

# The Coming Wave: COVID-19 Evictions

## A Growing Crisis for Families in Contra Costa County

More than one in three Contra Costa County residents are renters, including the majority of Black, Latinx, and immigrant residents. Many were already facing a crisis due to soaring rents before the pandemic, and they have been hardest hit 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.**

# 14,000

households at imminent risk of eviction, including **12,100 children**

# 8,700

additional households at risk of eviction due to income loss when the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation ends July 31

**Mass eviction would devastate families and our community.**

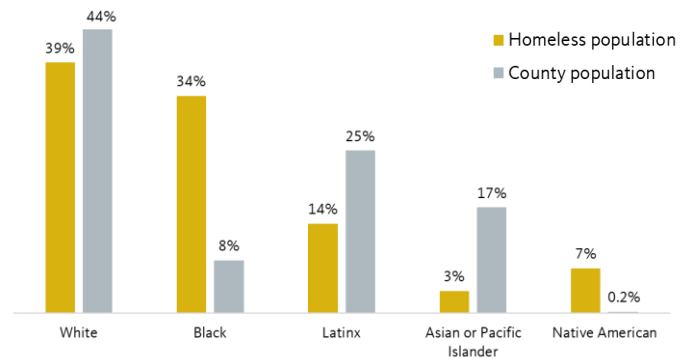
Homelessness takes an immeasurable toll on people and strains resources.

# \$20,075

minimum cost per year to temporarily shelter one individual

New evictions resulting in homelessness would exacerbate racial inequities.

Population experiencing homelessness by race/ethnicity



**“In September, our rent will be raised to \$1,695. My husband’s work laid off 75% of their workers. I am worried every day that he will be laid off too and we will be unable to stay in our home.”**

**— Veronica Alvarado, Concord**



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.

3,928

average annual eviction filings

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

The majority of renters are burdened by stagnant wages and rising rents.

53%

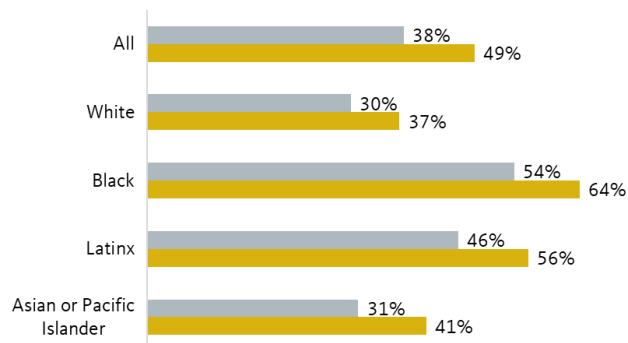
already pay too much for housing

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

Black and Latinx renters, especially women, are disproportionately economically insecure and rent-burdened, and most at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Rent-burdened, economically insecure renter households by race and gender

■ Men  
■ Women



Contra Costa County can only thrive if its renters thrive. Protect renters with these key strategies:

- 1) **Extend the eviction moratorium** until 90 days after the state of the emergency ends.
- 2) **Ban evictions for non-payment due to COVID-19**, converting missed rent to consumer debt.
- 3) **Increase rental assistance, tenant counseling, and legal services** for low-income renters.
- 4) **Pass just cause eviction protections and rent control** to address gaps in state law.
- 5) **Enact rent and eviction registries** to evaluate current policies and ensure equity.

The **Bay Area Equity Atlas** is a partnership between the San Francisco Foundation, PolicyLink, and the USC Equity Research Institute (ERI), formerly known as PERE. [www.bayareaequityatlas.org](http://www.bayareaequityatlas.org).

**Raise the Roof** is a coalition of community, labor, and faith groups working to bring good jobs, immigrant protections, and affordable housing to the City of Concord and Contra Costa County. Members include ACCE, California Nurses Association, Central Labor Council Contra Costa County-AFL-CIO, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, East Bay Housing Organizations, Ensuring Opportunity, First Five/Central County Regional Group, Lift Up Contra Costa, Monument Impact, and Tenants Together. [www.facebook.com/raisetherooftconcord/](https://www.facebook.com/raisetherooftconcord/).

**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; Contra Costa Health, Housing, and Homeless Services; Tenants Together; The Century Foundation; 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. Last updated October 2, 2020. See the analysis and methodology at: [www.bayareaequityatlas.org/CCeviction](http://www.bayareaequityatlas.org/CCeviction)

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