

# Status of Women in Chatham County

*In Conjunction with WomenNC*

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# Demographics

	Chatham County	North Carolina
Population	71,427 (2017)	10.27 million (2017)
Urban/Rural Divide	34% Urban / 66% Rural	72% Urban / 28% Rural
Racial and Ethnic Makeup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 71.6% White</li><li>• 12.7% African American</li><li>• 12.5% Hispanic</li><li>• 3% other</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 62.8% White</li><li>• 22.2% African American</li><li>• 9.6% Hispanic</li><li>• 7.4% other</li></ul>
Median Household Income	\$59,000	\$50,000
% With at least a Bachelor's Degree	36%	28%

# Indicators of the Status of Women



Economics



Housing



Childcare



Healthcare



Violence  
Against Women

# Methodology

**1**

Compile  
quantitative  
data

**2**

Establish  
contact with  
stakeholders

**3**

Procure  
qualitative  
data through  
interviews

**4**

Examine  
historical  
data

**5**

Compile key  
findings into  
a report

*Chatham County women are better off than women across NC in absolute and relative terms.*

Female median earnings in inflation-adjusted dollars; full-time, year-round workers

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Change 2011-2016</b>
<b>Chatham County</b>	\$38,841	\$46,359	+19.36%
<b>North Carolina</b>	\$33,459	\$36,987	+10.54%



*Chatham County women experience slower growth in wages than Chatham County men.*

Median earnings in inflation-adjusted dollars; full-time, year-round workers

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Change 2011-2016</b>
<b>Chatham County Women</b>	\$38,841	\$46,359	+19.36%
<b>Chatham County Men</b>	\$46,646	\$64,840	+39%



County-based solutions for the gender wage gap are complicated by the fact that 61% of Chatham County residents work outside of Chatham County.



Statewide initiatives to combat occupational sex segregation will benefit those that commute outside of Chatham County.





*Lack of available, safe, and right type of housing*

- 3,000 housing gap
- Substandard housing according to Department of Housing and Urban Development



## *Chatham County Housing Trust Fund*

- Has \$200,000 in funding
- Only accounts for 2% of development costs

# Housing Recommendations



Increase funding to the Chatham County Housing Trust Fund

- a) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funds to North Carolina in 2018: \$45 million
- b) Funds from CDBG to North Carolina Revitalization Program: \$10 million

# Housing Recommendations



New affordable housing developments should primarily be transitional housing and housing that can accomodate children

- Chatham Housing Initiative: provides transitional housing for women and children fleeing domestic violence



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*Many childcare facilities are unwilling to admit children whose families will pay for childcare using government-issued subsidies.*



*Many low-income women and families have trouble accessing affordable, high-quality childcare in Chatham County.*



Average cost for childcare in Chatham County	Average cost for childcare in North Carolina
\$654/month	\$771/month



*Childcare takes up 52% of the annual income  
for a minimum wage worker in Chatham  
County.*





*Chatham County's only birthing center  
closed down 20 years ago.*



*Without an in-county birthing center, Chatham County women now have to travel an average of 25-30 minutes to give birth.*

*This increases the risk of birthing complications and maternal & fetal mortality rates.*



*A new birthing center will open in  
Siler City in 2020.*



*Chatham County women are more likely to be on Medicaid than Chatham County men, which means that they also have more limited access to healthcare benefits.*



*~57% of Chatham County women are Medicaid fee-for-service beneficiaries, compared to ~43% of Chatham County men.*



*Chatham County sees higher rates of breast cancer mortality than the national average: 21.3 per 100,000 in Chatham County compared to 20.5 per 100,000 across the U.S.*



*Chatham County sees higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases than the national average.*

# Healthcare Recommendations



- 1) Improve sexual education programs in public school systems
- 1) Increase funding for women's health services



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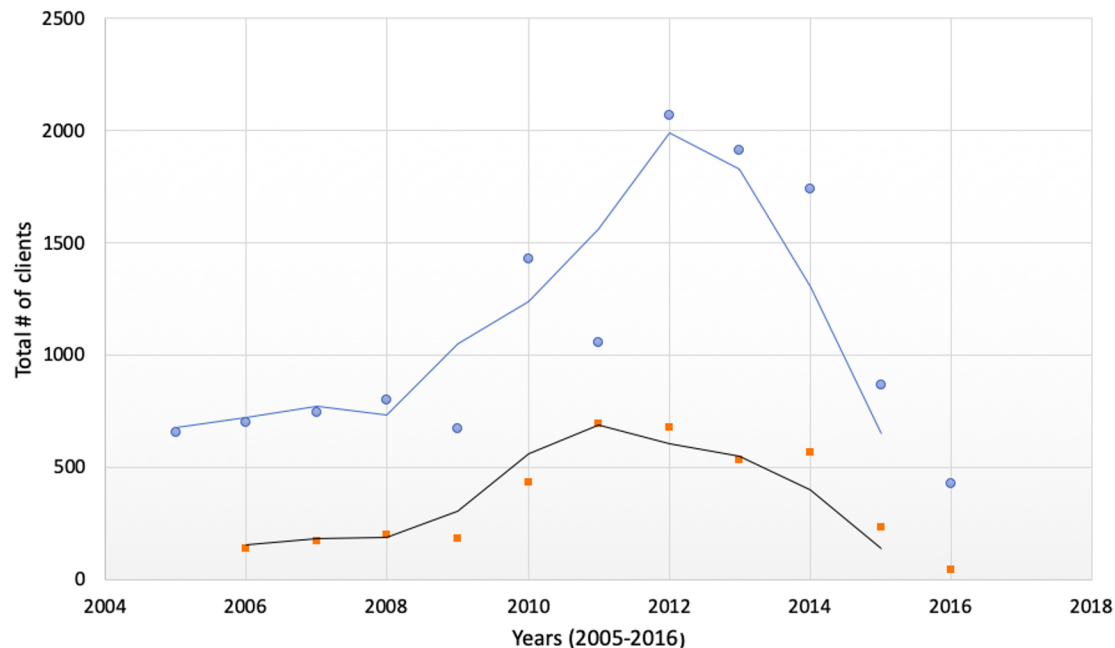




# Violence Against Women



Chatham Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services center (FVRC) was in operation from 1982-2019.



# Violence Against Women



## Chatham County residents who used FVRC domestic violence support services (July 2015-June 2016)

Race/Ethnicity of Client	Total # of Clients	% of Total Clients	Race/Ethnicity population as a % of Chatham total
White (non-Hispanic)	132	30.9%	71.6%
White (Hispanic)	192	44.9%	12.5%
Black/African American	71	16.6%	12.7%
Other (Asian, American Indian, Unknown)	32	7.5%	3%

# Violence Against Women



*427 residents sought FVRC domestic violence support services (2015-2016)*

*45 residents sought FVRC sexual assault support services (2015-2016)*



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# Violence Against Women



*Hispanic women experience disproportionately high rates of domestic violence when compared with other demographic groups.*



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# Violence Against Women



*With FVRC's closure, Chatham County currently has no emergency shelter for individuals fleeing domestic violence.*



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# Violence Against Women



*There have been 2 domestic violence-related homicides since 2012 (the most recent one was in 2018).*



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## *The CDC's 2017 Youth Behavior Risk Survey in Chatham County Finds:*

- 10.9% of High Schoolers had been “physically forced to have sexual intercourse”
- 13% of High Schoolers had “experienced sexual violence” in past 12 months

# Violence Against Women



## *County Resources:*

- Second Bloom of Chatham
- Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services
- Chatham Sheriff's Office



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# Violence Against Women Recommendations



*Continue financially supporting Second Bloom until it becomes eligible for state-level Department of Administration grant funding.*



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# Violence Against Women Recommendations



*Continue promoting community awareness about domestic violence & sexual assault as well as the resources available to survivors*



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# Overall Recommendation Priorities #1

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Increase funding for affordable housing  
through the NC Neighborhood Revitalization  
Program.

# Overall Recommendation Priorities #2

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Continue financing Second Bloom until it becomes eligible for grant funding.



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# Overall Recommendation Priorities #3

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Implement new, county-wide, comprehensive sex education curriculum in public schools.



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# Thank you



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