

The Coming Wave: COVID-19 Evictions

A Growing Crisis for Families in Sonoma County

Four in 10 Sonoma County residents are renters, including the majority of Latinx residents. Many renters were already facing a crisis due to soaring rents before the pandemic, and they have been hit hard by the virus and its economic impacts. Without an effective eviction moratorium, these renters are at risk of being caught in a coming wave of evictions which could force them out of their neighborhoods or even onto the street.

Renters who've lost their jobs and have no replacement income are especially vulnerable. With little to no savings, they face the risk of homelessness.

6,000

households at imminent risk of eviction, including **4,400 children**

4,800

additional households at risk when the weekly \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation ends

Mass eviction would devastate families and our community.

Job losses and evictions were already leading causes of homelessness.

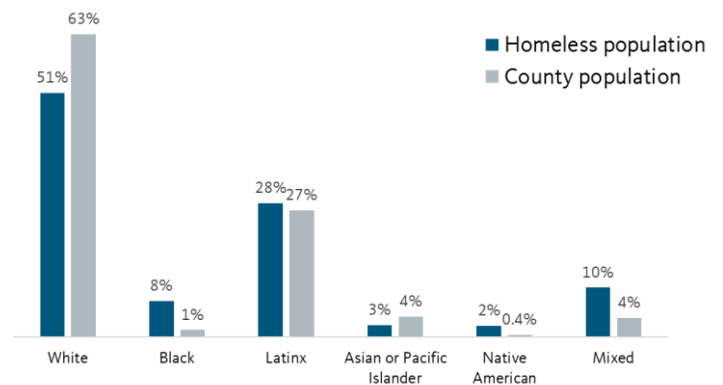
19%

reported job loss as a primary cause of homelessness

Job loss was the most common cause of homelessness according to survey data. 12% reported evictions as a primary cause.

New evictions resulting in homelessness would exacerbate racial inequities.

Population experiencing homelessness by race/ethnicity



"...Farmworker communities here are the ones who bear the brunt during disasters. I've lived here all of my life and have never seen things this bad. Families don't have food because they are putting all of their earnings to rent, to avoid the risk of eviction. Many have been told to leave their subleased rooms. My greatest fear is that we are going to start seeing hundreds of low-wage earners evicted."

-Ezequiel Guzmán, President of Latinos Unidos del Condado de Sonoma



Renters are a growing and vital segment of the community, yet they face rising economic and housing insecurity — especially at a time of record unemployment.

Evictions were prevalent before the pandemic.

1,195

average annual eviction filings

This understates total evictions, most of which occur outside of court.

Over half of renters are burdened by stagnant wages and rising rents.

54%

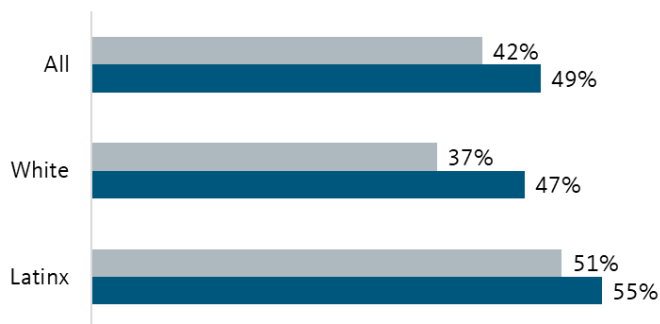
already pay too much for housing*

Rent-burdened households have an average savings of just \$10.

Latinx renters, especially women, are more likely to be at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Share of renters that are both rent burdened and economically insecure**

- Male head of household
- Female head of household



Sonoma County can only thrive if its renters thrive. Strengthen the County's eviction moratorium by:

- 1) **Extending it 12 months** after the public health emergency declaration ends.
- 2) **Banning all evictions**, including a ban for unpaid rent once the moratorium expires.
- 3) **Not requiring** documented proof or notification to a landlord that a tenant lost income due to Covid-19.
- 4) **Prohibiting late fees.**
- 5) **Prohibiting rent increases.**

The **Bay Area Equity Atlas** is a partnership between the San Francisco Foundation, PolicyLink, and the USC Equity Research Institute (ERI). www.bayareaequityatlas.org.

The **North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP)** is a grassroots, multi-racial, and multi-issue organization, comprised of individuals and twenty-one faith, environmental, labor, student and community-based organizations in Sonoma County. We are a regional power organization, rooted in working class and minority communities in Sonoma County. Our mission is to unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic, racial and environmental justice. We work actively to develop leaders and win policies that constitute real changes to benefit people's lives, dismantle racism, demand rights and create a just transition.

Sources and notes: 2018 5-Year data from the American Community Survey Integrated Public Use Microdata Series; Gary Blasi, UCLA Luskin Institute; California Policy Lab; Sonoma County Homeless Services; Tenants Together; Pew Research. Unless otherwise noted, "renters" refers to renter-occupied households. Data by race and gender are determined by the race and gender of the household head. Latinx include people of Hispanic origin of any race and all other groups exclude people of Hispanic origin. *Rent-burdened is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on housing costs. **Economic insecurity is defined as below 350 percent of the federal poverty line, or about \$87,000 for a family of four or \$44,000 for a single individual. See the methodology at: www.bayareaequityatlas.org/Sonomaeviction/methodology