daily fine particulate matter, drinking water violations, severe housing problems, driving alone to work, and long commute while driving alone. → **Decreased 38 points from 2021.**



The value for the Georgia is based on the best 50th percentile of a distribution of 159 GA Counties. Technical note: Counties (or county equivalents) are ranked relative to the health of other counties in the same state on a variety of health measures. Those having high ranks, e.g. 1 or 2, are considered the "healthiest." Use caution when comparing current ranking to previous time periods as ranking criteria may have changed.

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

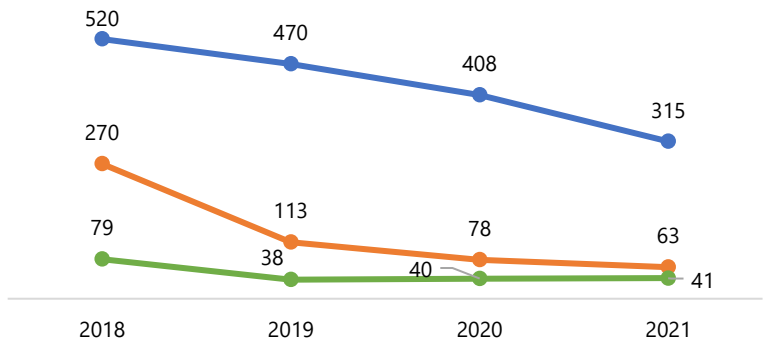
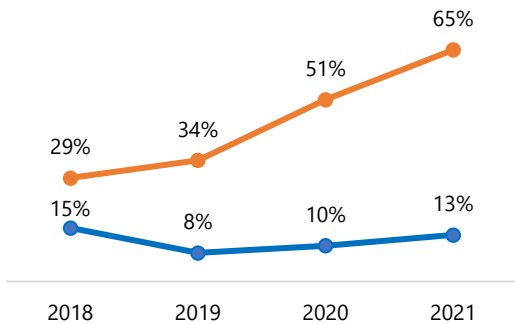


In 2021, the rate of recidivism in Chatham County shows that 38% of adults have been rearrested with a felony charge within the last 3 years. → **Decreased 3.8% since 2020.**

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

SOURCE: CHATHAM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

NOTE: The number of referrals for delinquency decreased in 2021 to 315 as compared to 408 in 2020. This is a decrease of 22.8%. It is important to note that the percentage for recidivism shows 65% when only 41 youth, which is 13%, reoffended (or re-engaged) in criminal behavior within the previous 3 years. 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 14% from 2020.**



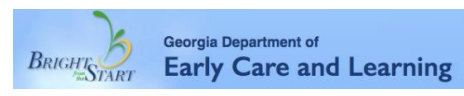
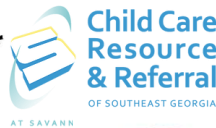
— Repeat Offenders of Adjudicated Juveniles
— Repeat Offenders of Referred Juveniles

— Juveniles Referred — Juveniles Adjudicated — Repeat Offenders

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