

The Coming Wave: COVID-19 Evictions

A Growing Crisis for Families in Kansas

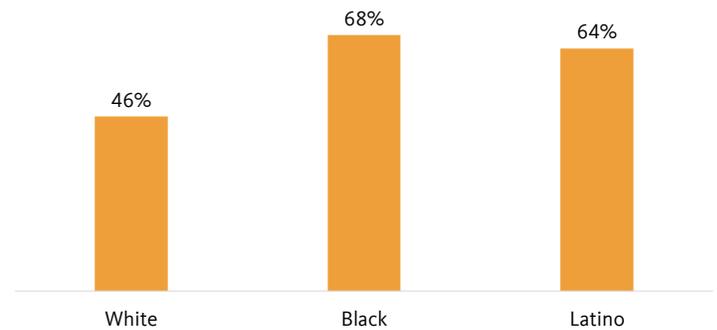
Over one third of Kansas residents are renters, including the majority of Black and Native American residents. Many renters were already facing a crisis due to soaring rents before the pandemic, and they have been hit hard by the virus and its economic impacts. Without long-term eviction protections, 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 experienced job or income losses are especially vulnerable. With little to no savings, they face the risk of eviction and homelessness.

155,000

renter households, or 44% of all renters, are experiencing rent shortfall and potentially facing eviction

Share of renters at risk of eviction by race/ethnicity



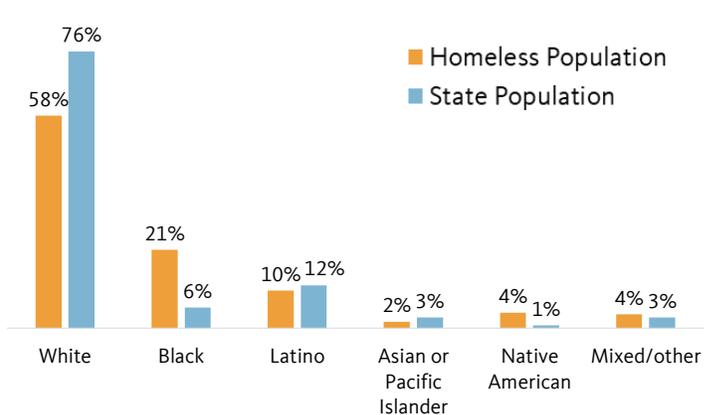
New evictions resulting in homelessness would exacerbate racial inequities.

Black residents make up a disproportionate share of the existing homeless population and would be particularly at risk.

21%

of Kansas residents experiencing homelessness are Black, but Black residents comprise only 6% of the state's population.

Population experiencing homelessness by race/ethnicity



"COVID had begun to affect my working hours, while my roommate had quit from a factory ignoring health precautions. We were 8 days late on rent with a 'Pay or Quit' intimidation notice from our landlord. Since then, I've overdrafted several times in order to keep rent paid and avoid eviction. Our landlord has also increased our rent by \$50/month during a pandemic. The roof above our heads has never become more unstable, at a time where security and safety is a precious commodity."

— Benjamin Mihm, Lawrence, Kansas



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.

8,559

evictions per year

This is **23 per day**, or a rate of 2.3%.

Four in ten renters are burdened by stagnant wages and rising rents.

43%

already pay too much for housing*

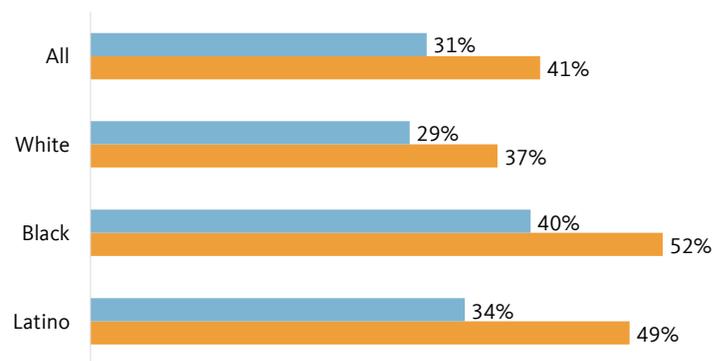
Rent-burdened households have an average savings of just \$10.

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

Share of renters that are both rent burdened and living below 200 percent of the poverty level**

■ Male
■ Female

Over half of Black women renters are both rent burdened and economically insecure**



Kansas 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 emergency ends.
- 2) **Ban evictions, late fees, and rent increases.**
- 3) **Cancel rent and mortgage payments** during the crisis and recovery period.
- 4) **Increase rental assistance, tenant counseling, and legal services** for low-income renters.

The **National Equity Atlas** is a partnership between PolicyLink, and the USC Equity Research Institute (ERI). We equip movement leaders and policymakers with actionable data and strategies to advance racial equity and shared prosperity.
www.nationalequityatlas.org.

Rent Zero Kansas is a coalition of KS tenants and allies fighting for survival and beyond – and it starts with housing.

Sources and notes: 2018 5-Year data from the American Community Survey Integrated Public Use Microdata Series; Stout and National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel; HUD Exchange; Eviction Lab; 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. Latino includes 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. **The federal poverty threshold in 2018 for a family of four with two children was about \$25,000 per year (thus, 200% of the federal poverty threshold was about \$50,000). See the methodology at:

<https://nationalequityatlas.org/research/stateevictionrisk>