

# COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT



2025



ST. Joseph's | Candler  
Live smart.

# Table of Contents

---

---

Introduction.....	2
SJ/C History.....	4
CHNA Process and Methodology .....	5
Acknowledgements (and Partnerships).....	6
Requests for Feedback.....	7
Community Demographics .....	8
Health Statistics.....	11
Prioritization of Needs/Conclusion .....	21
Appendix A – Community Health Needs Assessment Survey .....	22
Appendix B – Healthy Savannah Community Survey .....	55
Appendix C – Community Benefits Report FY 2024.....	85
Appendix D – Community Listening Session #2.....	86
Appendix E – United Way 211 Call Data.....	88



## Introduction

---

St. Joseph's/Candler Health System (SJ/C) is located in historic Savannah, GA. Formed on April 1, 1997, through a joint operating agreement, our two acute facilities are St. Joseph's Hospital Inc., and Candler Hospital, Inc. SJ/C is the only faith-based, locally run, private, not-for-profit, health system in the region. SJ/C offers healthcare services across the entire continuum of care, including local and regional primary care, specialized inpatient and outpatient services at two anchor hospitals, home healthcare services, as well as a wide variety of community outreach and education efforts throughout the region.

SJ/C provides advanced care and comprehensive treatments with state-of-the-art medical technology. Its faith-based, holistic approach to healing encourages individuals to become more knowledgeable and responsible about their personal health.

Both St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital are individually accredited by The Joint Commission. Additionally, St. Joseph's/Candler is the only health provider in the region to have achieved MAGNET status for nursing excellence for five consecutive designations (we are currently being reviewed for our sixth designation).

## MISSION

Rooted in God's love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people.

## VISION

Our vision is to set the standards of excellence in the delivery of health care throughout the regions we serve.

## VALUES

### COMPASSION

Showing empathy and concern for everyone and responding with kindness and sensitivity

### QUALITY

Optimizing talents, skills and abilities to achieve excellence in meeting and exceeding our patients' expectations

### INTEGRITY

Adhering without compromise to high moral principles of honesty, loyalty, sincerity and fairness

### COURTESY

Demonstrating polite, cooperative and respectful behavior; showing consideration and care for each person

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Using material goods wisely; being conscious of the environment; being accountable for prudent use of our talents and financial resources

### TEAM WORK

Working together to accomplish tasks and goals; recognizing the interdependence of one another and each person's unique gifts

## SJ/C History

---

St. Joseph's/Candler is rich in history and heritage. Its anchor institutions, St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital, are two of the oldest continuously operating hospitals in the nation. St. Joseph's Hospital was founded in 1875 and celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. Candler Hospital was founded in 1804. Together, they have been a part of the Savannah landscape and culture for a combined history of more than 350 years.

In addition, the legacies of the Georgia Infirmity, Central Georgia Railroad Hospital and Mary Telfair Women's Hospital, historic in their own right, bring that service record to nearly 650 cumulative years.

St. Joseph's Hospital began in 1875 when the Sisters of Mercy took over the operations of the Forest City Marine Hospital in what is now the historic district. For 150 years, Savannahians have trusted the care, compassion, and medical expertise that have become synonymous with the St. Joseph's name. Now, located on Savannah's south side, St. Joseph's Hospital is home to some of the most breakthrough medical technology and innovations available. Specialty services at St. Joseph's include The Heart Hospital, The Institute for Advanced Bone and Joint Surgery and the Institute of Neurosciences, each offering expert clinical care with state-of-the-art equipment.

Candler Hospital is Georgia's first hospital (chartered in 1804) and the second oldest continuously operating hospital in the United States. Located in Savannah's Midtown and affiliated with the Methodist Church, Candler has been long recognized as offering the finest in primary care, outpatient services, and women's and children's services. Candler is home to the Mary Telfair Women's Hospital and the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion, both renowned medical facilities offering some of the most advanced patient services in the country.

## History of Accessing Health and Social Needs at SJ/C

St. Joseph's/Candler has a rich history of service to the community and facilitating activities that address the health and social service needs for all its members. For example, twenty-five (25) years ago two Sisters of Mercy walked the streets of Savannah's Historic Cuyler Brownsville Neighborhood and asked the residents of that community what services were most needed to improve their health and overall standard of living. The responses were recorded, prioritized, and presented to St. Joseph's/Candler's Board of Trustees and leadership team. That exercise resulted in the creation of St. Mary's Community Center, strategically located directly in the Cuyler Brownsville Neighborhood. St. Mary's began providing for the health and social needs identified by the residents to improve that community's overall wellbeing. Twenty-five (25) years later St. Mary's continues to be an anchor of the community responding to the residents' ever-changing needs.

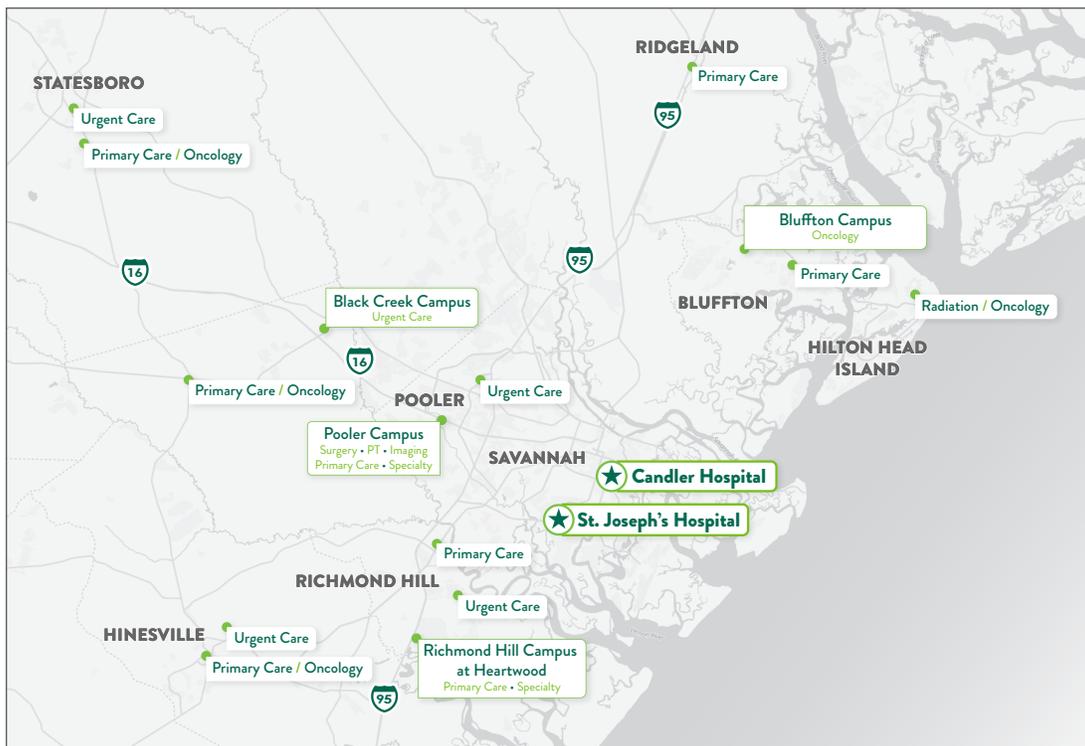
The example above is just one of the informal ways St. Joseph's/Candler has evaluated the community's needs.

Other forms of evaluation have come through collaborative efforts with organizations, businesses, churches, community leaders, and social service agencies working to address other identified needs in various parts of the community and the region. In fact, St. Joseph's/Candler is one of the founding members of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council which includes many groups which work to improve the health of the community.

Highlights of St. Joseph's/Candler's extensive community benefit and community assistance efforts can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

## CHNA Process and Methodology

St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital are both located in Chatham County, Georgia. While our service region extends through a significant portion of the Coastal Empire (Georgia) and Low Country (South Carolina), the greatest population we serve resides within Chatham County. Therefore, for the purposes of the CHNA, Chatham County is the identified service area.



St. Joseph's/Candler worked with community organizations to reach many different demographics within the identified service area. Input for the CHNA was gathered throughout the Fall and Winter of 2024 in the form of surveys and listening sessions. The surveys and listening sessions took place at community facing events and places where the community frequently gathers.

Community organizations aided with the CHNA by facilitating listening sessions, gathering survey responses, and providing additional sources of community data. Because of these partners, St. Joseph's/Candler was better connected to nonprofits in the Chatham County area, which aided in reaching a broader portion of the population.

The gathered data will help assess the needs of the community and identify the best ways that St. Joseph's/Candler can align programs to respond to those needs.

## Acknowledgements (and Partnerships)

---

St. Joseph's/Candler would like to thank the many people, organizations, agencies and partners who worked collaboratively to make this report possible, especially:

**COASTAL GEORGIA INDICATORS COALITION** provided masters level students to assist with developing the survey questions, as well as assisting with surveying the community. The non-profit attended events and distributed the survey to their community partners to gather more responses.

**GROW SAVANNAH** engaged the Hispanic community to participate in listening sessions and survey completion. Translation services for listening sessions and the survey were also provided.

**MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA** encouraged their first year residency students to volunteer at community events to help gather survey responses for their required community service hours.

**HEALTHY SAVANNAH** shared their survey response data to assist with identifying the top needs of the community. Healthy Savannah also gathered survey responses when their survey had concluded.

**THE UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE** provided statistics on calls received thru the 211 Help Line over a three year period.

## Requests for Feedback

---

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment can be found at [sjchs.org/why-sjchs/community-outreach/community-health-needs-assessment](https://sjchs.org/why-sjchs/community-outreach/community-health-needs-assessment). The public is welcome to review and comment on the report. The webpage includes historical and current CHNAs, Implementation Plans and Annual Updates, and the System's Community Benefit Reports. The web page includes the following message: "Your feedback is important in the CHNA process. Please send your written correspondence through any of the following options:

### Contact Us

**Mail:** St. Joseph's/Candler's Community Benefits Attention: Jackie Lambert  
11705 Mercy Blvd.  
Savannah, GA 31405

**Email:** [communitybenefits@sjchs.org](mailto:communitybenefits@sjchs.org)

St. Joseph's/Candler posted the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment on the System's website for easy access by anyone who wished to review and comment on the report.

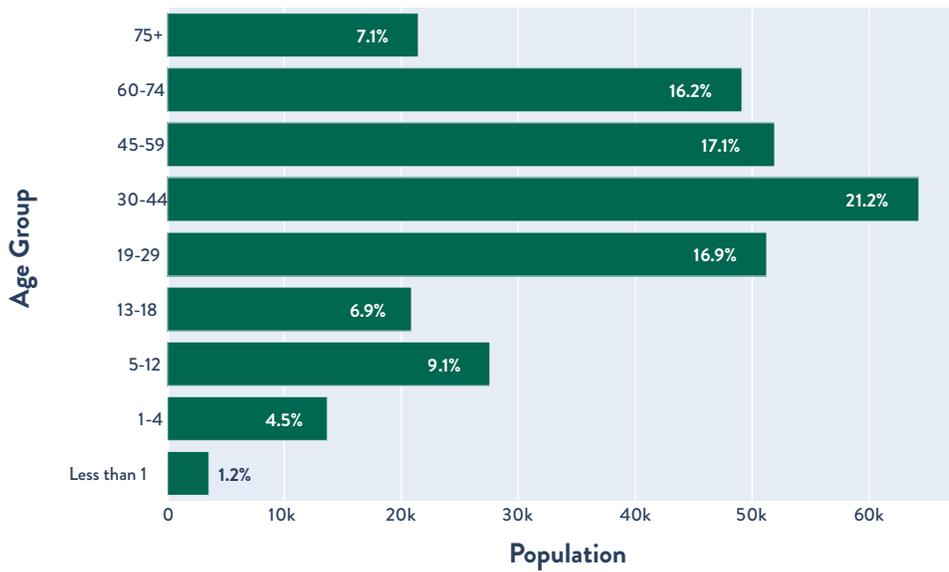
The web page can be found at [sjchs.org/in-the-community/community-health-needs-assessment](https://sjchs.org/in-the-community/community-health-needs-assessment).

No written comments or feedback was received pertaining to the information contained in the 2022 CHNA.

### Community Demographics

Chatham County's population in 2023 was 303,655, compared to 295,291 in 2010, which represents a 2.8% growth.

#### Chatham County Age Group Distribution



#### Chatham County Population Growth

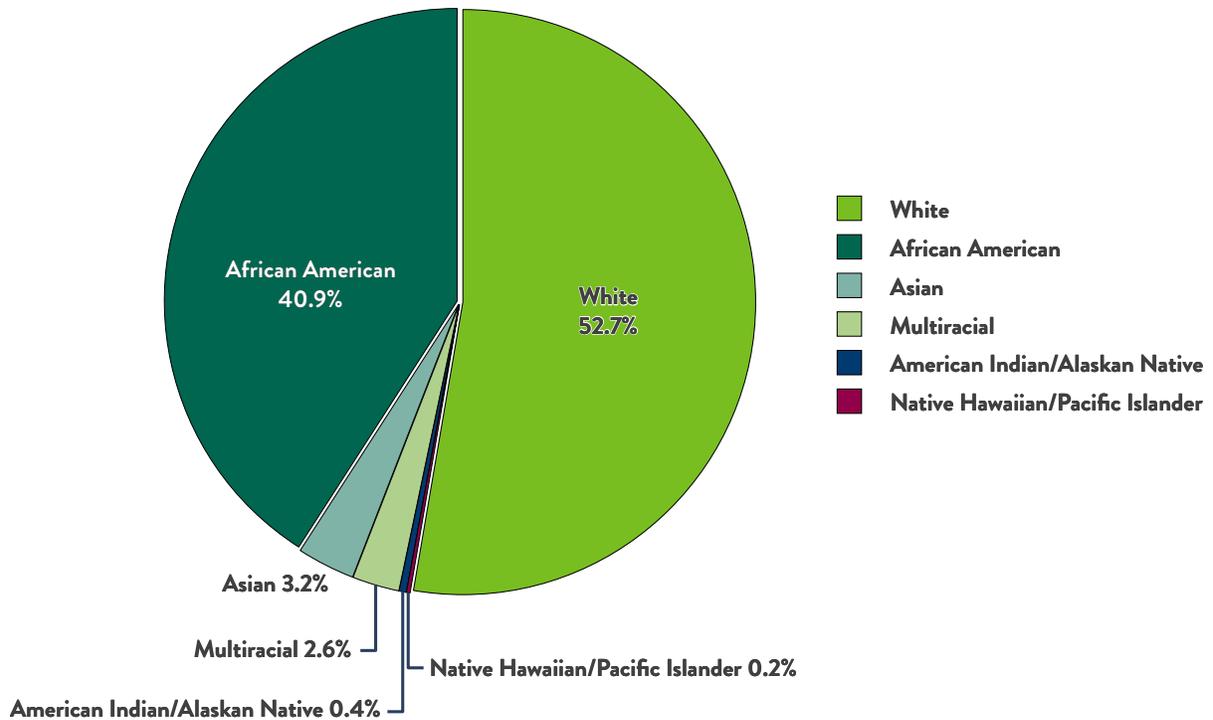


#### Sex Ratio

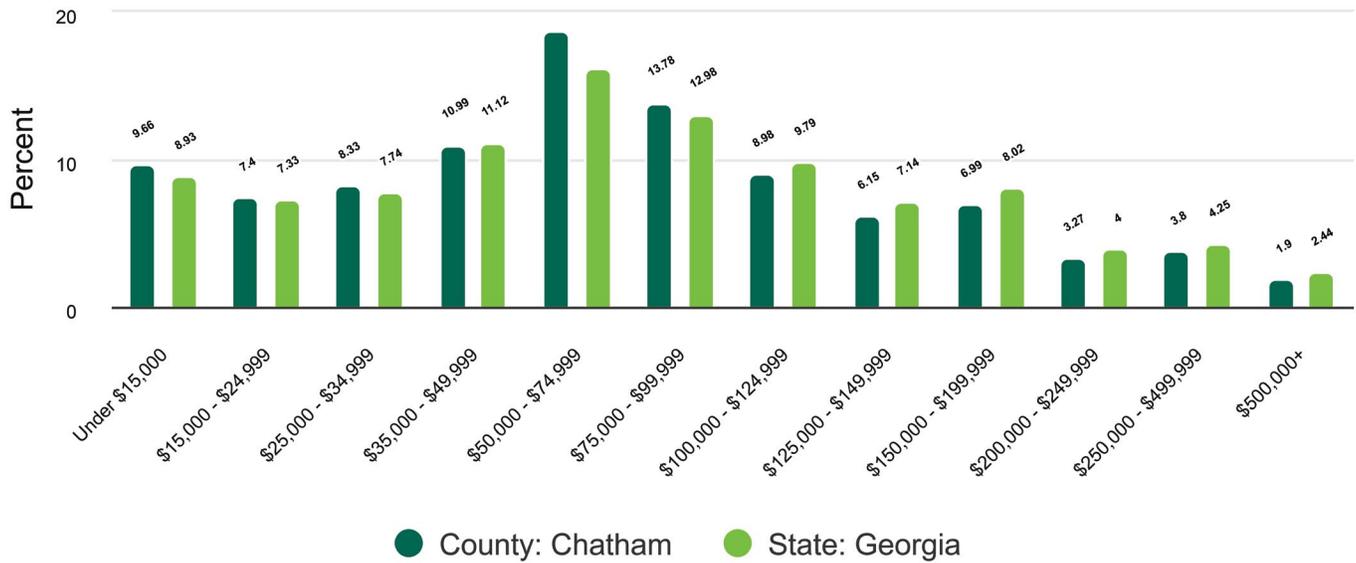


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

#### Chatham County Population by Race/Ethnicity



## Households by Income (County: Chatham)



Claritas, 2024. [www.coastalgaindicators.org](http://www.coastalgaindicators.org)

### Income and Households

Chatham County has 124,563 households, which contain 78,791 families. The average household size in Chatham County is 2.36 persons, compared to the state average of 2.59 persons. The average household income for Chatham County is \$95,039, which is below the state average of \$102,890. The median household income in Chatham County is \$68,161, and the state median is \$72,877.

The median value for owner occupied housing in Chatham County is \$398,550, which increased from \$239,763 in 2022.

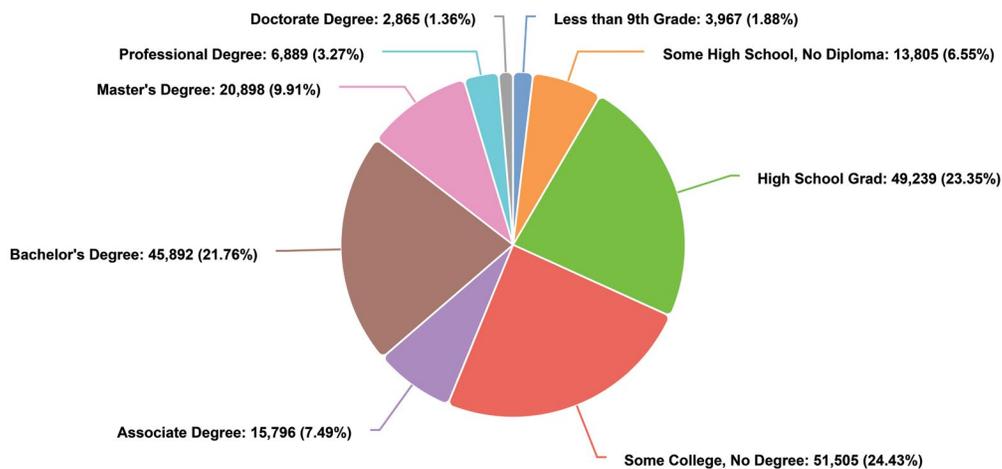
### Education

Education attainment impacts all aspects of life. High school graduates have lower rates of health problems and lower risk of incarceration. Those with a college degree have improved job opportunities and have tendency to earn a much higher lifetime salary than those without.

In Chatham County, 8.34% of the population over the age of twenty-five have not completed high school, which is lower than the state average of 11.42%. Chatham County Public Schools reported an 86.8% graduation rate for the class of 2024.<sup>1</sup>

Below is a graph of educational obtainment for the Chatham County population.

**Population 25+ by Educational Attainment (County: Chatham)**



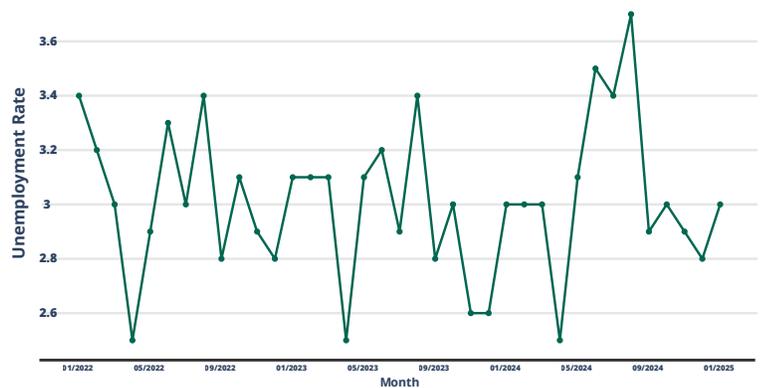
Clartias, 2024. www.coastalga indicators.org

### Employment

Georgia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December of 2024 was 3.6%. In Chatham County the unemployment rate during the same time period was 2.8%, below the state average.

Most of Chatham County's population use their personal vehicles to travel to and from work. The average commute time for workers residing in Chatham County was twenty-four minutes, which is two minutes more than the data reported in 2019.

**Unemployment Rate (County: Chatham)**



<sup>1</sup> [www.sccpps.com/news/news-landing-page/~board/district-news/post/sccpps-graduation-rate-of-868-exceeds-state-rate-once-again](http://www.sccpps.com/news/news-landing-page/~board/district-news/post/sccpps-graduation-rate-of-868-exceeds-state-rate-once-again)

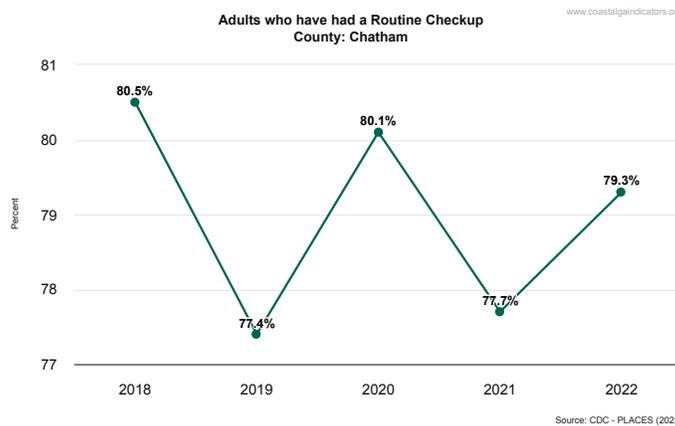
## Health Statistics

### Access to Healthcare and Insurance

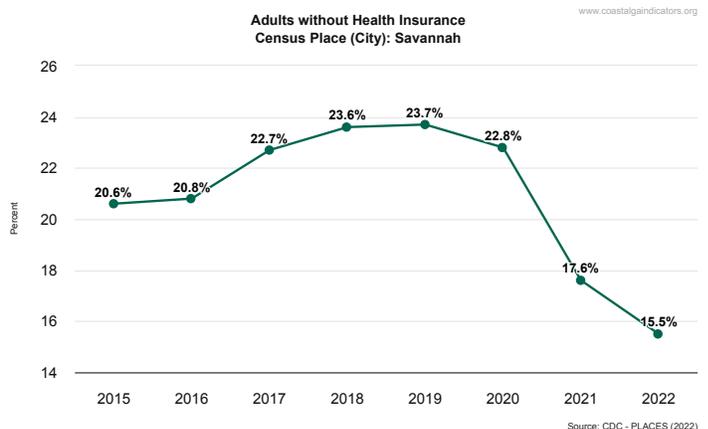
Access to quality healthcare is vital to the health of the overall community and each individual. According to Healthy People 2030, “Delaying medical care can negatively impact health and increase the cost of care. People who can’t get the care they need may have more preventable complications, hospitalizations, emotional stress, and higher costs.”

There are three specific health care specialties that are considered when looking at access to care: primary care physicians, mental health providers, and dentists. The ratio of primary care physicians to each person in Chatham County is 1080:1, which is better than the state average of 1520:1. The ratio of mental health providers to each person in Chatham County is 470:1, where Georgia is 520:1. The ratio of dentists to each person in Chatham County 1390:1, compared to 1860:1 in Georgia.

Regular health screenings and exams that take place during routine checkups can help diagnose problems earlier, which may result in better outcomes and less complicated treatments. In Chatham County, 79% of the population participates in routine checkups with their healthcare provider.



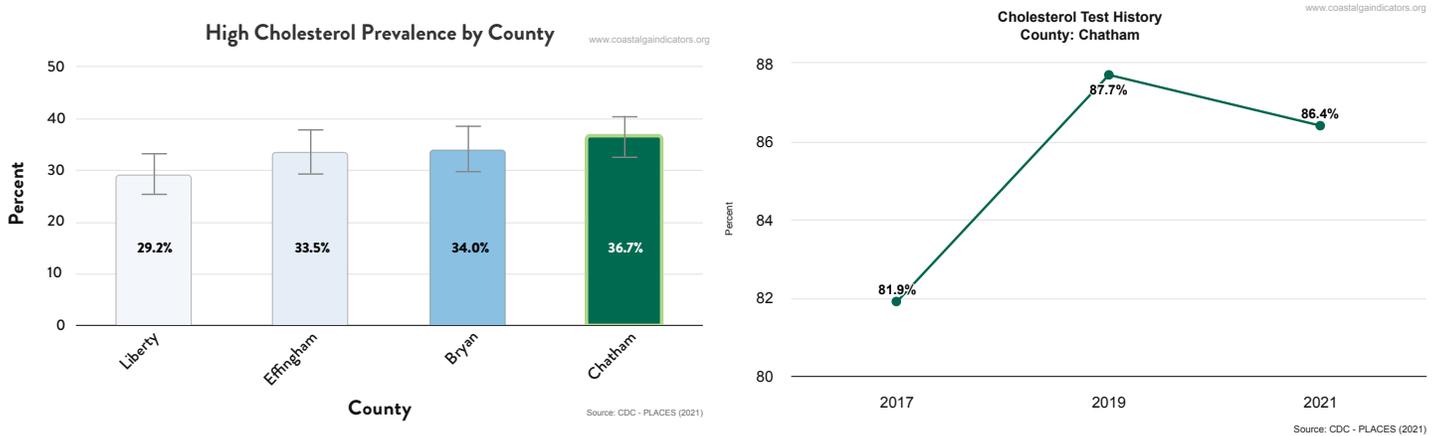
People with health insurance experience less of a cost burden and often have more opportunities to seek timely and appropriate medical care. According to the U. S. Census Bureau (2023), 15.5% of the Chatham County population under the age of sixty-five lack any form of health insurance. Georgia has an average of 11.4% of its population under sixty-five without health insurance.



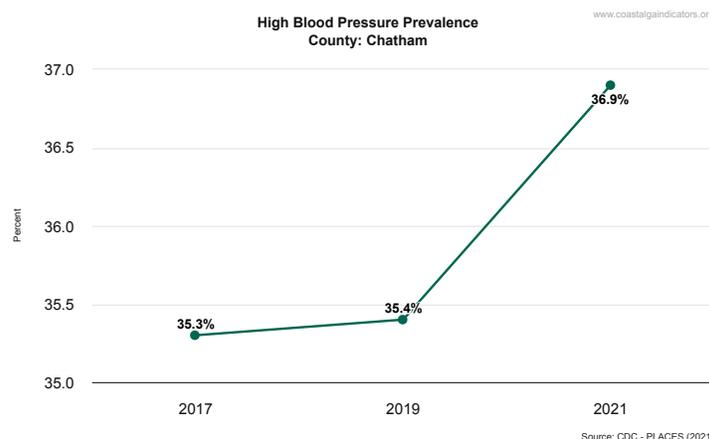
### Chronic Diseases

High blood cholesterol is one the major risk factors for heart disease. The higher your blood cholesterol level, the greater your risk for developing heart disease or having a heart attack. Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States. Lowering cholesterol levels decreases the risk for developing heart disease and reduces the chance of having a heart attack.

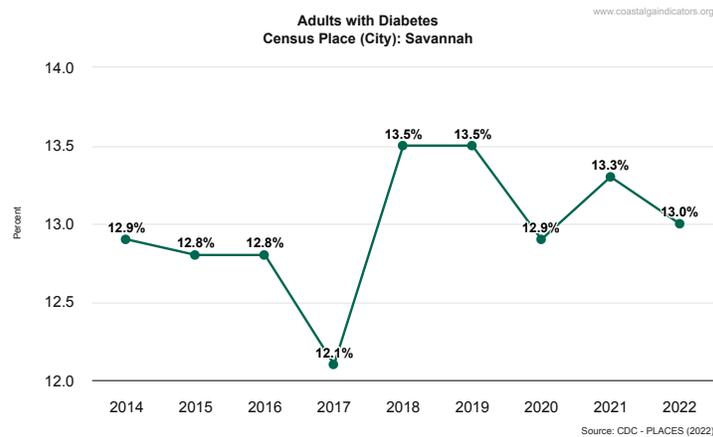
Healthy People 2030 proposed a target of having 82.1% of adults check their blood cholesterol levels within the preceding five years. 86.4% of Chatham County's population had a cholesterol test. The prevalence of high cholesterol in Chatham County adults is 36.7%.



High blood pressure is the number one modifiable risk factor for stroke. The higher your blood pressure, the greater your risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke, and kidney disease. Because there are no symptoms associated with high blood pressure, it is often called the “silent killer.” The only way to tell if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked. Blood pressure can be controlled through lifestyle changes, including eating a heart-healthy diet, limiting alcohol, avoiding tobacco, controlling your weight, and staying physically active. The graph below shows an increase in blood pressure prevalence in Chatham County.



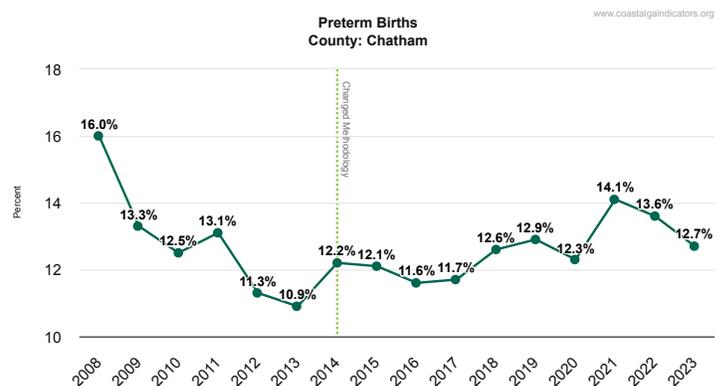
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 25 million people have diabetes, including both diagnosed and undiagnosed cases. This disease can have a harmful effect on most of the organ systems in the human body; it is a frequent cause of end-stage renal disease, non-traumatic lower-extremity amputation, and a leading cause of blindness among working age adults. Persons with diabetes are also at increased risk for ischemic heart disease, neuropathy, and stroke. Diabetes disproportionately affects minority populations and the elderly. As of 2022, 13% of Savannah's adult population has diabetes.



## Maternal and Child Health

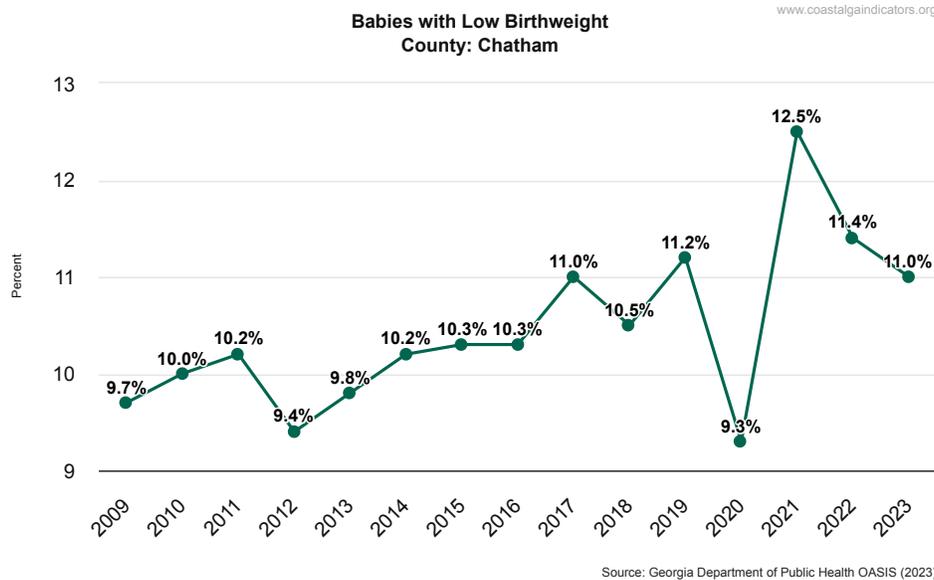
According to Healthy People 2030, some women have health problems that start during pregnancy, and others have health problems before they get pregnant that could lead to complications during pregnancy. Strategies to help women adopt healthy habits and get health care before and during pregnancy can help prevent pregnancy complications.

Infants born before 37 weeks gestation may be born with serious health problems and have higher risk of infections, developmental problems, breathing issues, and death (The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Strategies to reduce preterm births include promoting adequate birth spacing, helping pregnant people quit smoking, and providing high-quality medical care for pregnant patients for women and infants (Healthy People 2030).

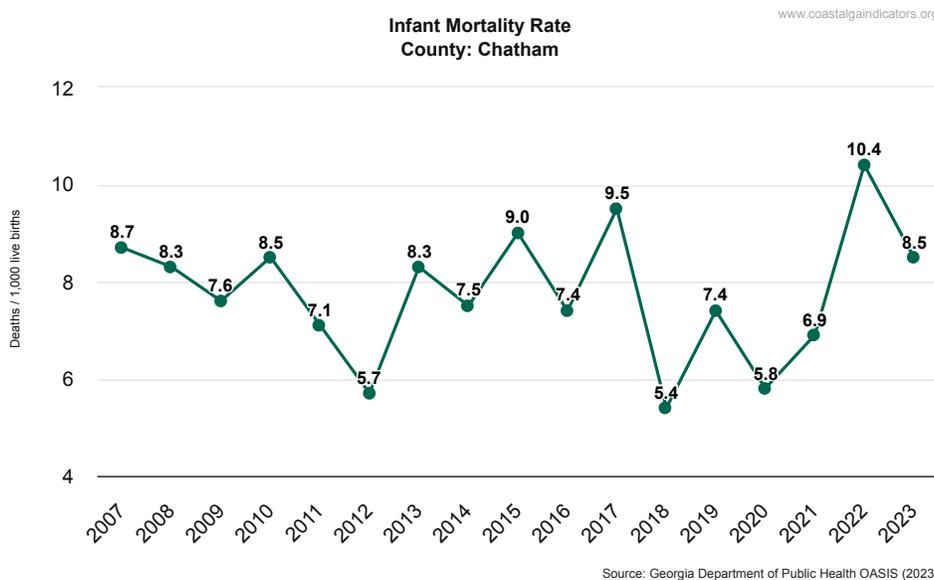


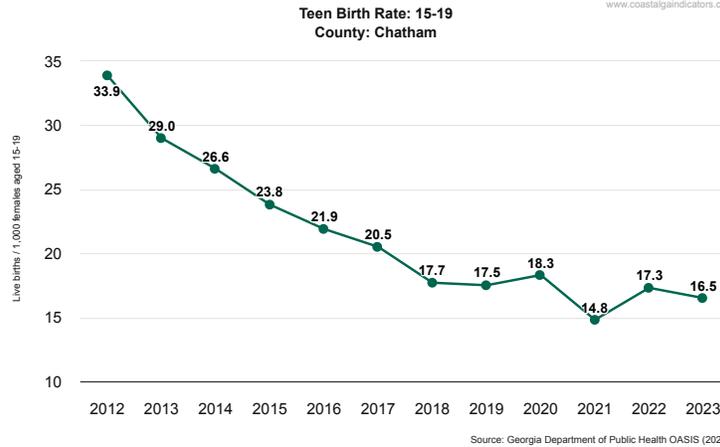
Due to a change in methodology with the transition to using the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE) measure, the 2014 data should be considered a baseline year for data analysis and is not directly comparable to previous years.  
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health OASIS (2023)

Infants born with low birthweight are more likely to have health problems and require specialized medical care in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Low birthweight is typically caused by premature birth and fetal growth restriction. Factors impacting the likelihood of low birthweight include the pregnant person's race, age, health, and being pregnant with multiples (e.g., twins, triplets). Smoking, drinking alcohol, and substance misuse during pregnancy can also increase the risk for having an infant with low birthweight (March of Dimes).



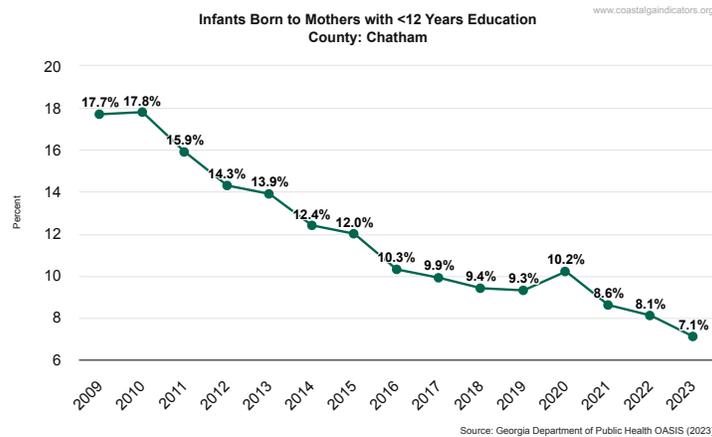
Infant mortality is the death of an infant before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. In Chatham County, that rate was 8.5% in 2023. The leading causes of death among infants are birth defects, preterm delivery, low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), injuries, and pregnancy complications (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).





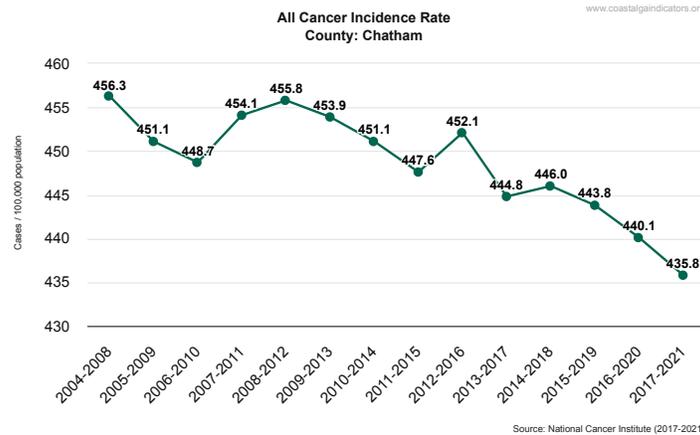
Teen birth can impact health outcomes of both the pregnant person and the infant. Infants born to pregnant teens are more likely to be premature, have low birth weight, and are at higher risk for death. Having a baby can also negatively impact the pregnant teen’s health and their educational and job opportunities. Evidence shows that a variety of outreach and educational programs can help reduce unintended teen pregnancies (Healthy People 2030).

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed. Higher educational attainment of parents has been associated with a range of health and social outcomes, including lower levels of child mortality and improved educational outcomes of their children (Balaj, York, Sripada, *et al.*; National Center for Education Statistics).



## Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death in the United States. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) defines cancer as a term used to describe diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues. There are over 100 different types of cancer. According to the NCI, lung, colon and rectal, breast, pancreatic, and prostate cancer lead to the greatest number of annual deaths. In Chatham County, there are 435.8 cases of cancer per 100,000 people. In Georgia, this number is 468.9 cases per 100,000 people. Overall cancer incidence is on a downward trend in Georgia, according to National Cancer Institute.

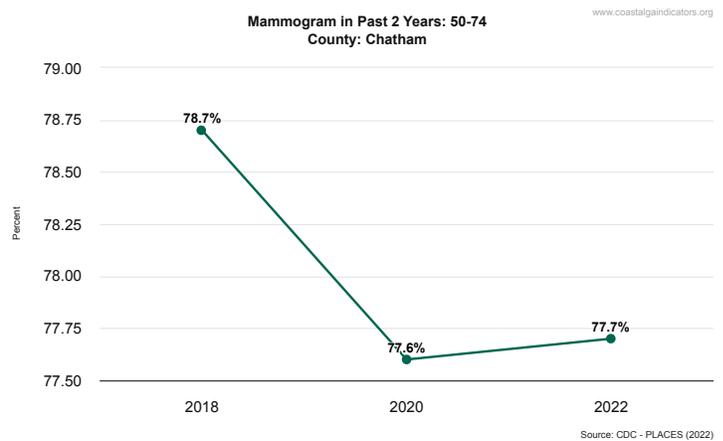
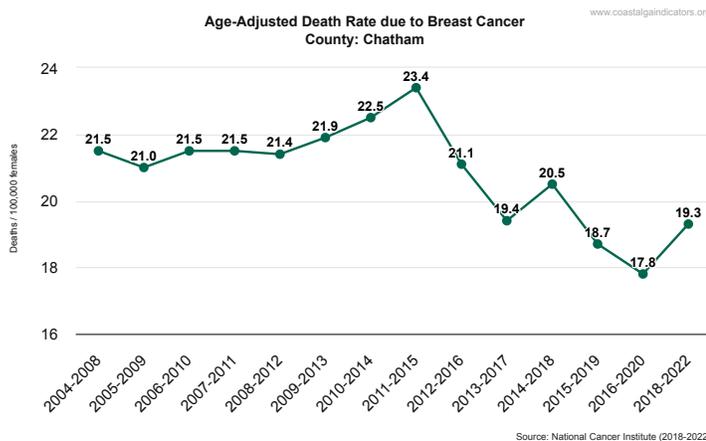


Healthy People 2030 focuses on reducing the overall cancer death rate, with special attention to reducing the death rate for female breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and prostate cancer. Preventative care focuses for Healthy People 2030 are increased screenings for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer.

### Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is a leading cause of death by cancer among women in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer and about 1 in 36 women will die from breast cancer. Breast cancer is associated with increased age, hereditary factors, obesity, and alcohol use. Since 1990, breast cancer death rates have declined progressively due to advancements in treatment and detection.

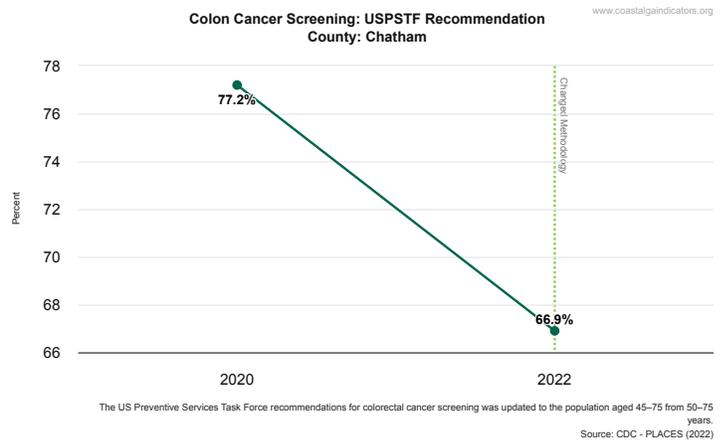
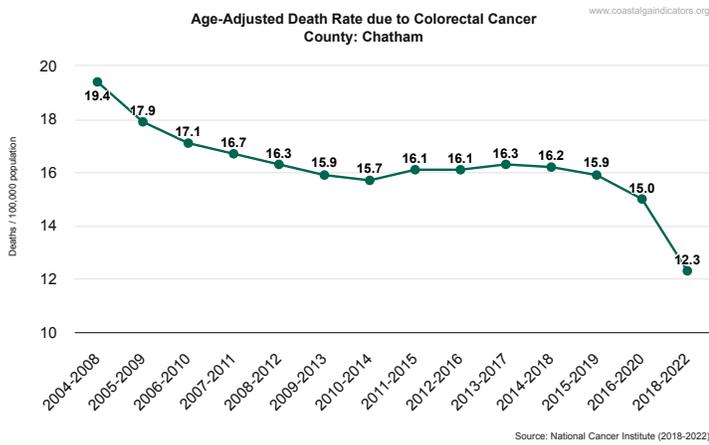
Chatham County's age adjusted death rate for breast cancer is 19.3 deaths per 100,000 females, whereas Georgia's rate is 20.7 deaths per 100,000 females. The Healthy People 2030 goal is 15.3 deaths per 100,000 females. Mammograms are used to detect breast cancer. Regular screenings can lead to early cancer detection and better health outcomes. Chatham County has 77.7% compliance rate for women, 50 years of age or older, who received mammograms every two years. The United States has a compliance rate 76.5%, and Healthy People 2030's goal is an 80.3% compliance rate.



### Colorectal Cancer

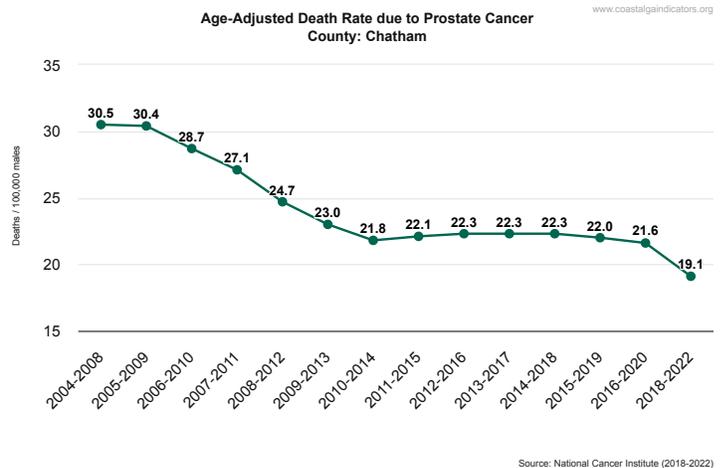
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), colorectal cancer, cancer of the colon or rectum, is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States, and is the third leading cancer killer in the United States. The CDC estimates that if all adults aged 50 or older had regular screening tests for colon cancer, as many as 60% of the deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented.

Chatham County's age adjusted death rate for colorectal cancer is 12.3 deaths per 100,000, whereas Georgia's rate is 13.8 deaths per 100,000. Healthy People 2030 have a target of 8.9 deaths per 100,000. In Chatham County, 66.9% of the demographic eligible to receive a screening have been compliant.



### Prostate Cancer

The prostate is a gland found only in males, and is located below the bladder and in front of the rectum. Prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. And about 1 in 36 will die from prostate cancer. The two greatest risk factors for prostate cancer are age and race. Men over the age of 65 and men of African descent possess the highest incidence rates of prostate cancer in the U.S. In Chatham County, there were 19.1 deaths per 100,000 men in 2022. The Georgia value is 21.3 deaths per 100,000 men, and the Healthy People 2030 goal is 16.9 deaths per 100,000 men.

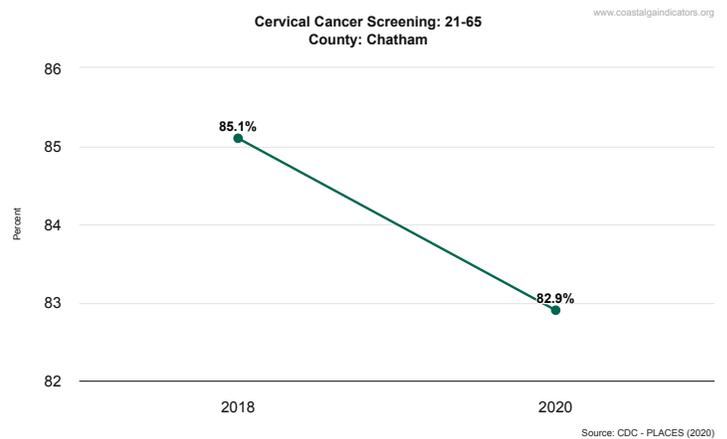
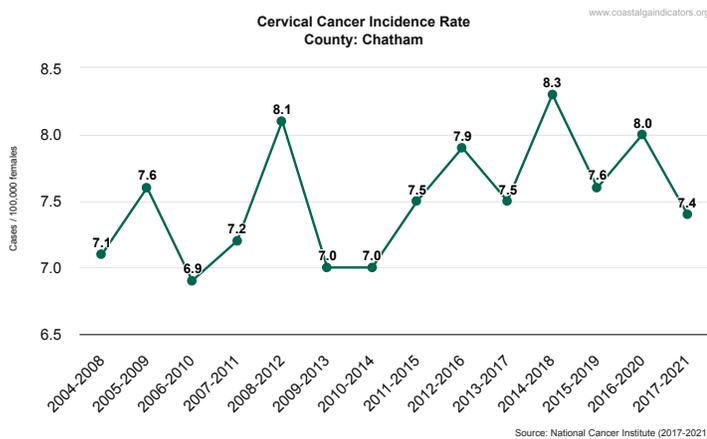


### Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer forms in tissues of the cervix and is slow-growing. Cervical cancer that is detected early is one of the most successfully treatable cancers, and can be cured by removing or destroying the pre-cancerous or cancerous tissue. Cervical cancer is detected by Pap test screenings and is most often caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that all women aged 21-29 have a Pap test every 3 years. Women aged 30-65 should have a Pap test and an HPV test every 5 years or at least a Pap test every 3 years.

In Chatham County, 82.9% of women eligible for cervical cancer screenings were screened. The Healthy People 2030 goal is 79.2% of eligible women screened.

The cervical cancer incidence rate for Chatham County is 7.4 cases per 100,000 females, which is on an downward trend.

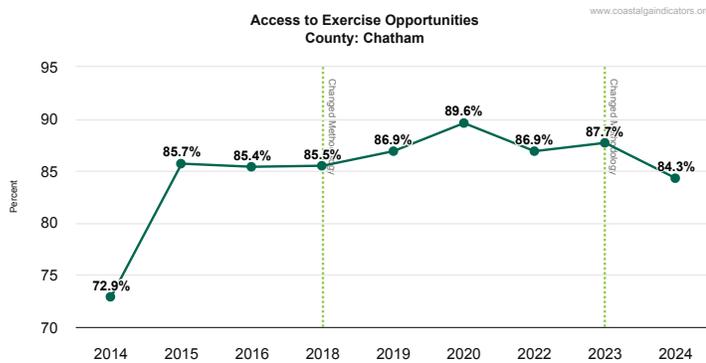


### Physical Activity

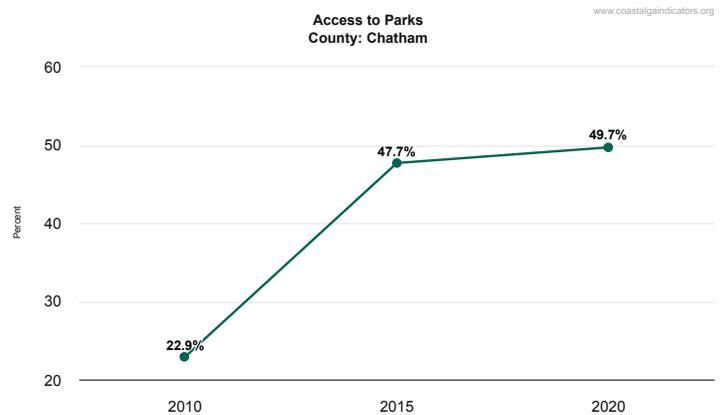
Proximity to places for physical activity, such as parks, has been linked to an increase in physical activity among residents. Regular physical activity has a wide array of health benefits including weight control, muscle and bone strengthening, improved mental health and mood, and improved life expectancy. Furthermore, exercise reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome, as well as some cancers.

In Chatham County, 84.3% of the population lives reasonably close to a park or recreation facility, and 49.7% live

within half a mile of a publicly accessible park.

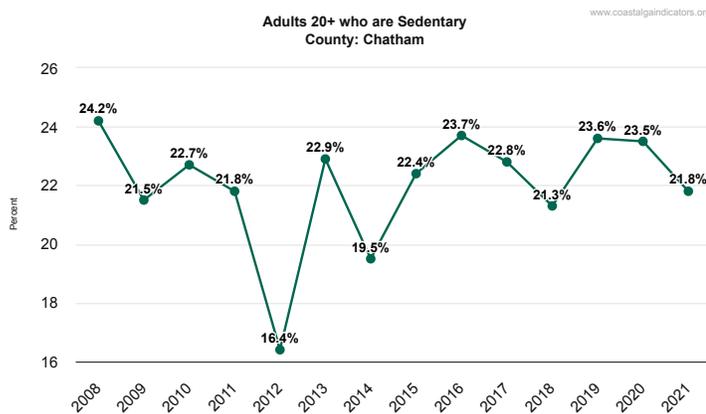


Standard Industry Classification (SIC) 8-digit codes are no longer available. To replace these more generic 6-digit SIC codes were used to identify recreational facilities. In addition, YMCA of the USA provided CHR a complete list of facilities and services offered for them to better identify Y's. In 2023, County Health Rankings switched from using 2010 census blocks and population counts to 2020 census blocks and population counts and used the new 2020 Census Urban Areas to assign urban/rural status to recreational facilities and YMCAs. Source: County Health Rankings (2024)

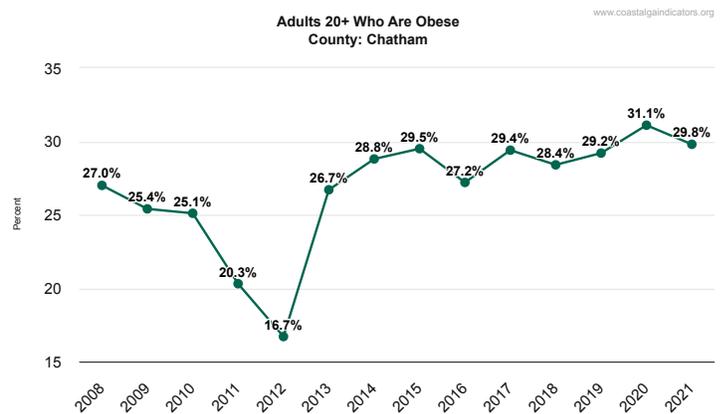


Source: National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2020)

Access to public areas for physical activity aids in weight management, which prevents many chronic diseases. Adults who are sedentary are at an increased risk of many serious health conditions. These conditions include obesity, heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer, and high blood pressure. In addition, physical activity improves mood and promotes healthy sleep patterns. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) recommends that adults perform physical activity three to five times each week for 20 to 60 minutes at a time to improve cardiovascular fitness and body composition. The percentage of obese adults is an indicator of the overall health and lifestyle of a community. Obesity increases the risk of many diseases and health conditions, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis. Losing weight and maintaining a healthy weight help to prevent and control these diseases. Being obese also carries significant economic costs due to increased healthcare spending and lost earnings. Healthy People 2030 aims to decrease obesity to 36% of the population. Chatham County currently has 29.8% of its population considered obese.



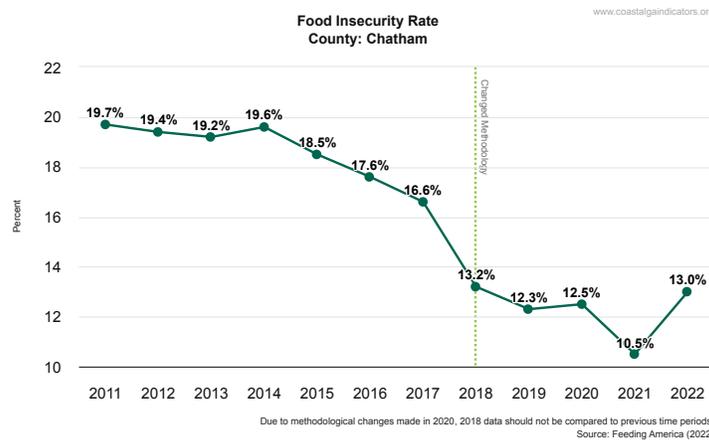
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021)



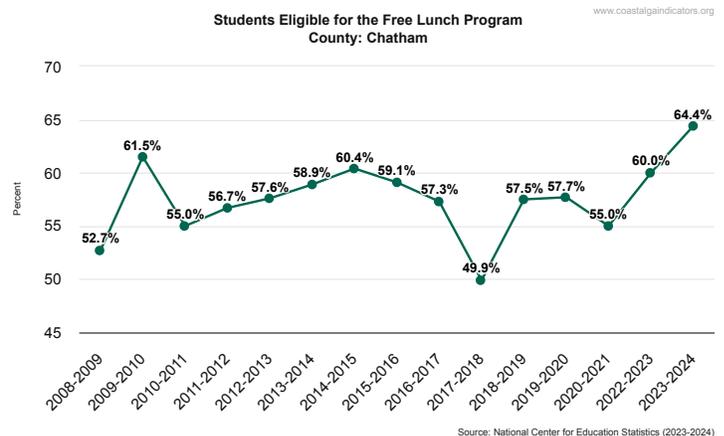
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021)

### Nutrition

Food insecurity is an economic and social indicator of the health of a community. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods or uncertain ability to acquire these foods in socially acceptable ways. Poverty and unemployment are frequently predictors of food insecurity in the United States. A survey commissioned by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) found that one in four Americans worries about having enough money to put food on the table in the next year. Food insecurity is associated with chronic health problems in adults including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, obesity, and mental health issues including major depression. In 2022, 13% of Chatham County's population experienced food insecurity, which is a 2.5% increase from 2021.



The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. The Free Lunch Program (FLP) under the NSLP has been providing nutritionally balanced lunches to children at no cost since 1946. Families who meet the income eligibility requirements or who receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can apply through their children's school to receive free meals. The FLP ensures that students who may otherwise not have access to a nutritious meal are fed during the school day. This helps students remain focused and productive in school. Moreover, the lunches help students meet their basic nutritional requirements when their families may not be able to consistently provide a balanced and varied diet. In Chatham County, 64.4% of students qualify for the Free Lunch Program, and there has been a steady increase since 2020. In Georgia, 58.6% of students qualify for the same program.



## Prioritization of Needs/Conclusion

---

After reviewing all data that is included in this report, as well as in Appendix 2, St. Joseph's/Candler has decided to focus on the five needs below. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will outline how we plan to measure our progress in advancing each need. The CHIP can be found in Appendix 5.

1. Improve chronic disease management for diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol among the un/underinsured patients receiving care through SJ/C.
2. Decrease the number of un/underinsured SJ/C patients without primary care.
3. Provide prenatal education and wrap around services to un/underinsured expectant mothers in Chatham County.
4. Facilitate nutrition education programs and nutrition services within Chatham County for vulnerable populations.
5. Promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

## Appendix A – Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

---

### 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

St. Joseph's/Candler is asking local residents to identify the most pressing health care needs within our community. We are partnering with Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition to get the word out on this important initiative! Please take a few moments to provide your feedback with this survey.

#### Health Status

1. How would you rate your overall health?

Excellent

Very good

Good

Fair

Poor

2. In the last 30 days, how would you rate your overall mental health status?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

3. Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have one of the following conditions?

- Asthma
- Aging problems (e.g. arthritis, hearing/vision loss, etc.)
- Angina or coronary artery disease
- Anxiety
- Bipolar disorder
- Cancer (If yes, please list in the box below)
- Congestive heart failure
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Depression

- Diabetes (type 1 or 2)
- Emphysema
- End stage renal disease
- Heart attack
- Hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol)
- HIV/AIDS
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Obesity
- Schizophrenia
- Stroke
- Other (please specify)

4. If you have been diagnosed with a chronic disease, what resources and education were provided?

- Locations for physical activity
- Disease management programs
- Accessible/affordable healthy food
- Nutrition education
- Tobacco cessation program
- Affordable medication

- Medication management
- Support groups
- Comfort Care (Palliative Care)
- Online resources
- Educational seminars
- Non-applicable
- Other (please specify)

Next

Powered by



See how easy it is to [create surveys and forms](#).

[Privacy & Cookie Notice](#)



## 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

### Community Health Concerns

5. How would you rate the overall health of Savannah/Chatham County?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

6. What do you think are the biggest health issues for adults in Chatham County? (Check all that apply)

- Chronic disease management (diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, etc.)
- Cancer

- Affordable medication
- Infectious diseases (Hepatitis, TB, etc.)
- Maternal and child health
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Suicide
- Substance misuse (tobacco, drug, alcohol)
- Gun-related injuries
- Vehicle crashes
- Safe and affordable housing
- Domestic violence
- Sexual violence
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

7. What do you think are the biggest health issues for children in Chatham County? (Check all that apply)

- Affordable medications
- Vaccinations
- Mental illness

- Lack of physical activity
- Access to healthy foods
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Unintentional injuries
- Suicide
- Bullying
- Childcare/virtual learning
- Substance misuse
- Safe neighborhoods
- Household challenges
- Parental abandonment
- Sexual abuse/Rape
- Gun related injuries
- Child abuse/neglect
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

8. Which of these resources would improve your health and quality of life?

- Affordable eye exams and eyeglasses

- Access to healthy foods
- Free glucoses checks and referrals
- Understanding what government programs my family might qualify for (SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, childcare, etc.)
- Access to a social worker
- Safe places for physical activity
- Mental health/stress relief
- Safe and affordable housing
- Senior care assistance
- Transportation
- Job training/employment services
- Utility assistance
- Emergency preparedness
- Free cancer screenings
- General health screenings
- Childcare
- Language/Translation services
- Teen mentoring programs
- Domestic violence assistance/Anti-bullying help
- Other (please specify)



## 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

### Access to Health Care Services

9. What groups do you think need the most help to access healthcare service in Chatham County?

(Check all that apply)

- Families of low income
- People who have immigrated to the U.S.
- Uninsured
- The LGBTQ+ Community
- Those who experience homelessness
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- Seniors (65+)
- Children
- I do not know

None of the above

Other (please specify)

10. What are the greatest barriers to accessing health care services in Chatham County? (Check all that apply)

Finding a doctor who takes new patients

Finding a specialty care doctor

Cost of seeing a doctor (copay)

Access to preventative cancer screenings

Doctors who take Medicaid or Medicare patients

Trusting a doctor

Appointment times are outside of my availability

Ability to easily reach office staff for assistance

Finding affordable insurance

Finding a doctor to see you without insurance

Access to dental services

Access to vision services

Access to mental health services

Transportation to appointments

- Lack of interpreters
- Cultural/Language barriers
- Discrimination in health care settings
- Other (please specify)

11. Where do you see the biggest gaps for healthcare services in Chatham County?

- Enough doctors accepting patients/Timely appointments
- Enough free or reduced cost clinics
- Prescription drug assistance
- Virtual physician appointments
- Location of health providers
- Quality of care
- Duration of appointments
- Disease management programs
- Preventative cancer screenings
- Maternal/child health
- Pediatric care
- Mental health

- Dental care
- Vision care
- Language barrier
- I do not see or have not experienced any gaps in my healthcare services
- Other (please specify)

12. In your opinion, what health services and resources need the most improvements in Chatham County? (Check all that apply)

- Access to providers (doctors, offices, clinics, etc.)
- Appointments after work or on weekends
- Chronic disease management (diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.)
- Tobacco cessation
- Substance abuse programs
- Support groups
- Specialty Care Providers
- Longer appointment durations with provider
- Access to Telemedicine
- Maternal/child health

- Pediatric information
- Stress management
- Vision services
- Dental services
- Ability to use patient portal to access personal health records
- General health information
- Available information in preferred language
- Access to nutritious foods
- Access to safe/affordable environments for physical activity
- I have no idea where to start to get information and help
- Mental health resources
- Internet accessibility
- Communication with doctors office
- Women's health resources
- Breastfeeding/education resources
- Relevant information for disabled
- Other (please specify)

13. Which of the following healthcare services and programs do you use right now?

- Family/Internal medicine
- Federally Qualified Health Clinics (Curtis V. Cooper or J. C. Lewis)
- Free health clinics (Good Samaritan or St. Mary's)
- School nurse (K-12)
- University health clinic
- Workplace/occupational health
- Public Health Department
- Mental health services
- Emergency room for all medical needs
- Urgent care clinics
- Telehealth
- CORE Vaccinations
- Dentist
- Eye doctor
- Fire department for blood pressure checks
- Community Centers
- SNAP/EBT benefits
- WIC (women, infants and children) benefits

- TANF benefits
- I have not used any healthcare provider or services in the last three years
- Other (please specify)

14. In the last 3 years, if you visited the emergency room for treatment of a chronic disease (diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.), did someone offer you resources to help you manage your condition?

- Yes (if yes, please list where you were referred below)
- No
- Non-applicable
- Other (please specify)

15. In the last 3 years, if you/your children went to an emergency room for a non-life threatening healthcare need, why did you use this service? Choose the top 3 reasons.

- I do not have a doctor
- I cannot afford my insurance co-payment
- I have no insurance
- Emergency room is always open

- Doctors office had no available appointments
- Doctor told me to go to the emergency room
- Convenience of location
- Transportation barriers
- No payment necessary at time of services
- Needed medications
- Does not apply to me

16. If you had to visit the emergency room in the last 3 years and you are not insured, did someone help you find an affordable permanent doctor/clinic (medical home)?

- Yes
- No
- Does not apply

17. If you have medical insurance and used an emergency room, has your insurance carrier refused to pay for the services you received?

- Yes
- No
- Pending
- Non-applicable

18. When you are sick, where do you see a doctor or healthcare provider?

- Doctors office
- Urgent care/Immediate care
- Emergency Room
- Free health clinic (St. Mary's/Good Samaritan)
- Federally Qualified Health Clinic (J. C. Lewis /Curtis V. Cooper)
- Health Department
- School nurse/University clinic
- I haven't needed to see a doctor in the last three years
- Other (please specify)

19. When do you visit the doctor/healthcare provider?

- Only when sick or injured
- Annual check-up
- Hospital follow-up
- Routine follow-up
- Never

20. If you are uninsured or lost your insurance in the past 3 years, did you know where to go to find access to health insurance for adults, children and affordable health care services?

- Yes
- No
- Does not apply
- Other (please specify)

21. When you call for a routine appointment, how long do you wait to see a doctor?

If for a few days, how many?

If for a few weeks, how many?

If for more than a month, how long?

22. How long does it take you to get an appointment if you call and are currently ill?

- Same day appointment
- If I call and tell them I am ill, they tell me to go to an urgent care or the ER
- Several days
- If I call and tell them I am ill, they offer me a telehealth appointment
- Other (please specify)

23. Once you are checked in at the doctor's office, how long do you normally wait to see the doctor/provider?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1-2 hours
- 2-4 hours

24. Please select your type of health insurance.

- Tricare
- Medicare
- Insurance through employer
- Health insurance marketplace (healthcare.gov)
- Georgia Medicaid
- GA Medicaid for kids (PeachCare)
- Insured through parent
- No insurance
- Other (please specify)

Prev

Next

## 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

### Health Information

25. If you had a preferred way to learn about healthy living, health services, and public policy, what would it be?

- Newspaper/Community flyers
- Direct email newsletter
- Text message alert with possible link to information
- Social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, etc.)
- Main phone number to call with options in a directory
- Local government
- Internet (Google, YouTube, WebMD, etc.)
- Community database (HeroHelpMe or United Way 211)
- Public transportation ads

- Word of mouth
- Mail to your home address
- Community/neighborhood/church events
- Information through my child's school
- Radio announcement
- Consult health provider
- Other (please specify)

Prev

Next

Powered by



See how easy it is to [create surveys and forms](#).

## 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

### Demographics

26. Please provide your zip code

27. What is your current marital status?

- Married/Life partner
- Divorced/Separated
- Widowed
- Single

28. How many adults (18 and older) live in your household?

29. How many children (under 18) live in your household?

30. What gender do you identify as?

- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

31. What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender or queer
- Intersex
- Asexual
- Non-binary
- Two-Spirit
- Prefer not to say

32. What is your current age?

- 18 or younger
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85 and up

33. What race/ethnicity do you identify with?

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Asian/Asian American
- Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian
- Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern
- Other (please specify)

34. What language do you speak at home?

35. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school
- High school diploma/GED
- Some college, no degree
- Associates degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate degree

36. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

- Full time employed
- Part time employed
- Self employed
- Multiple jobs
- Not employed, looking for work
- Not employed, not looking for work
- Retired
- Have a disability, not able to work
- Veteran
- Student

## 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

### Social Determinants of Health

37. What is your current housing status?

- Own
- Rent
- Public housing
- Homeless
- Living temporarily with friends/family
- Living in a hotel
- Senior housing/assisted living
- Other (please specify)

38. Do you have reliable transportation to get to work, school, and healthcare appointments?

- Yes
- No

39. Are there public transportation options available and accessible in your area?

Yes

No

40. Where do you primarily obtain the food you and your family eat?

Grocery store/Supermarket

Farmers Market

Convenience store

Food pantry/Food bank

Farm Truck 912

Community garden

Online delivery service

Fast food/Restaurant

Friends/Family

Other (please specify)

41. How would you rate the ability of residents to access healthy and nutritional foods in your community?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent
- I don't know

42. How long have you lived in Savannah/Chatham County?

- Less than a year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20
- I do not live in Savannah/Chatham County

43. Have you or any member of your household experienced health issues that you believe are related to any of the following environmental hazards in your community?

- Industrial pollution (Factories, chemical plants, etc.)
- Traffic related air pollution (emissions from vehicles)
- Agricultural pollution (e.g., pesticide use, animal waste)
- Water contamination (e.g., lead, chemicals, bacteria)
- Hazardous waste sites (e.g., landfills, Superfund sites)
- Indoor air quality (e.g., mold, asbestos, radon)
- Noise pollution (e.g., traffic, industrial noise)
- Other environmental hazards (please specify below)
- No health issues
- If yes to any of these, please describe the health issues

44. During a normal week, do you engage in any physical activity or exercise that lasts at least half an hour five or more times a week?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/not sure
- Prefer not to answer

45. How would you rate the ability of residents to access physical activity and exercise opportunities in your community?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very Good
- Excellent

Prev

Done

Powered by



See how easy it is to [create surveys and forms](#).

## Appendix B – Healthy Savannah Community Survey

---

### HEALTHY SAVANNAH COMMUNITY SURVEY

### ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024



Prepared:  
February 2025  
By:  
NextStep Evaluation Inc

## Table of Contents

### Contents

Introduction .....	3
Key Findings – Executive Summary.....	4
Physical Activity .....	5
Food Systems and Nutrition.....	14
Communications .....	22
Other Community Resources.....	24
Demographics .....	25

## Introduction

Healthy Savannah has gathered community feedback on healthy food and active living preferences, knowledge and behaviors for over 10 years, beginning in 2015. Over time, the community survey has been revised to focus on knowledge of partner activities and programs, behaviors related to healthy food and active living, and community member interests in trail development, complete streets, and healthy food access. This report will review the findings from the surveys collected from community members during 2024, funded in part by the Centers of Disease Control Racial and Ethnical Approach to Community Health (REACH) grant.

The survey has been developed in SurveyMonkey, it is distributed in both paper and electronic copy. Each year the survey is reviewed and minor revisions made if needed for the new year. For the past two years the survey has been offered in English and Spanish. Healthy Savannah staff and volunteers collect surveys at a variety of events and locations throughout the year. During 2024, there were a total of 523 surveys completed. The report includes a detailed reporting of all of the findings in the following order: Physical activity, Nutrition, Adult Immunizations, and Communications.

## Key Findings – Executive Summary

### Physical Activity

- The majority of the respondents (80%) indicated they would walk or bike to work, school and shopping if there were bike paths and sidewalks definitely or sometimes. (51% said yes, 29% said sometimes).
- Over three quarters of respondents indicated sidewalks (77%) and public recreation facilities (78%) are extremely important.
- 41% of respondents indicated they did not feel safe on bike lanes in Chatham County.
- Over three quarters (79%) indicate they use the city/county parks at least once a month.
- The majority (83%) of respondents indicated they participated in physical activities a few times a month or more.
- Almost half of respondents (48%) would use the Tide to Town trail at least occasionally. 52% are not sure how often they would use the trail system.

### Nutrition

- Of those who use SNAP, most use them at large supermarkets (80%) and local grocery stores (42%). The percent of respondents who use SNAP increased from 34% last year to 40% this year (still down from 60% in 2022).
- Over half (56%) ate fresh vegetables every day and 47% ate fresh fruit every day, continuing the higher level on consumption than in 2022.
- Almost a quarter (24%) reported challenges affording fruits and vegetables a few times a month or more and 25% reported having to cut meals a few times a month or more due to not having money for food.
- Over half of the respondents indicated that fruits (54%) and vegetables (56%) were always available at their house.
- Healthy food options at all locations are extremely important to half of the respondents (public facilities (64%), neighborhood stores (54%), restaurants (53%), faith based settings (51%)).
- Supportive breastfeeding policies (58%) and places to breastfeed (58%) are extremely important to over half of the respondents.

### Communication

- The majority of respondents want to learn about healthy living, health services, and policies from social media (47%), email newsletters (27%), and word of mouth (24%).
- The majority of respondents have not used available resource directories including 211 (64%), 311 (62%), Chatham Connect (78%), and herohelpme.com (78%). Of those respondents who had used the resources, 19% found 311 extremely helpful and 18% found 211 extremely helpful.

### Other Community Resources and Healthcare Options

- Most respondents had heard about or used the Forsyth Farmers Market (63%).
- Respondents had heard about or used other resources such as WIC (53%), Farm Truck 912 (36%), SNAP enrollments (34%), and Parent University (28%).
- More respondents see their personal doctor (47%) versus other options when they are sick.

### Physical Activity

This section of the report will review the community feedback related to physical activity. This includes survey questions related to knowledge about physical activity infrastructure as well as questions about personal behaviors and activities.

The response pattern this year was extremely consistent with 2023. The community is slowly starting to learn about Tide to Town, with the percentage who report hearing about Tide to Town staying at just over a quarter (28%) in 2024 from 15% in 2020. Most of the respondents (72%) did not know about the Tide to Town trail system this year. The increasing awareness may be related to activities such as the weekly Healthy Walks, increased marketing (including social media), and policy activities such as the Hotel-motel tax approval this year.

Figure 1: Have you heard about the Tide to Town trail system? (2024, N=479)

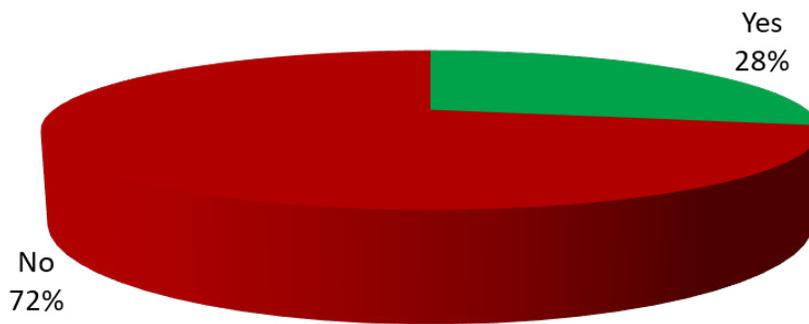
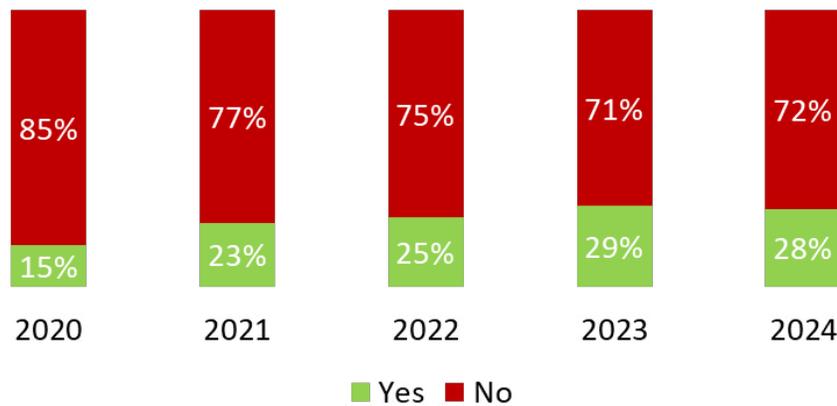


Figure 2: Have you heard about the Tide to Town trail system? (2020-2024 Responses)



Almost half (48%) of the respondents indicated they would use the Tide to Town system occasionally, frequently, or all the time. Almost a third of respondents (30%) indicate that they would use the Tide to Town trail system occasionally, while 18% would use it frequently or all the time. These responses are consistent with previous years responses (Figure 4).

Figure 3: How often do you use or think you would use the Tide to Town trail system?(2024, N=465)

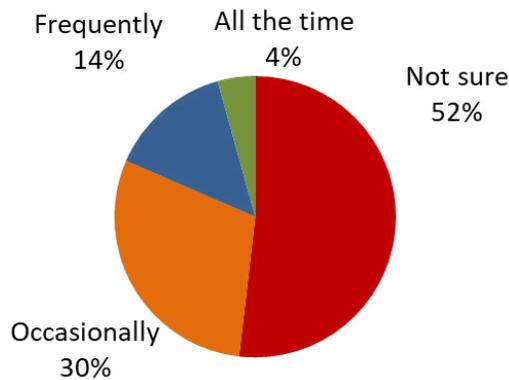
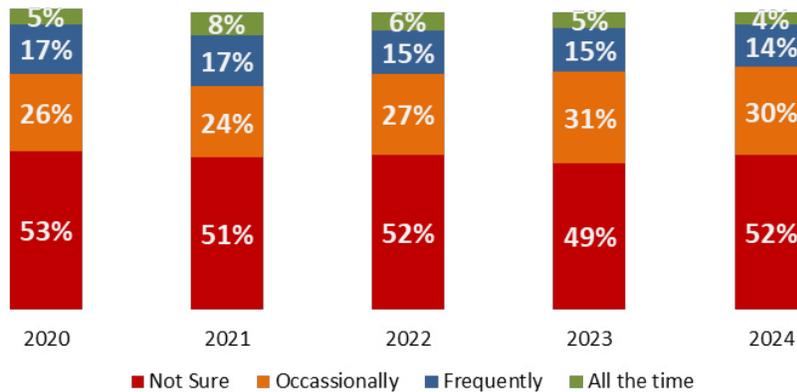


Figure 4: How often do you use or think you would use the Tide to Town trail system? 2020-2024 Responses



Active People Healthy Savannah is Savannah’s contribution to the CDC’s national effort to get 27 million Americans to become more physically active by 2027. Providing equitable and inclusive access to safe places for physical active is foundational to this strategy. One of the other relatively new initiatives for Healthy Savannah, Active People Healthy Savannah, is still unfamiliar to the majority of residents. Almost three quarters of respondents (72%) indicated they did not know about this initiative, slightly

down from 77% last year. The percent of respondents who have heard about the initiative has increased over the past three years from 14% in 2019 to 28% in 2023.

Figure 5: Have you heard about the Active People, Healthy Savannah initiative? (2024, N=473)

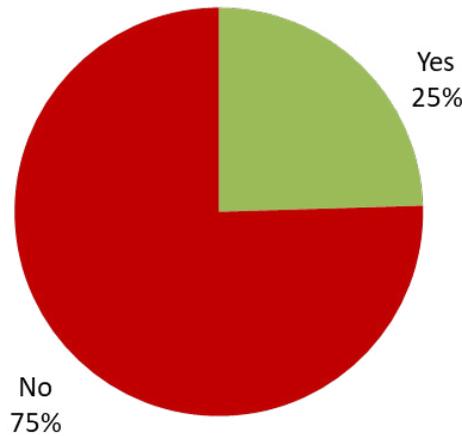
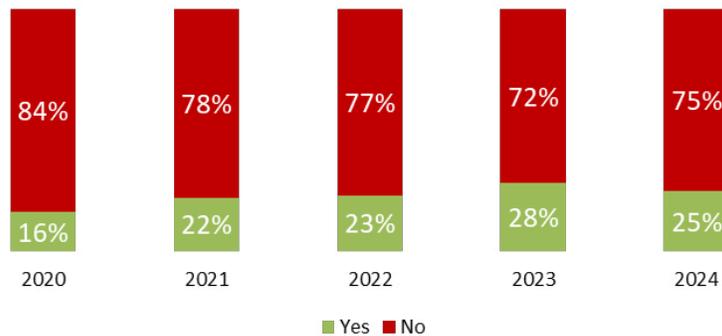


Figure 6: Have you heard about the Active People, Healthy Savannah initiative? 2020-2024 Responses



Respondents were asked to indicate whether they would walk or bike to school, shopping, and work if there were safe bike paths or sidewalks. In 2023, this question was reworded slightly. While it is not anticipated that this had a significant impact on the responses it is important to note that in previous years the question was worded: “Would you walk or bike to work, school, or shopping if there were safe bike paths or sidewalks?” and in 2023, it was worded “If there were safe bike paths or sidewalks, would you walk or bike to work, school, or shopping more often?” and this revised wording was maintained in 2024. In 2024, over half (51%, which is more than in 2022 but less than in 2023) indicated that they

would and 29% would sometimes (see Figure 8). The number who said they would sometimes walk or bike remained consistent over the years. The number who would not walk or bike decreased from 28% in 2022 to 19% in 2024. This may be related to the increased education about physical activity, programs like the weekly Healthy Walks and Georgia Walks, as well as increasing infrastructure such as bike lanes and sidewalks.

Figure 7: Would you walk or bike to work, school, or shopping if there were safe bike paths or sidewalks?(2024, N=467)

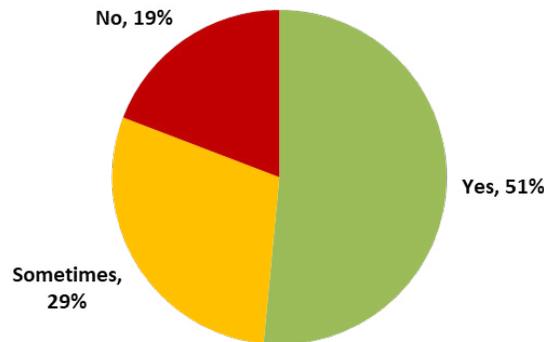
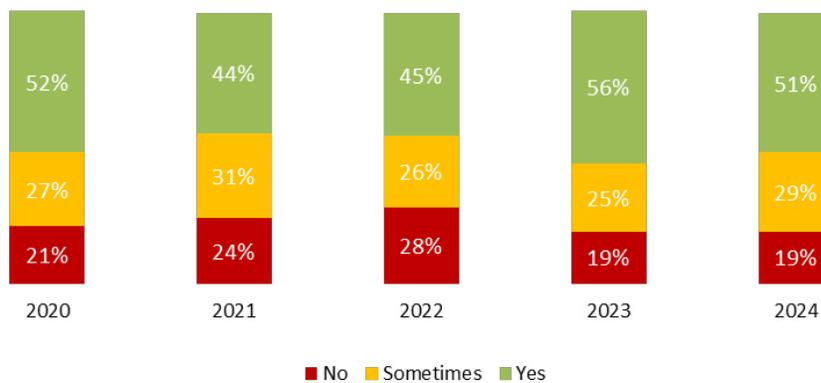
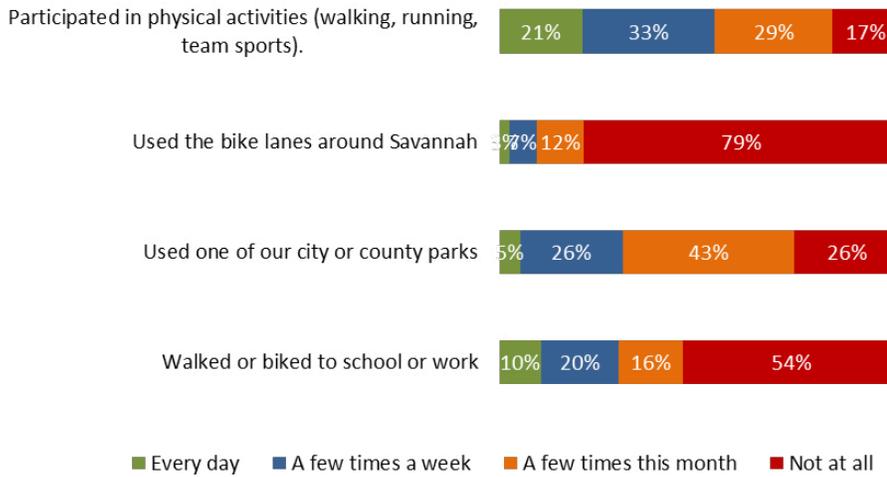


Figure 8: Would you walk or bike to work, school or shopping if there were safe bike paths and sidewalks? 2020-2024 Responses



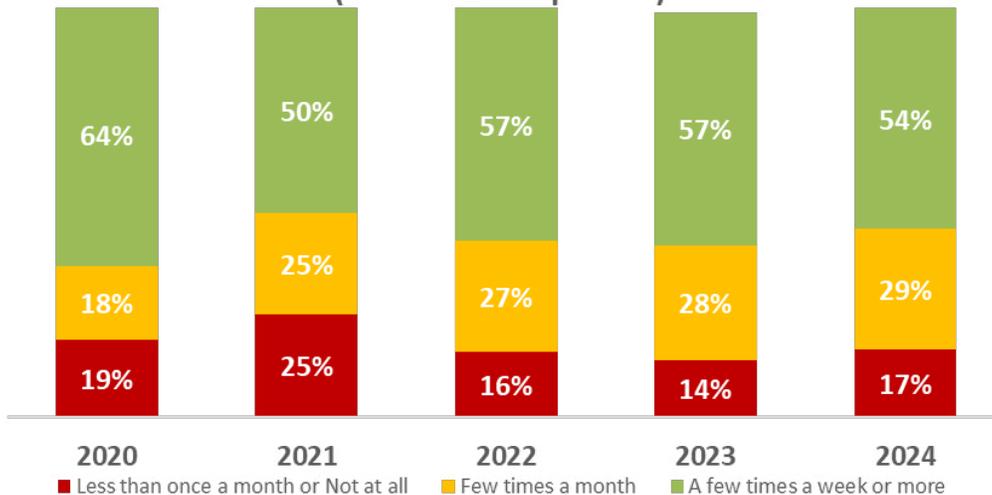
The survey asked respondents to indicate how often they currently participated in various physical activities during their daily lives. Over three-quarters of the respondents (79%) do not use the bike lanes and 54% do not walk or bike to school or work currently. A little over half of the respondents (54%) indicated they participated in physical activities a few times a week or every day.

Figure 9: How often have you or your family done each of the following in the past month:(2024, N=477)



Over the five-year period the percentage of respondents who did not participate in physical activities at all (or less than once a month) decreased to 19% in 2020 and 17% in 2024. The percentage of respondents who participated in physical activities every day or multiple times a week fluctuated slightly from year to year but increased from 50% in 2021 to 54% in 2024.

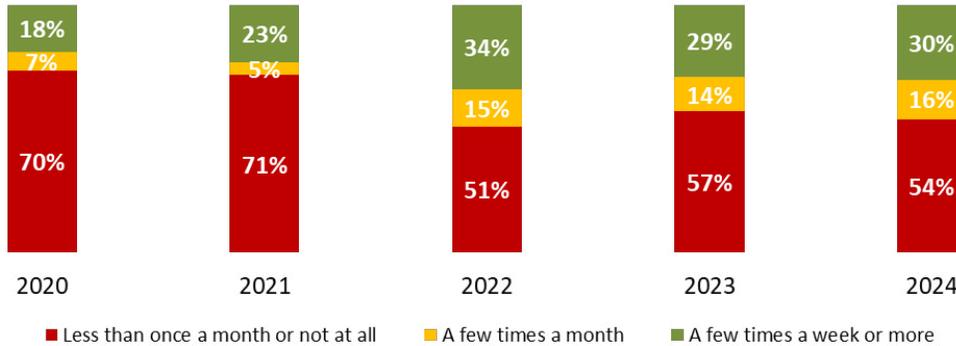
Figure 10: I Participated in Physical Activities (2020-2024 responses)



Improvement was seen year over year in the percentage of respondents who themselves, or their family/children, walked or biked to school multiples times a week or more through 2022, but there was

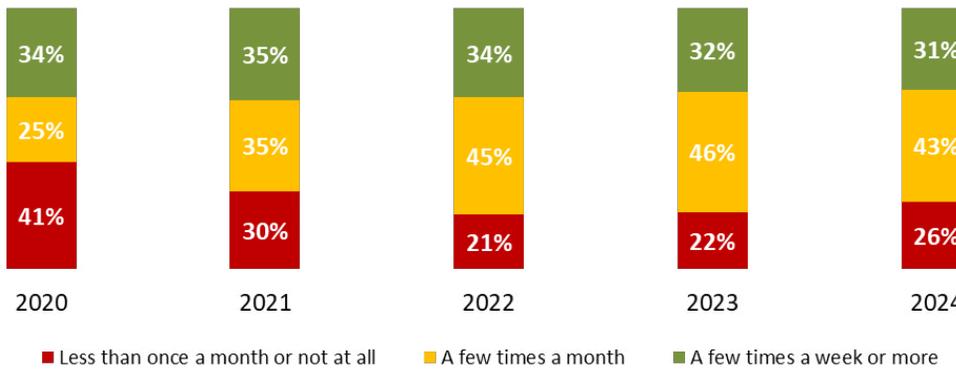
a slight increase from 29% to 30% of those walking or biking to school multiple times a week or more from 2023 to 2024 (see Figure 11 below). The percentage of those who never or less than once a month walked or biked to school, dropping from 70% in 2020 to 54% in 2024.

Figure 11: Walked or biked to school  
2020-2024 Responses



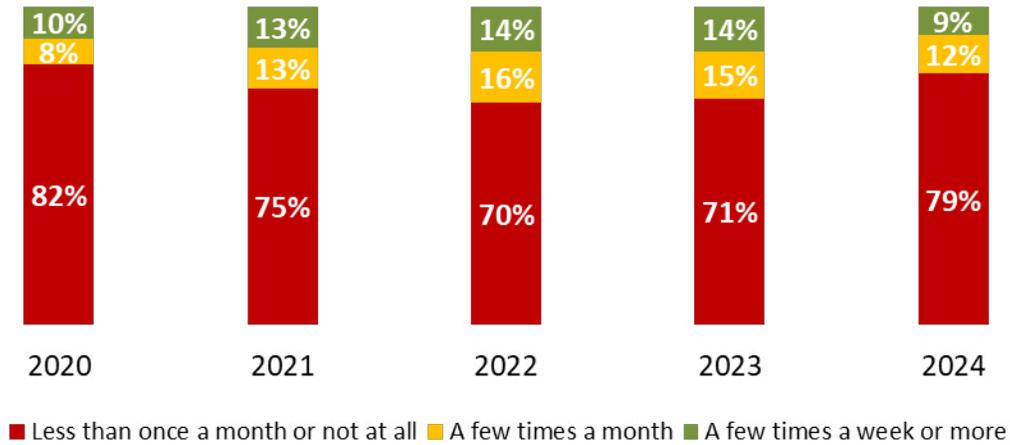
The percentage of respondents who themselves, or their family/children used city or county parks a few times a month increased from 25% in 2020 to 43% in 2024. Those who did not use city or county parks at all or less than once a month also dropped from 41% in 2020 to 26% in 2024. There has been a slight increase from 2022 to 2024 in the percent of respondents who do not use the city or county parks at all.

Figure 12: Used city or county parks  
2020-2024 Responses



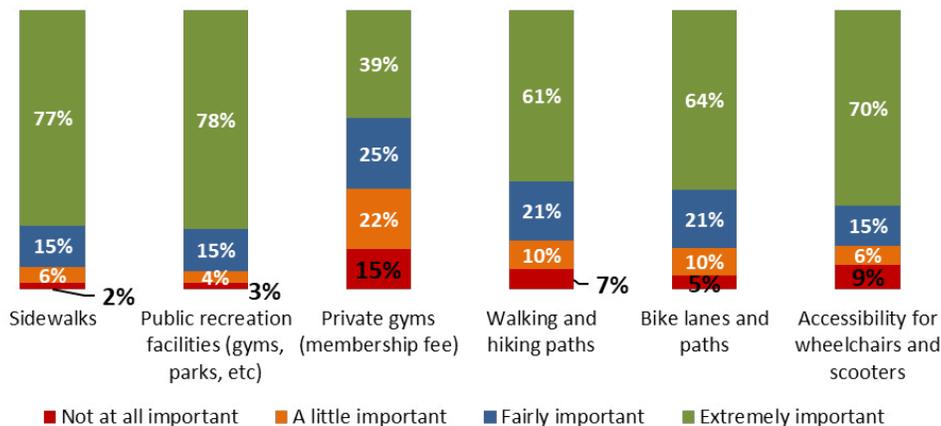
Bike lanes continue to be underutilized in Savannah with 79% of respondents not using them at all. The percent not using bike lanes has steadily increased since 2021. Only 9% of respondents or their family/children use them multiples times a week or more which is the lowest percentage since 2019.

Figure 13: Used the bike lanes around Savannah  
2020-2024 Responses



In 2024, the survey was edited to include walking and hiking trails when asking about how important infrastructure was to physical activity. Over half indicated that sidewalks, public recreation facilities, walking and hiking paths, bike lanes and paths, and accessibility for wheelchairs are extremely important. This is the third year respondents were asked about private gyms, with only 39% finding them extremely important and 15% indicating they were not at all important. Community members do feel that sidewalks and public recreation facilities are extremely important (77% and 78%). The majority of respondents (70%) indicated that accessibility for wheelchairs and scooters was extremely important and 9% indicated not at all important.

Figure 14: How important is each of the following to you? (2024, N=491)



The importance of sidewalks increased significantly from 2020 to 2024 (Figure 15) and the same pattern was seen for public recreation facilities (Figure 16). For sidewalks and recreation facilities, the percentage of respondents indicating not important or a little important was small enough that these categories were collapsed into a single category in the graphs below.

Figure 15: Importance of Sidewalks  
2020-2024 Responses

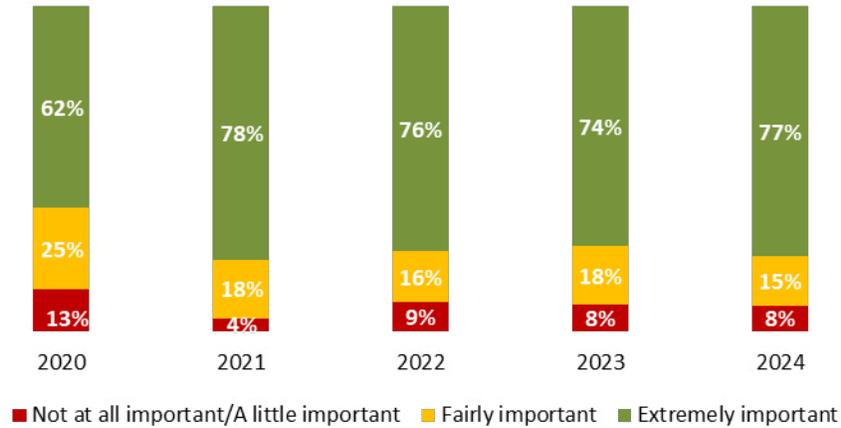


Figure 16: Importance of Public Recreation Facilities  
2020-2024 Responses

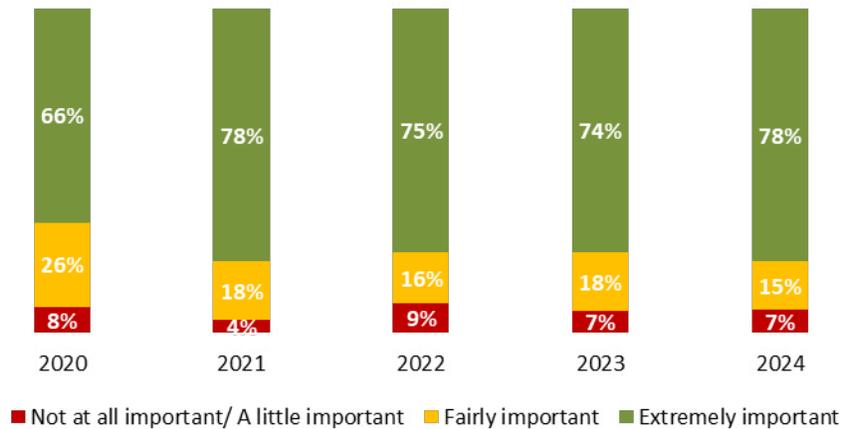
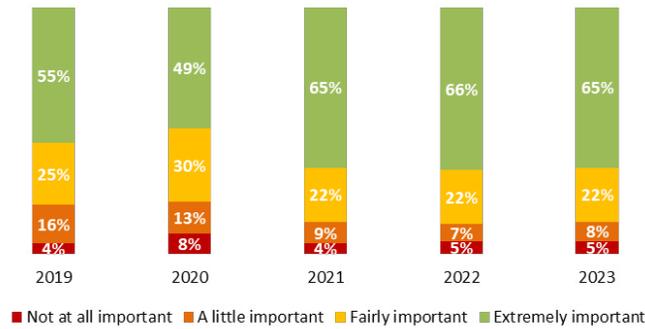


Figure 17 shows the responses over the last four years related to bike lanes and hiking/walking paths. Similar to sidewalks and recreation facilities, an increasing percentage of community members view these as extremely important. The percentage of community members indicating it is not important at all has remained relatively small at 4 or 5% each year. This trend line is not updated in 2024 because the question was reworded to ask about hiking/walking paths separately from bike paths and lanes.

Figure 17: Importance of Bike Lanes or Walking Paths  
2019-2023 Responses

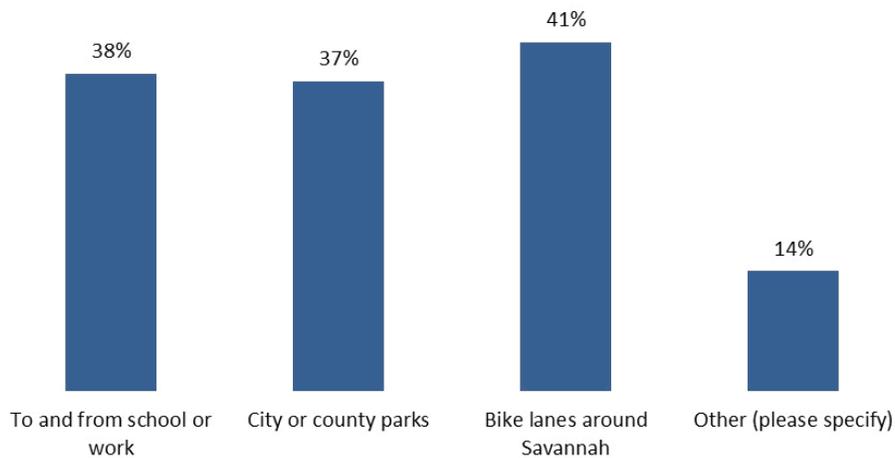


Just over a third of respondents did not feel safe walking or biking to or from school or work (38%, down from 41% in 2023) or on bike lanes around Savannah (37%, also lower than 2023). There were 14% of respondents who indicated other factors. Most of these respondents listed infrastructure reasons (sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.), neighborhood streets, major roads, and downtown areas. Some of the responses are shown below.

- Any space late at night
- around my house (limited sidewalks/bike lanes)
- certain parts of town
- Chatham neighborhoods
- disabled
- downtown
- everywhere
- from enmarket arena to downtown
- gang-related neighborhoods
- going to eastside via anderson is unsafe by bike
- Hwy 17 W and E
- I feel safe
- I work extremely far from my job. So, walking/biking is out of the question for me.
- in my neighborhood they drive really fast
- It's hard for me to walk
- main streets and highways
- Major roads
- my neighborhood due to lack of sidewalks and crime
- need sidewalks on treat st
- no sidewalks
- not handicap accessible
- on street at night
- on the grass where there are no sidewalks
- our neighborhood
- Remember, unincorporated Chatham is connected only by major thoroughfares. I am hemmed in by 16 and 95. A car is required to get to a park and no bike trails we can get to.

- rural communities
- Savannah is not pedestrian efficient or friendly
- some city sidewalks
- southside abercorn st
- to stores
- Unlite streets and parks not well lite
- Victory St.
- when i'm alone
- Whitmarsh and Wilmington Islands
- work

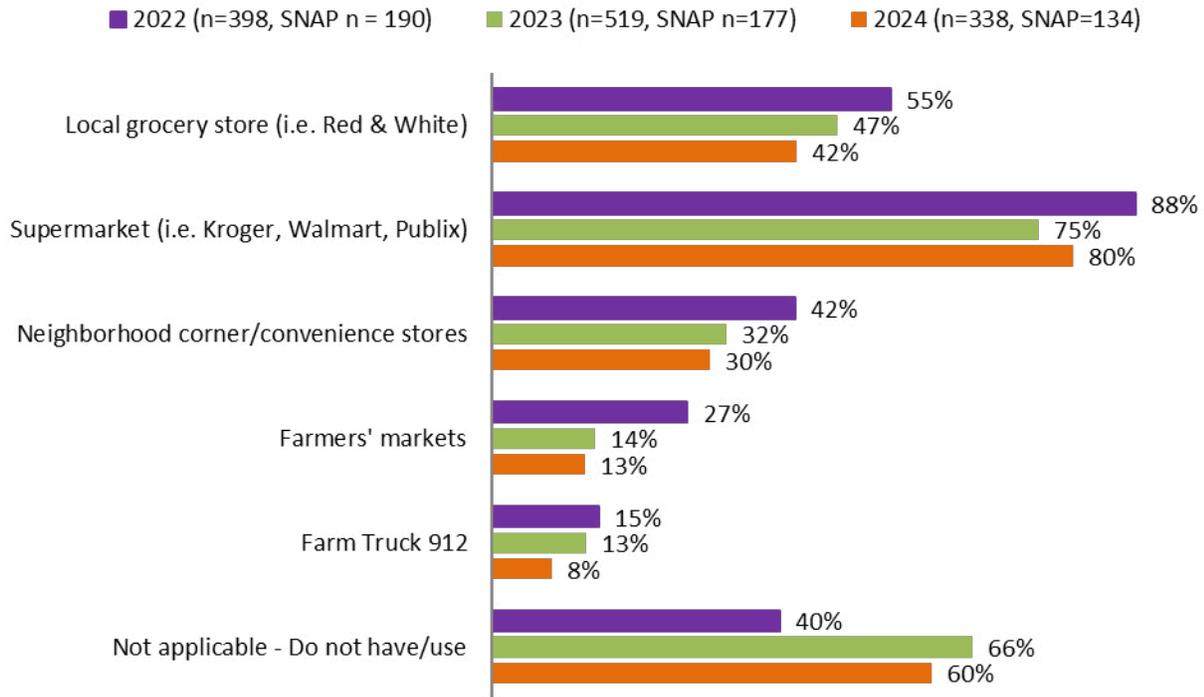
Figure 18: Please mark any areas where you or your family do not feel safe enough to walk, bike, or play. (2024, N=303)



### Food Systems, Nutrition, and Breastfeeding

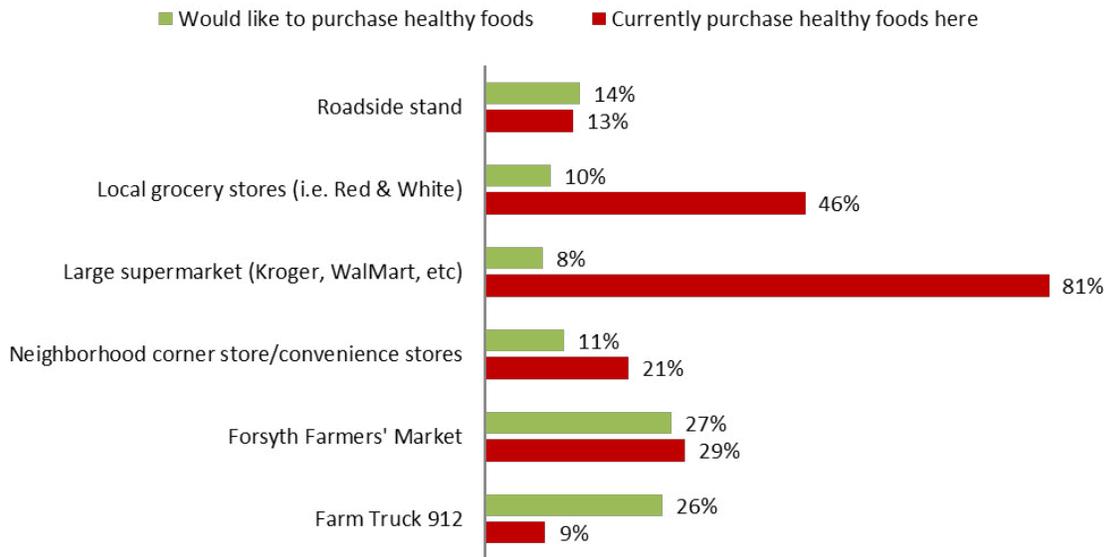
This year, respondents were only asked to indicate where they currently use SNAP benefits. Respondents could indicate more than one location. Of those who have and use SNAP, most respondents currently use SNAP benefits to purchase healthy food at supermarkets (80%), local grocery stores (42%), and neighborhood convenience stores (30%). Figure 19 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated they used SNAP benefits at each location during 2022, 2023, and 2024 as a percentage of ALL respondents who used SNAP. It is important to note that again this year there were fewer SNAP recipients responding to the survey (other demographic characteristics of the respondents are the same as previous years). Discussions with other partners indicate that the drop in enrollment may explain this.

Figure 19: If you use SNAP, where you have used your benefits in the last year? Where would you like to use SNAP benefits? (Mark all that apply)



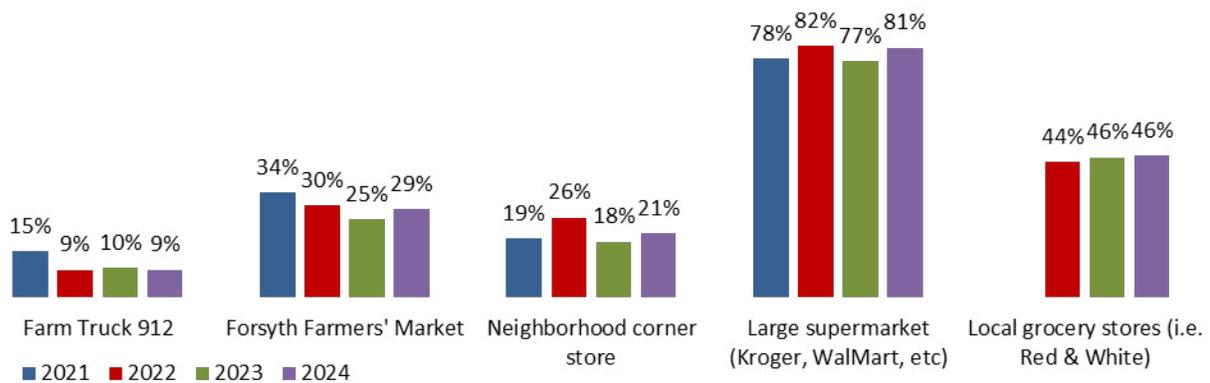
Respondents indicate they would like to purchase healthy foods from Farm Truck 912 (26%), Forsyth Farmers’ Market (27%) and roadside stands (14%). The majority of respondents (81%) purchase healthy foods from large grocery stores and local grocery stores (46%). Similar to the table above, this year the data is reported as the percent of total respondents rather than the percent who indicated interest or current engagement with the particular location.

Figure 20: Where do you currently purchase healthy food and where you would like to purchase healthy food? (Mark all that apply) (2024, N=472)



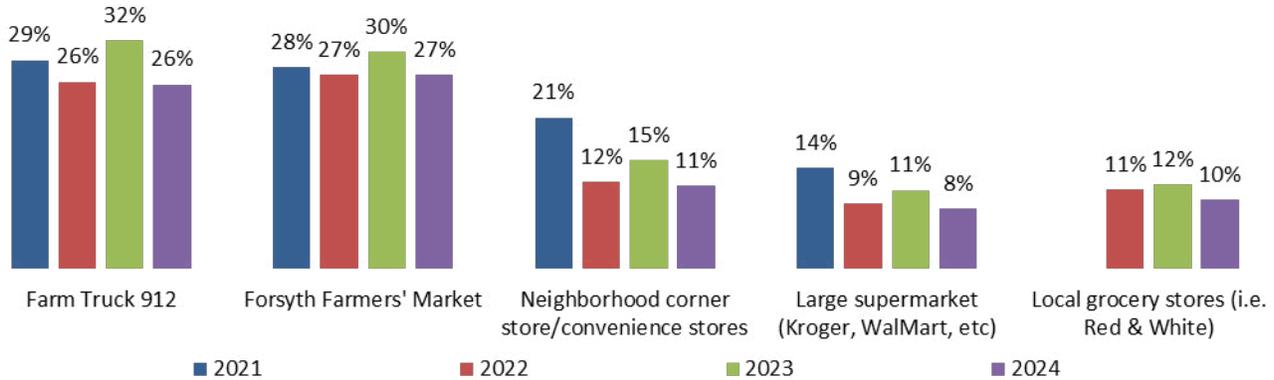
Figures 21 and 22 show four year comparisons for healthy food purchases at the primary locations (local grocery stores, large supermarkets, neighborhood corner stores, Forsyth Farmers’ Market, and Farm Truck 912) from 2021 to 2024. Large grocery stores have consistently been a primary source of healthy food purchases with more than three quarters using this as their main source over the four-year period. Farm Truck 912 saw increases the first years for current food purchases but showed a slight decline in 2024.

Figure 21: Where do you currently purchase healthy food? 2021-2024 Responses



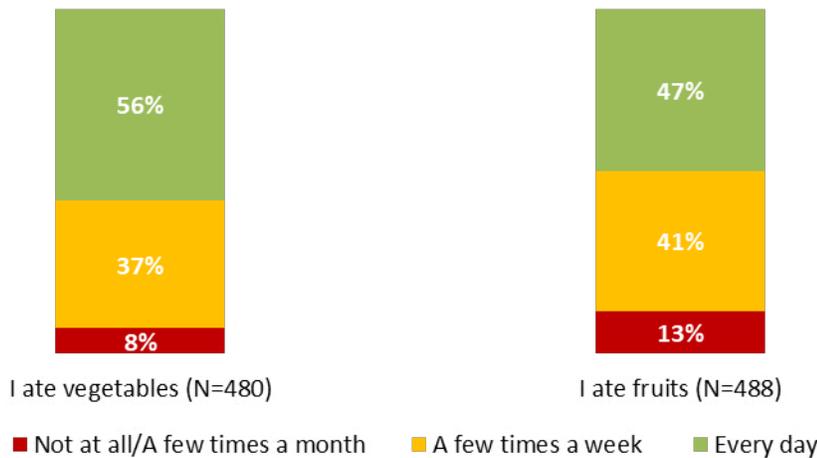
Respondents have consistently indicated an interest in purchasing healthy food at Farm Truck 912 and Forsyth Farmers Market. (see Figure 22), however 2024 saw a decrease in each of these as well as a decrease in each of the areas.

Figure 22: Where would you like to purchase healthy food?  
2021-2024 Responses



About half of the respondents indicated that they ate fruits (47%) and over half ate vegetables (56%) every day. Over a third of the respondents indicated that they ate fruits a few times a week (41%) and vegetables a few times a week (37%). Only a small percentage reported not eating fruits or vegetables at all during the week.

Figure 23: How often has each of the following occurred in the past month: (2024)



The percentage of respondents who ate fresh fruits every day increased from 2020 to 2022 but has declined from 2022 to 2024. (Figure 24). Those who ate fresh vegetables every day remained consistent over the five-year period, with a slight increase in the percentage eating vegetables every day in 2023 and 2024 (Figure 25). There was a slight decline in the percent of respondents who did not eat fruit at all in the past month (down from 10% in 2020 to 1% in 2024).

Figure 24: How often did you eat fruit in the past month?  
2020-2024 Responses

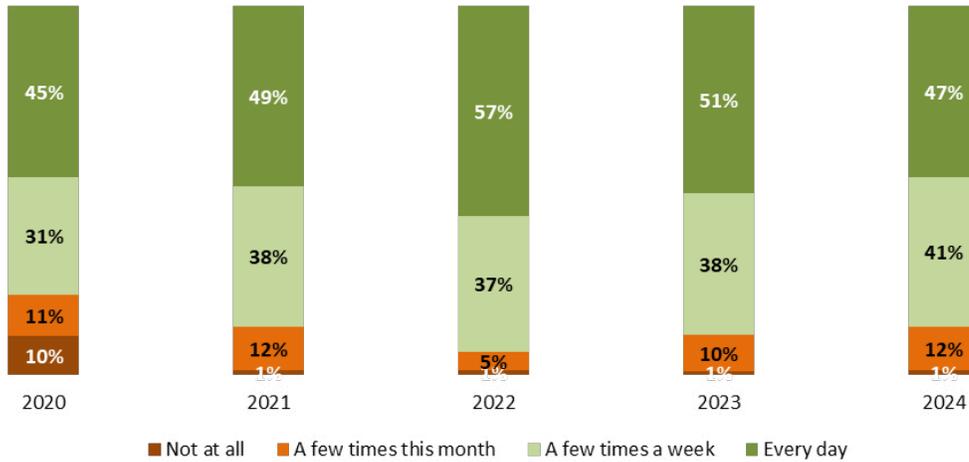
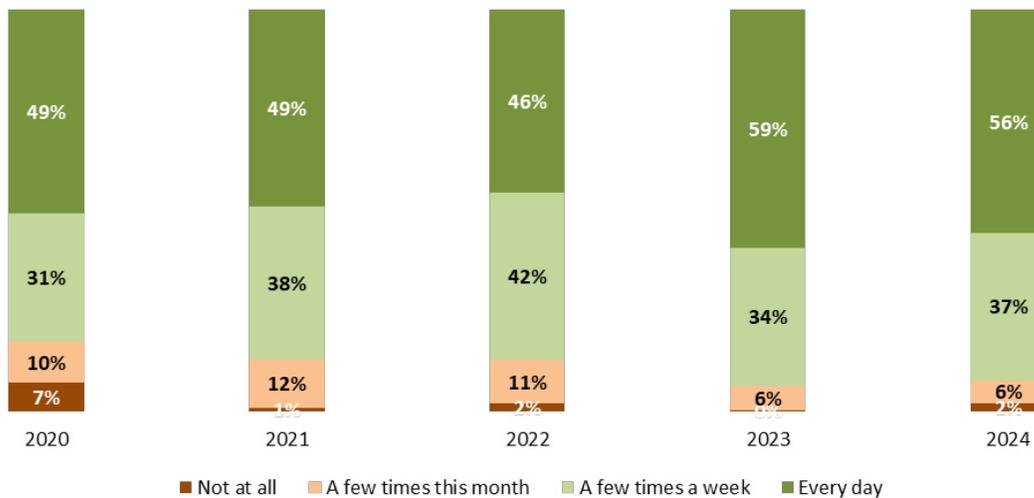
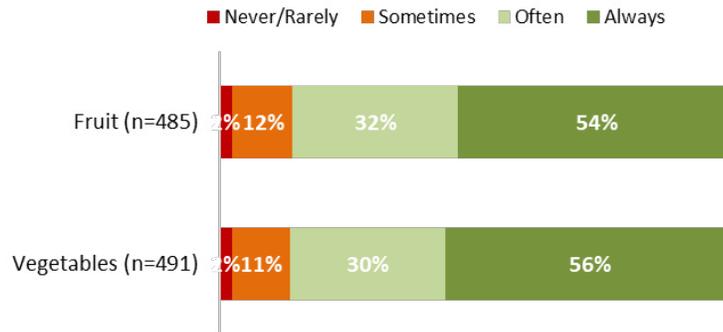


Figure 25: How often did you eat vegetables in the past month?  
2020-2024



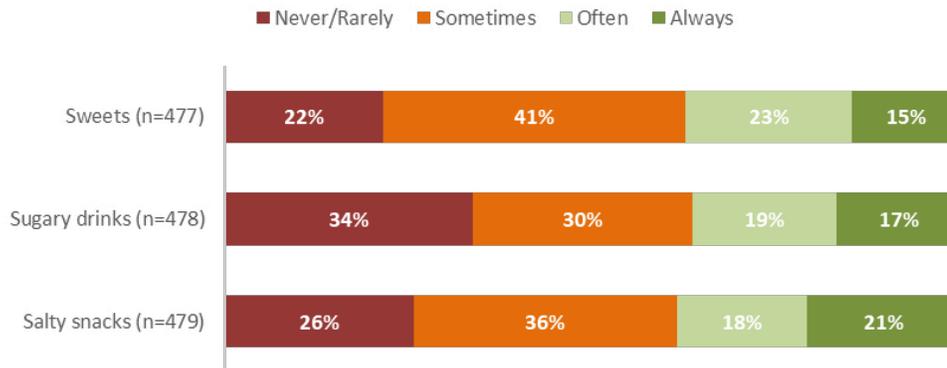
Half of respondents always have vegetables (56%) and fruit (54%) available in their home and another third (30% and 32% respectively) have vegetables and fruit available often. These reflect an increase from last year for households that always have fruits and vegetables available.

Figure 26: How often are the following foods available in your home?  
2024



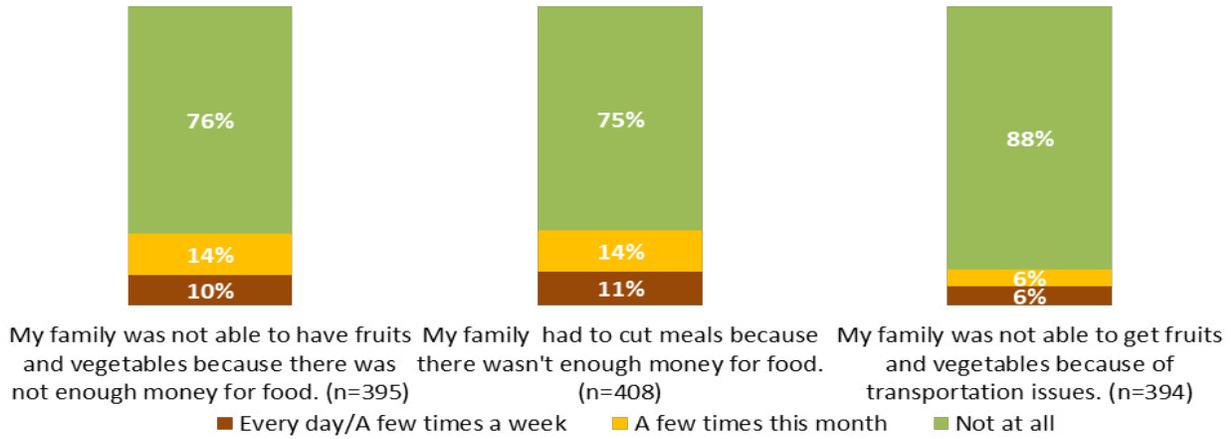
Fewer households had more sweets, sugary drinks and salty snacks available in the household often or always in 2024. Only 40% or less of the respondents had these items available often or always compared to 46% or higher in 2022.

Figure 27: How often are the following foods and drinks available in your home?  
2024



Less than a quarter of respondents indicated they could not afford to eat fruits and vegetables every day or a few times a week (24%) and less than a third (25%) indicated they had to cut meals a few times a month or more. The majority of respondents (88%) did not have an issue with being able to get fresh fruits or vegetables because of transportation issues.

Figure 28: How often has each of the following occurred in the past month: 2024



Over half of respondents in 2024 indicated that healthy food options at hospitals/schools/public facilities (64%), restaurants (53%), convenience and corner stores (54%), and faith-based settings (51%) were extremely important. Healthy food options at restaurants were not as extremely important this year as in previous years, falling from 63% in 2020 to 53% in 2024. This trend held true for healthy food options at hospitals, schools and public facilities (falling from 71% in 2020 to 64% in 2024) and at local neighborhood stores (falling from 69% in 2020 to 54% in 2024).

Figure 29: How important are healthy options at: 2024

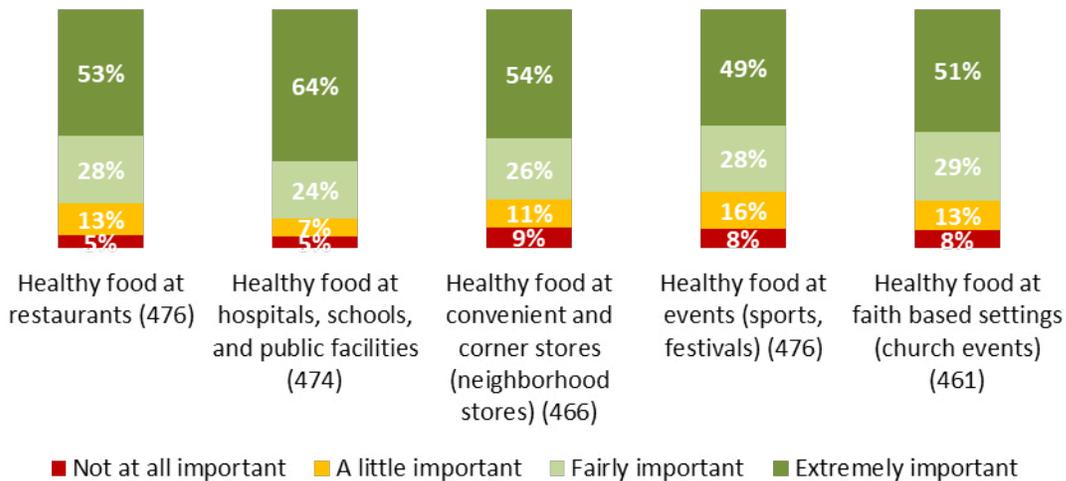


Figure 30: How important is healthy food options at restaurants to you?  
2020-2024

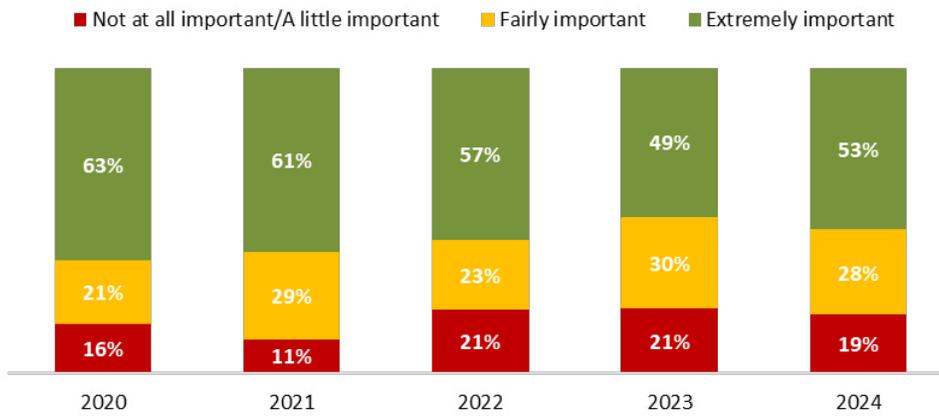


Figure 31: How important is healthy food options at hospitals, schools, and public facilities to you?  
2020-2024

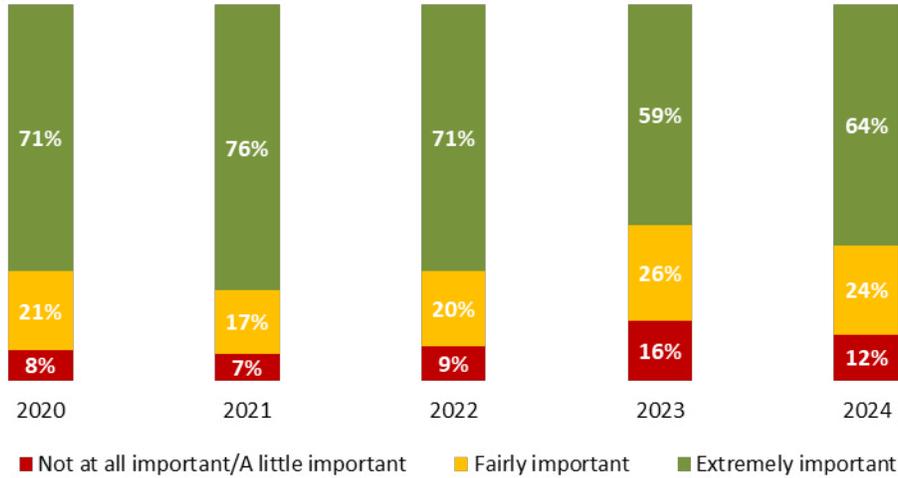
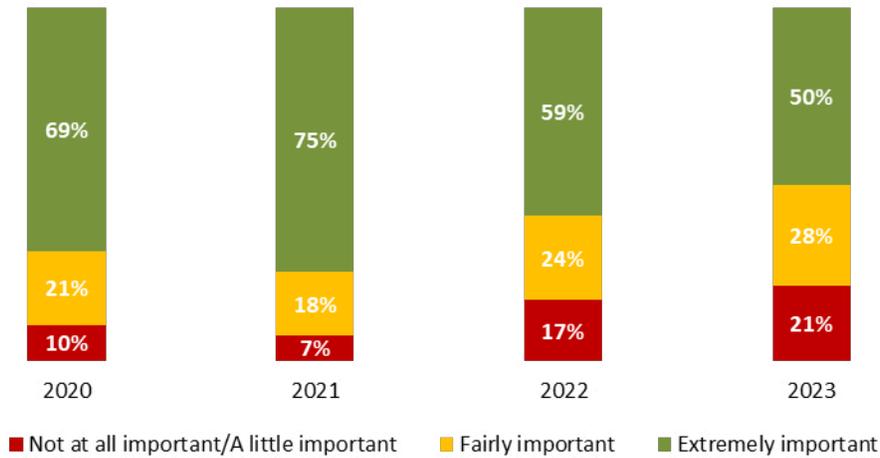
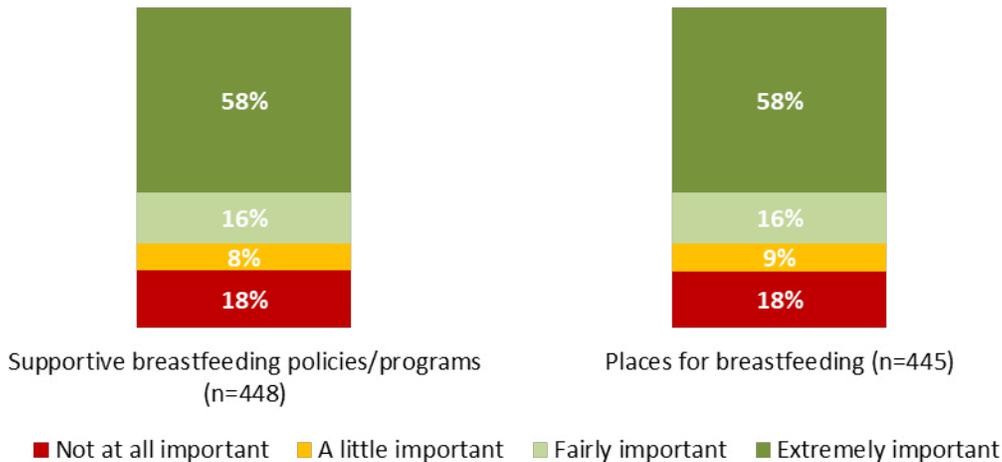


Figure 32: How important is health food options at neighborhood stores to you? 2019-2023



This year the survey also asked about breastfeeding choices. Over half of the respondents indicated that supportive policies and places for breastfeeding were extremely important (58%). However, 18% indicated that neither were important at all (consistent with 20% last year).

Figure 33: How important are: 2024



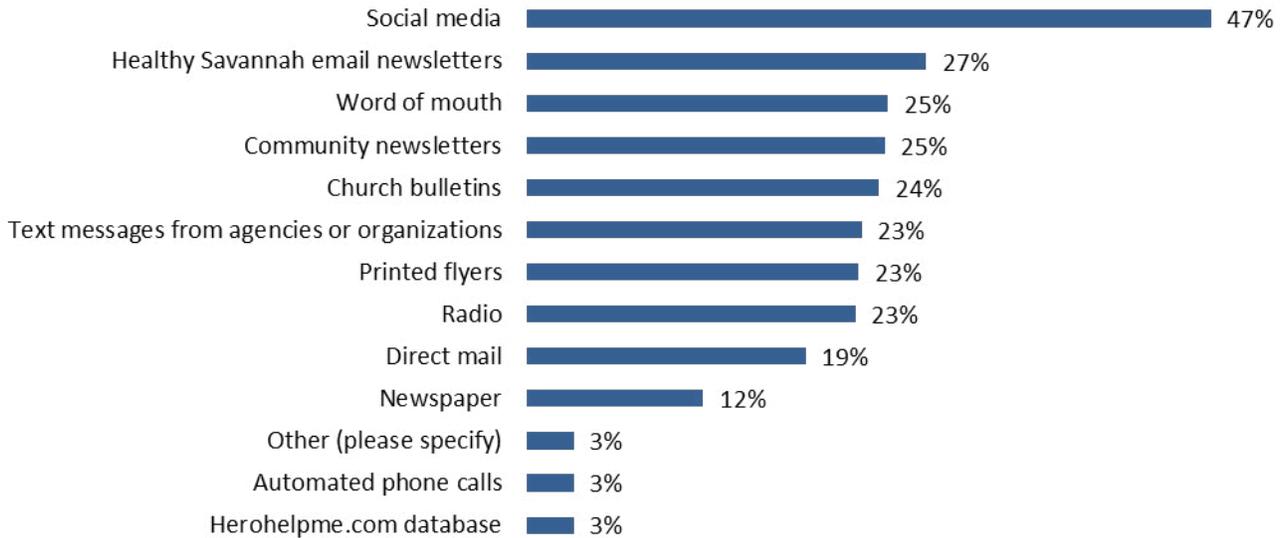
### Communications

The current survey asks respondents to provide feedback on how they prefer to receive information. Social media and email newsletters are still the preferred method of communication (47% and 27%).

However, it is important to note that there is a significant amount of variation on how people want to receive information. Social media and email newsletters are the primary modes of outreach that are used by Healthy Savannah to communicate with community members and partners.

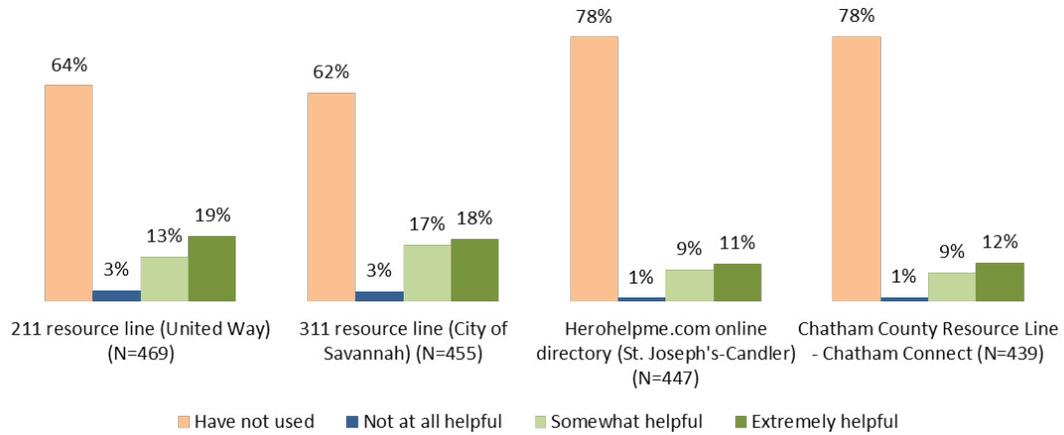
Figure 34: How would you like to learn more about healthy living, health services, and policies?

2024, n=496



Respondents were asked how helpful they found three local resources. Over three-quarters (78%) of participants had not used herohelpme.com nor the Chatham Connect (78%) resource line. 311 resource line (19%) and the 211 resource line (18%) were found extremely helpful by the most participants.

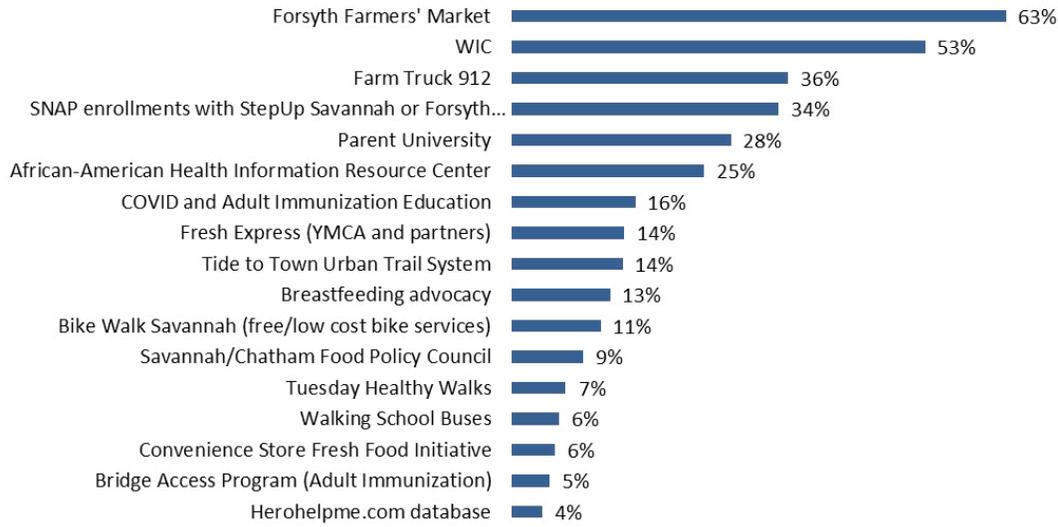
Figure 35: How helpful has each of the resource directories been for you or your family? 2024



### Other Community Resources & Healthcare Options

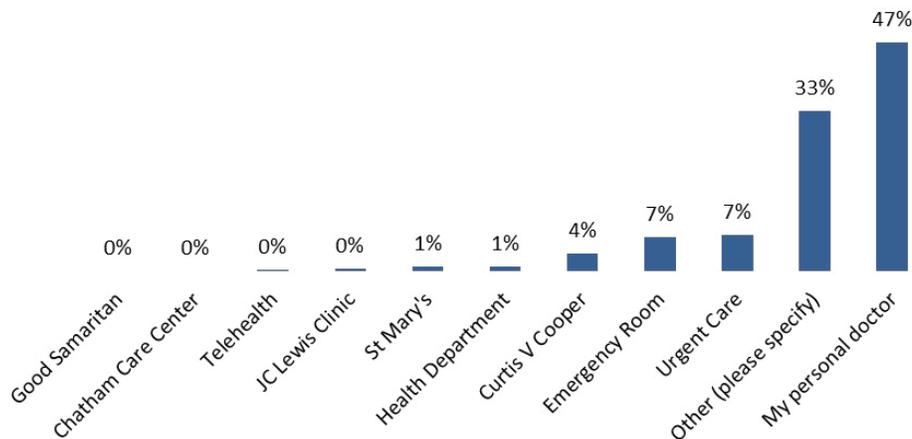
When asked about Healthy Savannah partner resources, most respondents had heard about or used the Forsyth Farmers Market (63%), WIC (53%), Farm Truck 912 (36%), SNAP enrollments (34%), African American Health Information Resource Center (25%), and Parent University (28%).

Figure 36: Which of the Healthy Savannah activities or partners have you heard about or used? (mark all that apply)  
2024, n=490



Most commonly, respondents (47%) reported using their own personal doctor when they are sick and need to see someone (slightly down from 51% last year). Other options include the veteran’s affairs clinic or some combination of personal doctor, health clinic, urgent care and emergency room. A quarter of the respondents indicate ‘other’ and the majority of these responses included ‘doctor, er, and urgent care with multiple responses written in. Almost three quarters, 74%, have received the COVID vaccine. For those who have not received the vaccine, reasons given included distrust of the vaccine, do not believe in it, religious beliefs, and concerns about reactions.

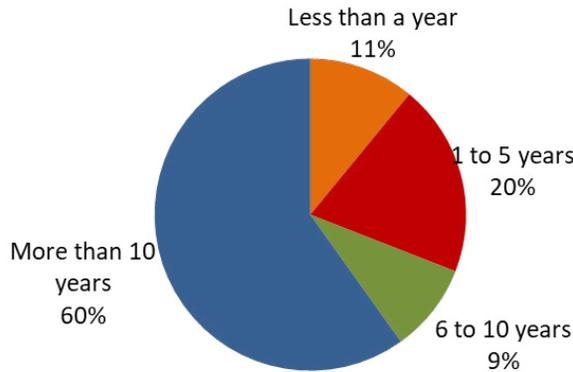
Figure 37: When you are sick or need to see a doctor, where do you usually go?  
2024 n=512



### Demographics

The following section will provide an overview of the survey respondents demographics. All respondents live in Chatham County. A majority of residents (60%) have lived in the area for more than 10 years.

Figure 38: How long have you lived in Savannah/Chatham County?  
2024, n=456



Most of the respondents are female (87%) and 12% are male. Three-quarters (73%) are adults aged 30-69. Approximately a third (37%) were married or in a partnership and 34% have never been married.

Figure 39: Gender  
2024, n=476

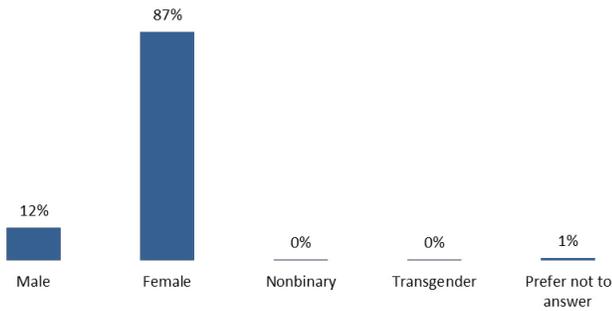


Figure 40: Age  
2024, n=471

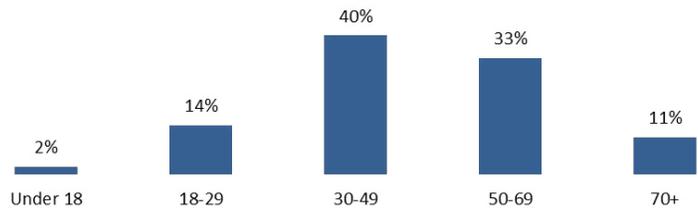
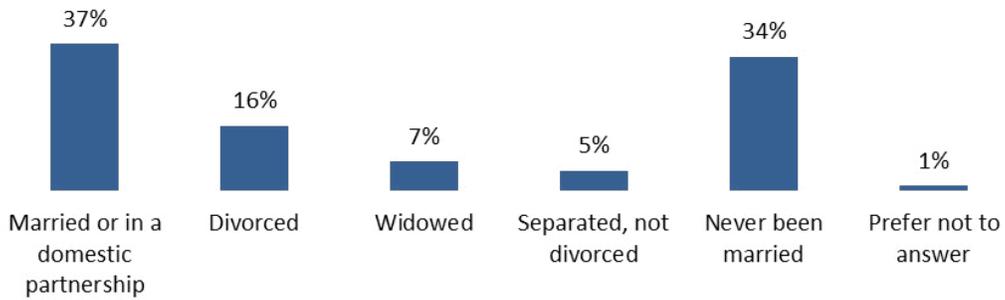
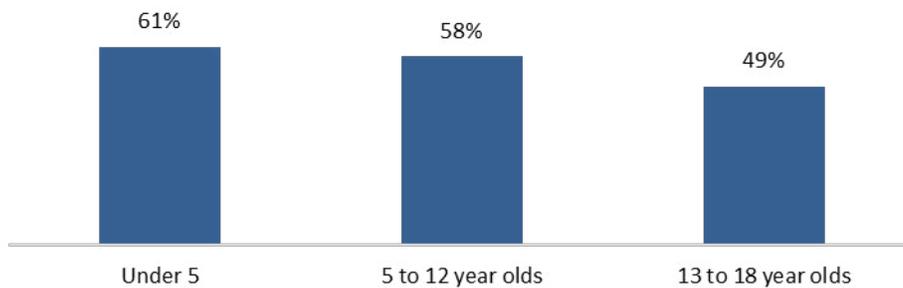


Figure 41: Marital Status  
2024, n=457



There were 298 respondents who had children under 18 in the home. Of those, more than half (61%) of households have children under 5 and 49% of households with children include teenagers.

Figure 42: Households with children under 18 by  
age group  
2024, n=298



The majority of the respondents were African American/Black (70%), and 16% are White/Caucasian. Other ethnicities and races represented include Hispanic and multiracial persons. This is the second year respondents were asked specifically if they were of Hispanic, Latinx or Spanish origin. Most respondents (89%) were not.

Figure 43: Race/Ethnicity  
2024, n=474

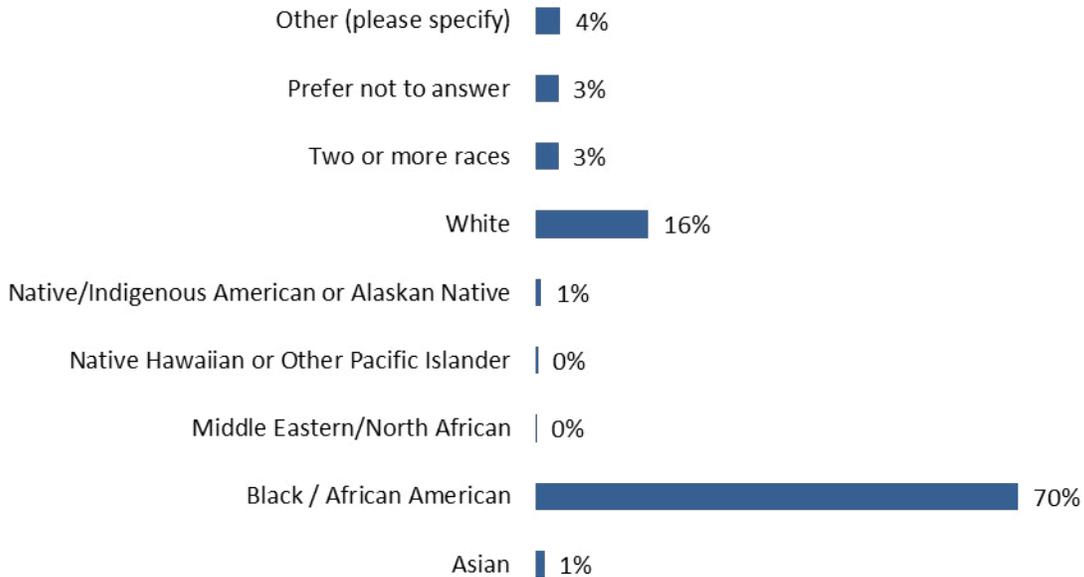
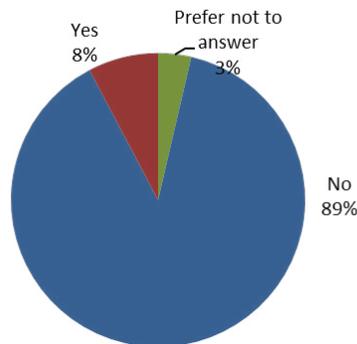


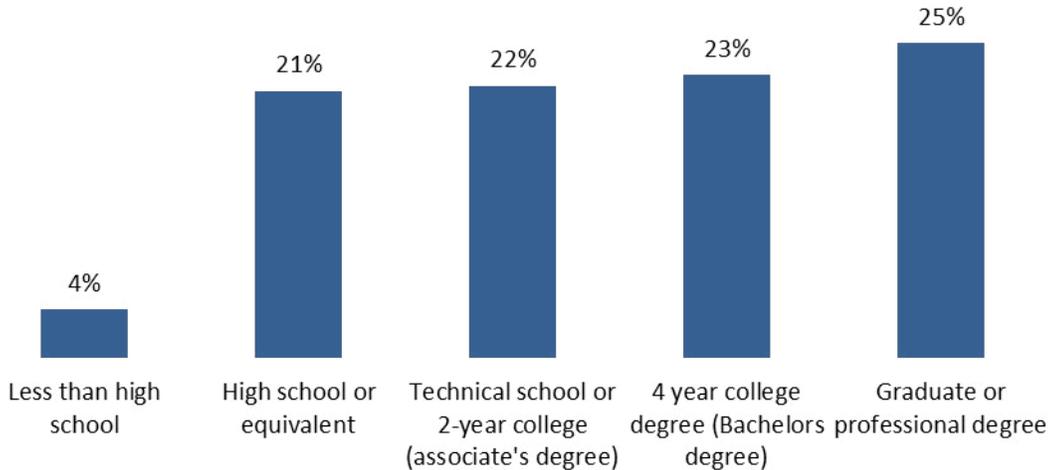
Figure 44: Are you of Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish in origin?

2024, n=441



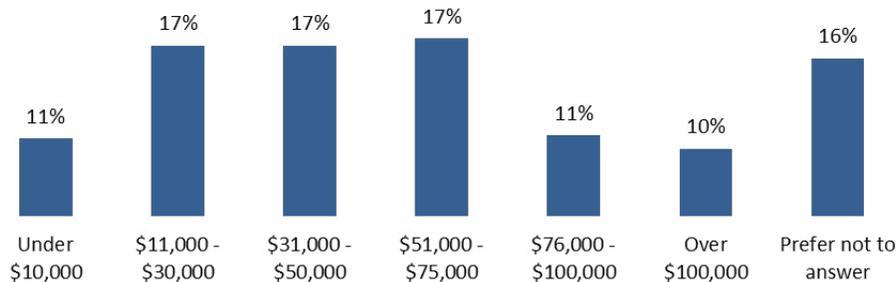
Almost three-quarters of respondents (70%) have some type of education beyond high school, including technical, associates, bachelors, and graduate or professional degrees. Only 4% of respondents failed to finish high school or some equivalent.

Figure 45: What is the highest level of education you have completed?  
2024, n=471



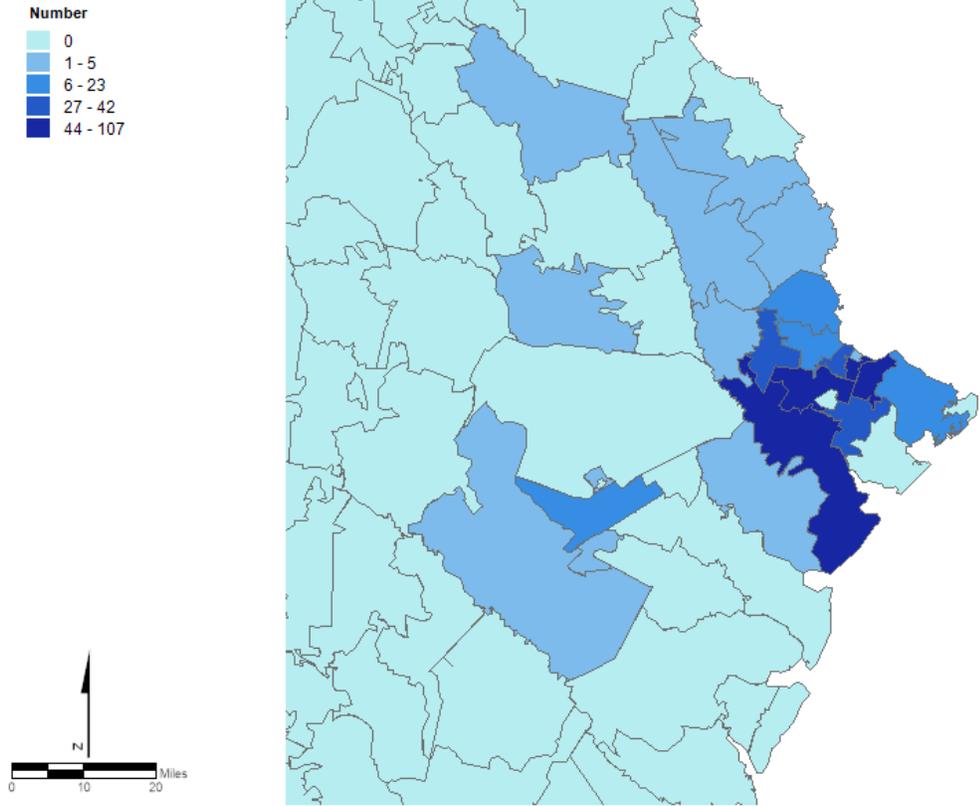
Respondents were distributed across all income levels. Almost half (45%) of respondents had household incomes below \$50,000. A third of the respondents (34%) have an annual household income that falls between \$31,000 and \$75,000.

Figure 45: Annual Household Income  
2024, n=465



Respondents also lived in a variety of locations around the city of Savannah and Chatham County. The majority of respondents were located in the REACH target zip codes in the city.

2024 Healthy Savannah Surveys



Created using the OASIS Map-Your-Own-Data Mapping Tool  
Georgia Department of Public Health  
Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP)  
Data supplied by Map Author

Map Created: 2/6/2025 8:43:48 AM  
Data Classification Method: Quantile  
Data Source: Survey data  
Map author: NextStep Evaluation

# Appendix C – Community Benefits Report FY 2024



## Community Benefits Report Fiscal Year 2024

- A SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER'S CHARITABLE MISSION REFLECTING **THE ACTUAL COST** (NOT CHARGES) OF PROVIDING CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY -

### TRADITIONAL CHARITY CARE

<b>Charity Care</b>	\$43,643,773
Outpatient and inpatient services provided <b>at cost</b> for indigent patients	
<b>Unreimbursed Care</b>	\$22,311,935
Medicaid uncompensated care <b>at cost</b> for the underinsured and GA hospital tax	
<b>TOTAL TRADITIONAL CHARITY CARE</b>	<b>\$65,955,708</b>

### OTHER BENEFITS

<b>Community Health Improvement Services &amp; Community Benefit Operations</b>	\$2,473,049
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African American Health Info. and Resource Center</li> <li>Beach High School Health Promotion and Screenings</li> <li>E.D. Medical Home Program</li> <li>Eye Care Clinic</li> <li>Good Samaritan Clinic</li> <li>Johnny's Bridges to Hope Mental Health Prog.</li> <li>Smart Senior</li> <li>St. Mary's Community Center Public Benefits</li> <li>St. Mary's Health Center</li> <li>Transportation Assistance</li> </ul>	
<b>Health Professions Education</b>	\$6,185,313
<b>Subsidized Health Services</b>	\$476,632
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisted Living Assistance</li> <li>Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies</li> <li>Home Health Services</li> <li>Mobile Mammography Outreach</li> <li>Nursing Home Assistance</li> <li>Outpatient Palliative Care</li> <li>Renal Dialysis Services</li> </ul>	
<b>Clinical Research</b>	\$989,432
<b>Financial and In-Kind Contributions</b>	\$432,644
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angels of Mercy</li> <li>Burial and Funeral Assistance</li> <li>Church/Religious Outreach</li> <li>Community Board Involvement</li> <li>Food Assistance</li> <li>Local Not-for-Profit Board Participation</li> <li>Local Not-for-Profit Sponsorships</li> <li>Misc. Patient Assistance and Supplies</li> <li>Medbank, Inc.</li> <li>Medical Missions</li> <li>Meeting Space</li> <li>Mercy Volunteers</li> <li>Prescription Drug Assistance</li> <li>Second Harvest</li> <li>Support Groups</li> <li>Wellness Center Donations</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Building Activities</b>	\$485,661
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Economic Development Boards</li> <li>Educational Programs</li> <li>Empowerment Center</li> <li>Project SEARCH</li> <li>Senior Advocacy and Assistance Program</li> <li>Tax Preparation Assistance (VITA)</li> <li>Workforce Development Programs</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Benefit Operations</b>	\$67,951
<b>TOTAL OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$11,110,682</b>

<b>TOTAL FORMAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$77,066,390</b>
--	---------------------

In addition to more than \$77 million dollars in formal community benefits, St. Joseph's/Candler provided \$21,948,771 in uncollected service cost and \$66,798,234 in unreimbursed Medicare cost in Fiscal Year 2024.

<b>2024 TOTAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$165,813,395</b>
<b>2023 TOTAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$149,538,079</b>

## Appendix D – Community Listening Session #2

### Summary Report: Community Listening Session #2 on Community Health Needs for Spanish-speakers

Location: Garden City, GA

Total number of attendees: 47

Purpose of listening session: The primary goal of the session was to identify common barriers faced by Spanish-speaking individuals in accessing health services in the Savannah area. Insights gathered will help shape culturally and linguistically inclusive strategies to improve healthcare access for underserved communities.

Facilitators: Rosie Harrison Grow Initiative GA

Format: Whole group discussion. Q & A

Facilitator was welcomed into the group after their bible study and introduced herself to the group. Group reported that they saw on their group chat that someone would be coming to ask questions about their experience and access to health services. Facilitator thanked the group for the opportunities and confirmed that all feedback is anonymous and that no names or identifiable information would be collected. Facilitator provided the QR code and paper copies of the Health Needs Assessment Survey.

#### Barriers Identified:

### Key Findings

#### 1. Language Barriers

- **Limited Availability of Spanish-Speaking Providers:** 32 participants reported difficulties finding healthcare providers who speak Spanish or offer translation services.
- **Insufficient Multilingual Materials:** 39 Participants expressed frustration with medical forms, educational materials, and instructions available only in English.

#### 2. Financial Constraints

- **High Costs of Services:** 23 Uninsured participants highlighted the prohibitive costs of healthcare, particularly for specialist visits and diagnostics.
- **Lack of Awareness of Financial Assistance Programs:** 47 were unaware of available resources, such as sliding-scale fees or financial aid programs.

### 3. Transportation Challenges

- **Limited Access to Reliable Transportation:** 17 Participants without personal vehicles found it challenging to reach healthcare facilities.
- **Public Transportation Limitations:** Routes and schedules were not always aligned with clinic hours.

### 4. Lack of Trust in Healthcare Providers

- **Fear of Discrimination:** 33 Participants cited concerns about being treated differently or unfairly due to their language or immigration status.
- **Past Negative Experiences:** 11 shared stories of feeling rushed or dismissed during medical appointments.

### 5. Limited Awareness of Available Services

- **Navigational Challenges:** 34 Participants were unaware of clinics offering free or low-cost services, particularly for preventative care.
- **Difficulty Understanding Insurance Plans:** 22 Complexity in understanding and navigating insurance options led many to forgo coverage.

### 6. Cultural Competence Gaps

- **Misunderstanding of Cultural Norms:** 25 Participants noted a lack of cultural sensitivity, leading to feelings of discomfort and reluctance to seek care. Important to note - there was hesitancy when answering this question.

## Participant Suggestions for Improvement

1. **Increase Availability of Spanish-Language Services:** Hire bilingual staff and provide interpretation services during appointments.
2. **Offer Multilingual Educational Materials:** Ensure medical forms, intake packets, brochures, and websites are available in Spanish.
3. **Expand Outreach Efforts:** Partner with community organizations to raise awareness of available health services and programs.
4. **Enhance Transportation Solutions:** Develop partnerships with local transportation agencies to create affordable and reliable options and routes from different parts of the county.
5. **Provide Cultural Competency Training:** Train healthcare providers on cultural norms and best practices for engaging with diverse populations.

## Appendix E – United Way 211 Call Data

---

### United Way 211 Call Data

The United Way 211 Hotline is a service offered to residents in the Coastal Empire. The service helps pair callers with community resources to meet their identified needs.

#### FY 2023-2024

- 11,000 calls and referrals to the 211 Hotline.
- Top Needs in order: Housing, Utilities, Individual and Family Support, Transportation, and Food

#### FY 2024-2025

- 5,000 calls and referrals to the 211 Hotline.
- Top Needs in Order: Ren Payment Assistance, Food Pantries, Utility Payment Assistance, Disaster Services, and Transitional Housing/Shelter