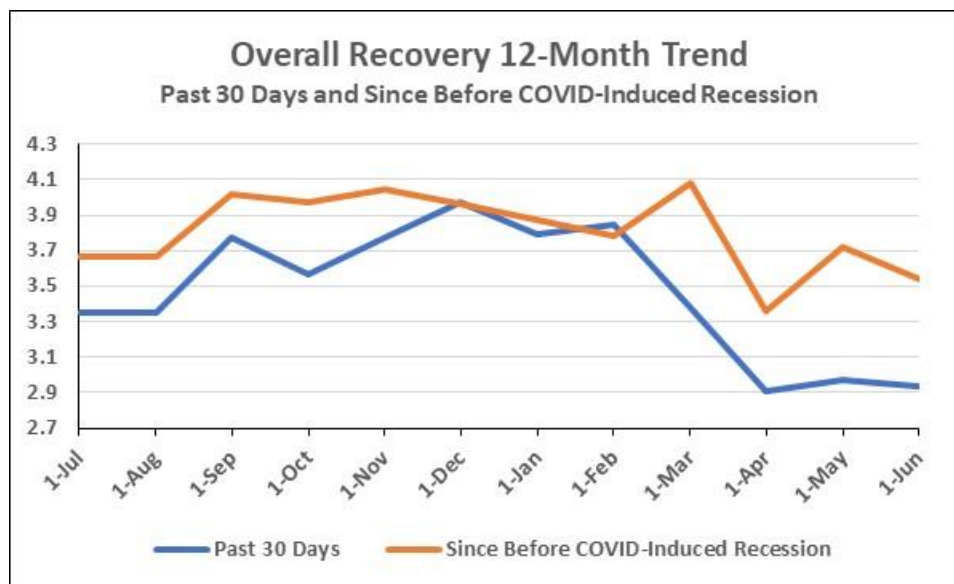


## NC Community Engagement Survey 12-Month Trends

The NC Community Engagement Survey (NC CES) tracks trends in community wellness across North Carolina. The NC CES is sent monthly via email to community leaders throughout the state. This summary report is based on data from July 2022 through June 2023. During this period, community leaders completed 7,419 surveys across North Carolina’s 100 counties. The topics covered include access to food, healthcare, housing, childcare, eldercare, workforce, transportation, and technology. Overall recovery since the pandemic was also measured.

Survey respondents reported access to housing, food, childcare, and healthcare as the most important issues facing communities. The graphs below depict the 12-month trends in these areas. Respondents are also asked to assess overall conditions over the past 30 days and to assess conditions today compared to before the pandemic. Results indicate recovery across the state slowed in Q3 2022 and began to decline in January 2023. Both the 30-day trailing measure and the 12-month trend have declined significantly this year.



Qualitative survey data and secondary economic data suggest these declines are due in part to increasing challenges from inflation. Respondents report that higher prices for food, gas, and housing are hurting communities. Examples of responses include:

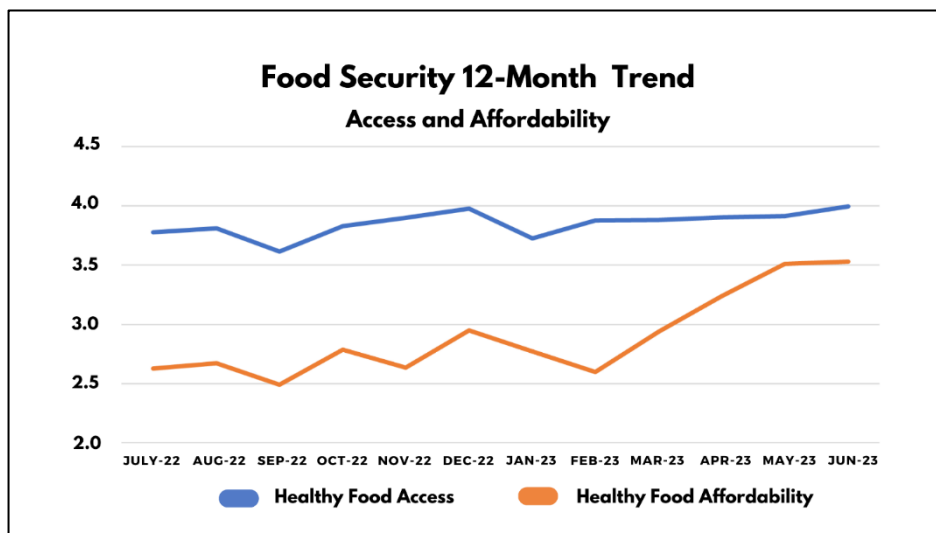
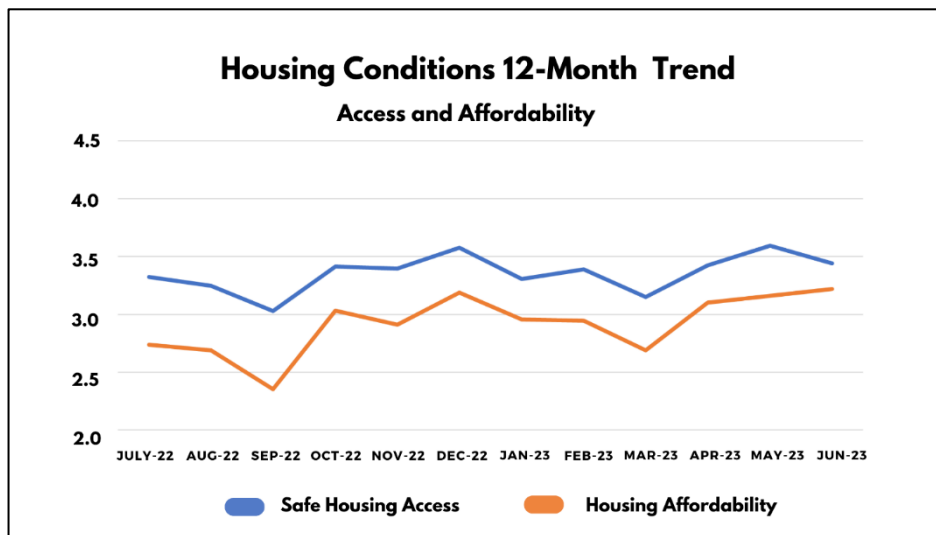
Inflation continues to hit our community hard. – Land of Sky COG

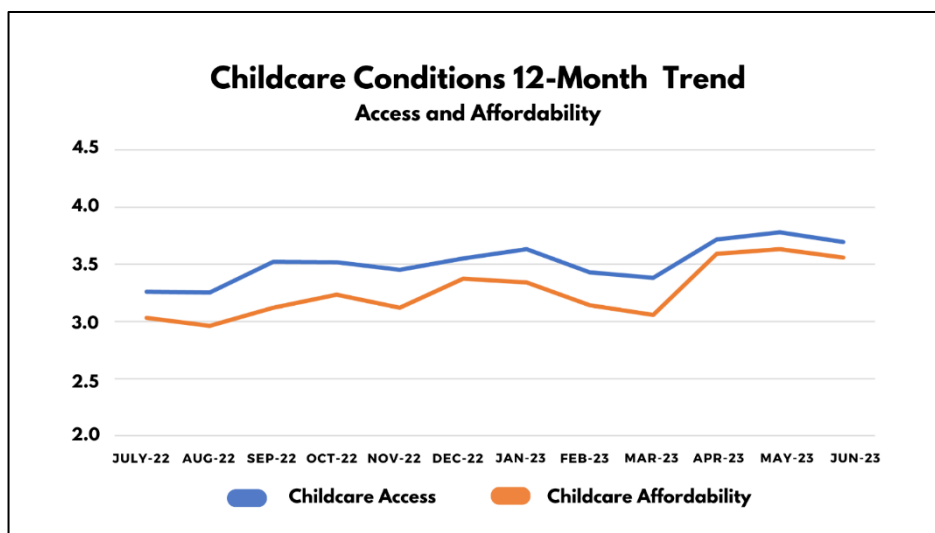
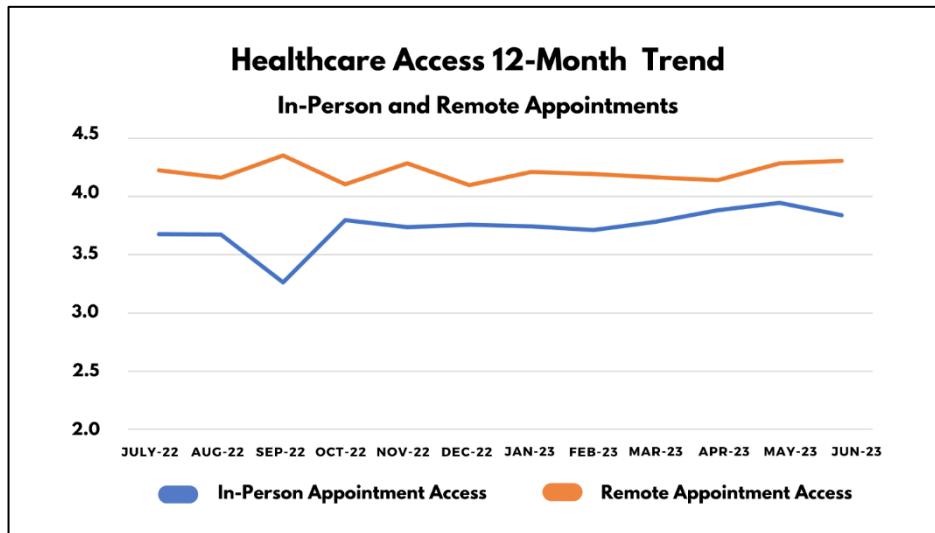
The cost of food on the Island was high before the pandemic but with inflation due to COVID, healthy food is even more expensive. I have no idea how to fix that other than subsidies based on income for at risk households. Inflation is hitting families hard and many are being forced out of long-term rentals so homeowners can sell or Airbnb their properties. Housing prices have literally doubled, so taxes and repairs and insurance are all cost prohibitive for those not selling. – Albemarle COG

Inflation is causing stress on lower income citizens to be able to afford most services and necessities. – Cape Fear COG

While things like sales and property tax and government revenues have improved economic conditions, other areas of economic strain have worsened, such as inflation, homelessness, and addiction. – Centralina COG

The following graphs illustrate 12-month trends for housing conditions, food security, healthcare access, and childcare conditions.





The NC Community Engagement Survey is coordinated by the NC Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) in partnership with the UNC School of Government ncIMPACT Initiative, NC Rural Center, NC Association of County Commissioners, and NC League of Municipalities. The survey is conducted by researchers from the East Carolina University Bureau of Business Research and is funded through a grant to the Governor’s Office from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

To learn more about how you can get involved, or if you have comments or questions about the survey, please contact Dr. James Kleckley at [james.kleckley@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:james.kleckley@osbm.nc.gov)