



ABOUT THE REPORT

The 2023 SoHIH compiles the most recent data on housing instability and homelessness for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. It is a resource that can and should be used by all stakeholders working to address housing instability and homelessness.

This annual report synthesizes local, regional, and national data on the full housing continuum (from housing instability to homelessness to stable, permanent, affordable housing). It serves as a knowledge base for stakeholders to make informed policy and practice decisions that optimize resource allocation and systems of care.

KEY FINDINGS

1

The local supply of low-cost rental housing continues to decrease. There is a 25,442-unit gap in rental units affordable for households who are at or below 30% of Area Median Income. These local supply issues are the result of several factors, including redevelopment, the rising cost of land, and rental price increases.

2

Renter cost-burden has increased among low and moderate-income households due to a lack of affordable housing and a growing rent-to-income gap. Most Charlotte-Mecklenburg renters earning less than \$50K are cost-burdened. Close to half of Mecklenburg County renter households were cost-burdened in 2022.

3

The number of people experiencing homelessness and the average length of time they stay in emergency shelter has increased while the median length of time has decreased. This suggests the system is capable of facilitating rapid exit from homelessness but still has some long-term shelter stayers.

4

High rental costs and the affordable housing deficit exacerbate pre-existing structural and racial inequities and disproportionately impact minority and low income households. This is illustrated by the over-representation of Black, African American, or African people in the homeless population.

SO, WHAT?

As illustrated by the 2023 SOHIIH report, the number of households facing housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to increase while affordable, permanent housing stock continues to decrease. The existing deficit in affordable housing effects the full housing continuum, but disproportionately impacts low-income and minority renters. It also influences the number of people who become homeless and the length of time it takes a household to exit homelessness.

Addressing housing instability and homelessness requires a multifaceted cross-systems approach that combines affordable housing initiatives, support services, and efforts to reduce discrimination and enhance tenant protections. Substantial and intentional investments are needed to decrease housing instability and make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

SO, WHAT NEXT?



INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Permanent, affordable housing is essential to both individual and public health. Therefore, it is critical that all levels of stakeholders use the information in the report to advocate for more permanent, affordable housing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, especially for households with the lowest incomes. This resource can be used by all levels of stakeholders who are working to address housing instability and homelessness.

Providers can use the report to provide context for their program-level data, inform programmatic decisions, and to advocate for additional resources.

Elected officials can use the information to inform local funding and policy decisions to accelerate efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Funders can see the report as a means to optimize resource allocation and target investment to focus on impacts rather than simple outputs.

Anyone who is involved in **media, advocacy, or simply connecting information to people** can use this report as a resource to help frame the issues and/or spotlight important narratives.

