

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[View this email in your browser](#)



Research News

[Alternatives to Violence in Beatties Ford: Year-three program evaluation reveals promise and opportunity](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

By **Fatima Rodriguez Caba**

In 2019 and 2020, homicide rates within Charlotte rose by 45%. This rise motivated the [City of Charlotte](#) to implement the Alternatives to Violence program within the Beatties Ford Road corridor. The corridor, rich in community, Black history and heritage, has long shouldered the burden of historically discriminatory practices such as redlining and predatory lending, resulting in a lack of socioeconomic development and resource investment.

Why it matters: Because of these challenges, the Beatties Ford Road corridor has experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty, crime and violence. In 2024, the Charlotte Urban Institute partnered with the City of Charlotte and [Youth Advocate Programs](#), or YAP®, to evaluate the effectiveness of the ATV program in Beatties Ford.

The third-year evaluation analyzed crime data, ATV staff interviews, case notes and community surveys to measure the program's impact on participant behavior and community violence outcomes between 2022 and 2024.

What the study found: Promise and opportunity. Not only has the ATV program helped to establish trust and contribute to community safety in the corridor, the evaluation also revealed:

- **A reduction or stabilization of violence** - Neighborhoods involved in the ATV program saw fewer robberies, nonfatal shootings and homicides

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Fewer community members reported witnessing or experiencing violence, and the frequency of witnessing violence decreased.

- **Shifts in community norms and awareness** - More residents rejected violence as a way to solve problems and said they felt more confident in peaceful, nonviolent approaches to conflict.
- **A reduction of ATV program awareness** - Even though activities continued, only 21% of Beatties Ford Road residents knew about the program, compared to 34% in the first year.
- **Positive impacts for participants** - From the first year to the third, the program added 10 new participants, and those involved experienced meaningful gains, such as: better performance in school or at work, improved behavior, earning high school diplomas, and new experiences and job opportunities.

[\[READ MORE ABOUT THE EVALUATION\]](#)

Data Trust Digest

[The Charlotte Regional Data Trust presents the 2025 State of Our Data Report](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

By **Sydney Idzikowski**

We are pleased to release the **second annual State of Our Data report!**

The report provides the [Charlotte Regional Data Trust Board of Directors](#), as well as our communities, partners and stakeholders with **an annual update and summary of our community data ecosystem**. The report also dives into **the data we hold in trust and why it matters**, and the work we do at the [Charlotte Urban Institute](#) and [Regional Data Trust](#).

We use this annual information **to inform representation on the Board and its committees, to guide our communication and dissemination strategies, and to help us monitor the extent of data coverage across key quality of life domains and across our region**. The report provides a public record of how our community data ecosystem grows and evolves to better meet the needs of our communities. And finally, it helps tell the story of the Data Trust, who is represented in the data, and how people are linked across the organizations that serve them.

Since 2016, **over a million (1,079,074) unique individuals' administrative data have been reflected in the Data Trust**, and we know that every data partner serves people who are also served by other partners. There is much to discover from using this data.

[\[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE\]](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Literature

[The Charlotte Urban Institute's top seven books of 2025](#)

By **Bianca Bagley**

Curious about which books moved your favorite researchers this year? Or maybe you want to add a few new titles to your 2026 book list? Find inspiration -- or get a head start on next year's reading -- with recommendations from Charlotte Urban Institute staff.

Our staff enjoyed a range of titles this year that provided insight into the various topics we study. These stories enriched our lives by teaching us how to tell powerful narrative data stories, navigate the complex history of affordable housing in Charlotte, how a relatively forgotten period of American history draws disturbing similarities to today's society, and how deeply food is connected with human identity and more. Check out our list, then check out a book!

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

Events

[REGISTER NOW] - 2026 Engaged Scholarship Symposium



UNC CHARLOTTE ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 5, 2026 | 8AM-4PM | CO-LAB AT UNC CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY

Be a part of something BIG!

Join the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute for the 2026 Engaged Scholarship Symposium on February 5. This **FREE** meeting of the minds will bring

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

engaged scholarship leads to powerful action across our region.

What we'll cover: Community projects that advance social innovation and close the day with a site visit to the Hidden Valley/Sugar Creek Wellness Center, where you can witness how engagement and impact come together on the ground.

Register for the symposium NOW!

Read more from the Charlotte Urban Institute

Copyright © 2025

CHARLOTTE URBAN INSTITUTE

All rights reserved.

December 11, 2025

Our mailing address is:

9201 University City Blvd Charlotte, NC 28223

Subscribe to the Newsletter



This email was sent to sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute · 9201 University City Blvd · Charlotte, NC 28223 · USA