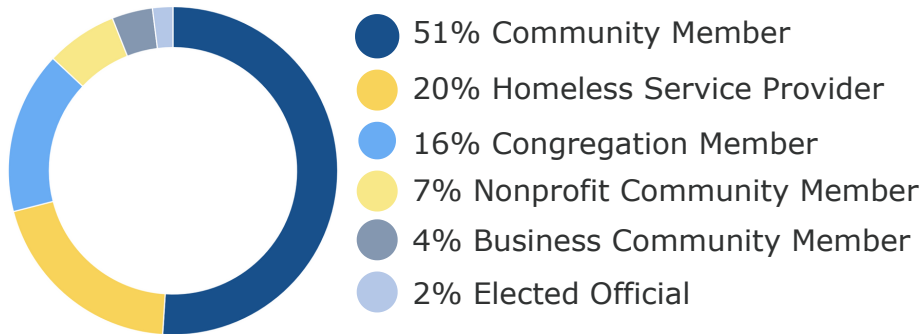


# Chatham County Continuum of Care

## Homelessness in Chatham County Survey Results - 2020

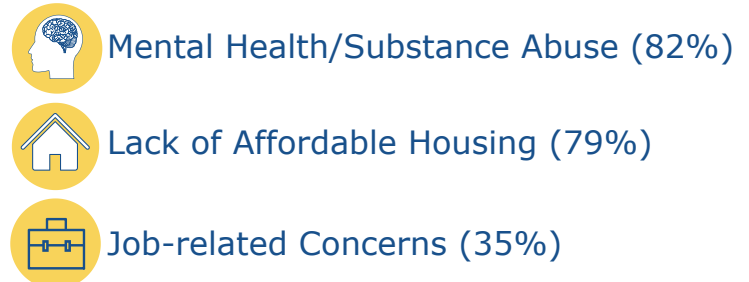
### Survey Respondents



*"Real solutions to homelessness are hard to 'sell' to the public because of prejudice and ignorance about the issues that lead someone into homelessness."*

### Top 3 Reasons for Homelessness in Chatham County

Respondents chose Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Lack of Affordable Housing, and Job-related Concerns as the top 3 reasons for homelessness in Chatham County. Barriers to Housing (34%) and Evictions (24%) were also chosen as top reasons.



Thirteen respondents chose "Other". Of these, most comments (54%) referenced the fact that people become homeless because they do not have the resources (e.g., income, education) needed to get or stay housed. An additional 23% of comments noted that homelessness is due to personal flaws, such as laziness or a lack of discipline.

### Most Respondents Believe Homelessness in Chatham County is Getting Worse

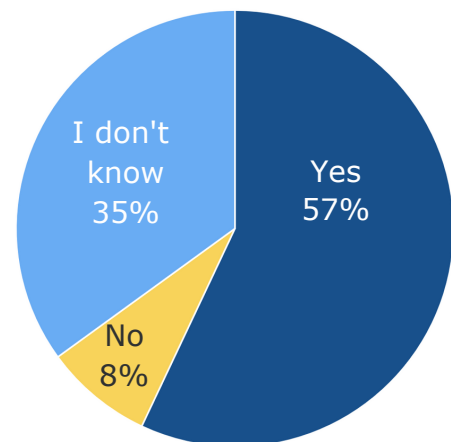
**52%**

of respondents believe the homeless situation is getting worse

**34%**

of respondents believe the homeless situation is staying the same

### Most Respondents Support a Fee Structure to Fund Housing



*"I believe the city government should make homelessness a number one priority in funding and they should reach out to support other non-profits that are in this network."*

## Ideas for Improving the Homeless Serving System or Agency Work

Respondents were able to provide additional ideas for ways to improve the homeless serving system or work of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. The 58 responses focused on the following areas:

### Solutions to Homelessness

Most comments (59%) referenced solutions to homelessness. Of these, the most commonly mentioned solution was more affordable housing (23 references).

### Services for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Nearly 40% of comments referenced the need for additional homeless services in Chatham County, including accessible mental health services (5 references), service coordination (4), employment related services (3), and shower/hygiene facilities (3).

### Issues to Address in the Homeless-Serving System

Ten comments (17%) referenced issues or recommended solutions for the homeless serving system. The most common recommendation was to increase coordination and collaboration among the homeless-serving agencies (7 references). Other recommendations included reducing bias in the shelters (1), reducing service duplication (1), and the need to establish an emergency task force to address homelessness (1).

### Agency Issues to Address

Seven comments (12%) referenced recommendations specific to the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. These recommendations included more communication with other nonprofits (2 references), to secure more funds for other homeless service providers (1), and to provide more advocacy and collaboration, versus direct services (1). Respondents also mentioned concerns over CSAH staffing (1 reference), the handling of the COVID-19 crisis (1), and how unwelcoming the Wheaton Street building is (1).

### Effects of Homelessness on the Community

Nine percent of comments referenced how the Chatham County community is negatively affected by homelessness. Respondents noted their concerns about panhandling (2 references), crime (1), homeless camps (1), and the ways in which homelessness affects tourism (1).

**If you would like additional information about the CoC survey  
or annual results, please email [info@chathamcoc.org](mailto:info@chathamcoc.org)**