



## ABOUT THE REPORT

---

The 2021 SoHIH provides a single, dedicated compilation of all the latest data on housing instability and homelessness pertaining to Charlotte-Mecklenburg. This resource can be used by any and all stakeholders working to address housing instability and homelessness. The annual report combines local, regional, and national data on the full housing continuum (from housing instability to homelessness), and stable (permanent, affordable) housing.

## KEY FINDINGS

---

1

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing problems of homelessness and housing instability, disproportionately impacting minority and low-income households.

2

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed housing problems that were hidden prior to the pandemic, as well as resulted in the allocation of millions of dollars to support households facing both housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

3

The inventory of permanent, affordable housing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to decrease, while the need for permanent, affordable housing only increases. There is a 23,022-unit gap of rental units for extremely low-income households who are at or below 30% of Area Median Income in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. This shortage contributes to the growing number of households experiencing housing instability and homelessness; it also means that households are spending longer periods of time in shelter.

# SO, WHAT

---

The single, biggest takeaway from the 2021 SoHIH report is the continued need for more permanent, affordable housing. The 2021 SoHIH report also offers an in-depth look at the extent to which COVID-19 has exacerbated the pre-existing conditions of housing instability and homelessness, as well as the federal resources deployed to mitigate its impact. Prior to COVID-19, data indicated that more households were already facing housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg; and access to and availability of affordable, permanent housing was decreasing. The pandemic has highlighted pre-existing gaps while also exposing areas of concern which were previously obscured. Based upon current trends and without widespread investment, the report indicates that it is possible that the long-term impacts of the pandemic will result in even greater numbers of people experiencing housing instability and homelessness in the community.

# SO, WHAT NEXT?

---



## INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As communities have learned in the wake of COVID-19, 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 illustrate and 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, as well as 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 allocate resources in alignment with the need, 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.

