



ABOUT THE REPORT

The 2022 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) to serve as a knowledge foundation for stakeholders to make informed policy and practice decisions to optimize resource allocation and systems of care.

KEY FINDINGS

1

The local supply of low-cost rental housing has decreased significantly over the past 10 years. There is a 27,306 unit gap in rental units affordable for extremely low income households who are at or below 30% of Area Median Income in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

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. Nearly all Charlotte-Mecklenburg renters earning less than \$35K are cost-burdened.

3

The number of people experiencing homelessness and how long they typically stay in emergency shelter has increased. The average length of time people spent in emergency shelter has increased by 17 days in the past year from 109 days in FY20 to 126 days in FY21.

4

High rental costs and a growing deficit of affordable housing exacerbate pre-existing structural and racial inequities and disproportionately impact minority and low income households.

SO, WHAT?

As illustrated by the 2022 SoHIH report, there is a continued need for more permanent, affordable housing. The existing deficit in affordable housing impacts housing stability for all AMI levels but disproportionately impacts low-income and minority renters. It influences the number of people who become homeless and the length of time it takes a household to exit homelessness.

The data in the report indicates the number of households facing housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to increase while affordable, permanent housing stock continues to decrease. As the community continues its work to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring, substantial investments in affordable housing including new construction, preserving naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH), and deeper subsidies are needed to decrease the number of people experiencing housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

SO, WHAT NEXT?



INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Permanent, affordable housing is essential to preventing and ending homelessness. 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.



The 2022 Charlotte-Mecklenburg State of Housing Instability & Homelessness (SoHIH) Report is released by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services. The 2022 report was produced by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Housing Innovation & Stabilization Services with consultation from UNC Charlotte Urban Institute.