



Sexual and Reproductive Health

A Public Health Fact Sheet from the Chatham County Public Health Department

Introduction

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of individuals, couples and families, and to the social development of communities. SRH is supported by access to comprehensive and quality information about sex, sexuality, and gender, and services and resources that support informed decision-making about healthy relationships, sexual activity, and family planning. SRH priorities vary across communities, but primarily focus on sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), adolescent pregnancy, and contraception use.

Most of the data presented in this report was gathered for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment, a report that details health outcomes and information on other topics. The Assessment, past Assessments, and other reports can be found online at the Chatham County website at www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports.

Sources: Sexual health. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/sexual-health>. Accessed July 26, 2022.

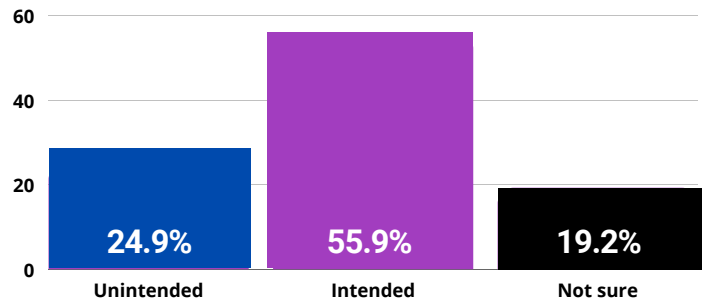
Nationally, adolescent pregnancy rates have been decreasing since the 1990s. The adolescent pregnancy rate for Chatham County was 10.8 per 1,000 females age 15-19 in 2020, a decrease from an average of 22.5 per 1,000 in 2013-2017.

Adolescent pregnancy rates, 2020	Rate*
Chatham County	10.8
North Carolina	22.9
United States	15.4

*Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19

Sources: 2020 NC Resident Pregnancy Rates: Females Ages 15-19 by Race/Ethnicity, Perinatal Care Regions, and County of Residence. NC State Center for Health Statistics. <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/pregnancies/2020/Table2B-2020-pregpubrates-1519Preg-v2.pdf>. Accessed July 25, 2022.

Osterman MJK, Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Driscoll AK, Valenzuela CP. Births: Final data for 2020. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 70 no 17. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2022. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:112078>.



The 2019 North Carolina Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System found that just more than half of all pregnancies in North Carolina were unintended. That percentage fell to 35.9% for NC women under age 25 who were pregnant, who reported unintended pregnancies in 4 in 10 instances.

Source: Intendedness of Pregnancy. 2019 North Carolina Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Survey Results. NC State Center for Health Statistics. <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/prams/2019/intent3.html>. Accessed July 25, 2022.

In 2019, Chatham County high school students reported similar percentages of condom and contraception use compared to the state and nation overall.

A slightly lower rate of Chatham high schoolers reported being currently sexually active. Of note: around 1 in 11 sexually-active high schoolers reported using both a condom and another form of contraception during their last sexual intercourse.

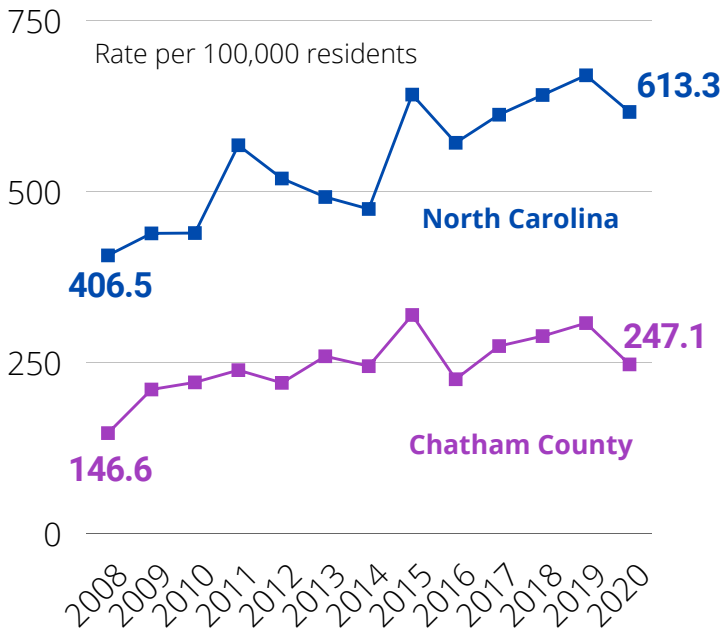
Using both is most effective at preventing both unintended pregnancies and transmission of sexually-transmitted infections.

Among high school students who were currently sexually active	Chatham County	North Carolina	United States
Did not use any contraception during last sexual intercourse	13.8%	17.9%	11.9%
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse	52.1%	50.5%	54.3%
Used a condom and at least one other birth control method during last sexual intercourse	8.9%	9.7%	9.1%
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	20.2%	18.6%	21.2%

Source: Chatham County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Chatham County Schools; 2019. High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2019.

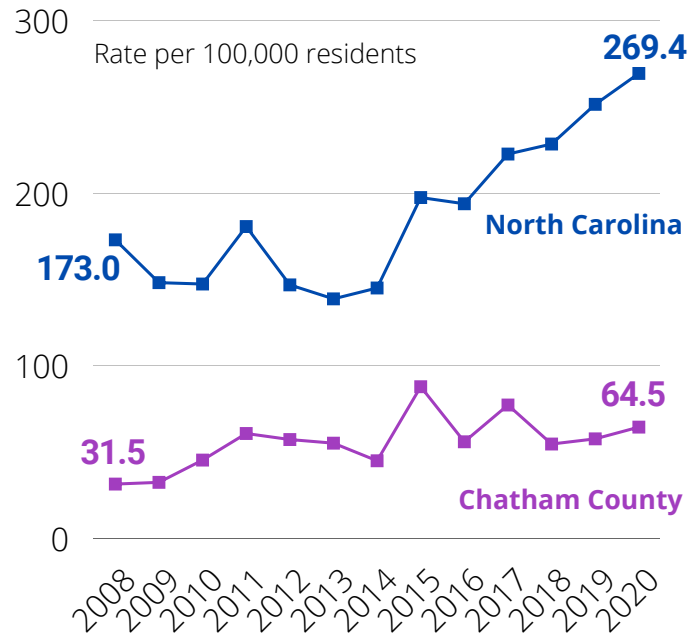
Chlamydia rates in Chatham County have more than doubled within the last 12 years, rising to 307.5 cases per 100,000 population in 2019, but remain far below state rates.

Chatham County ranked in the bottom quarter of chlamydia rates among North Carolina counties in 2019. North Carolina was in the top 10 of rate of reported cases by state in the country. There was a slight decrease in both county and state rates in 2020.



Gonorrhea rates in Chatham County have also more than doubled within the last 12 years, rising to 64.5 cases per 100,000 population in 2020, but are about one-fourth of NC's rate.

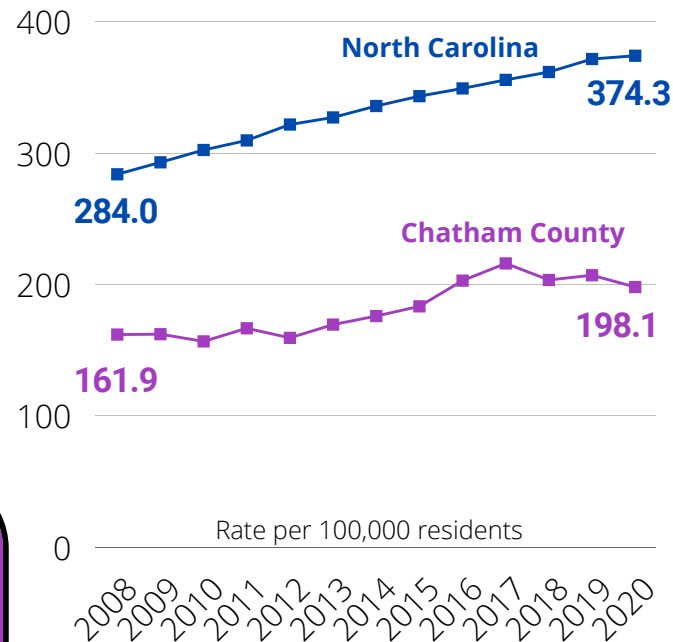
Chatham County was 91st in gonorrhea rates among North Carolina counties in 2020. North Carolina was in the top 10 of rate of reported cases by state in the country.



Source: Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevalence, Incidence, and Cost Estimates in the United States, January 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-incidence-cost-2020.htm>. Accessed April 9, 2022.

While Chatham County's HIV rate is about half of North Carolina's, Chatham's HIV prevalence rose by more than 22% from 2008 to 2020, reaching 198.1 cases per 100,000 population in 2020.

The rate of HIV prevalence measures the number of persons living with HIV infections in a given population at a given time per 100,000 population. In 2020, Chatham County was in the middle range among all counties in the state in HIV prevalence rates. Additionally, North Carolina's prevalence rate was slightly lower than the national rate (376.9 cases per 100,000 population).



Note: HIV prevalence data for the year 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and is shared as available data.

Source: Atlas Plus. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/nchhstpatlas/charts.html>. Accessed July 25, 2022.

RESOURCES

CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

Family Planning: Available to any female residents of North Carolina. Services include birth control, pregnancy tests, immunizations, STI testing/treatment, physical examinations, female sterilization info/referral.

www.chathamcountync.gov/familyplanning

For more information, or if you have questions, contact:

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