

Key Findings: COVID-19

Households are falling behind on rent and mortgage.

As of July 2021, there were an estimated 28,174 Mecklenburg County households behind on rent, owing an average of \$3,589. Financially unstable households use a number of strategies, including borrowing from unsustainable sources such as high-interest loans, while cutting on other essential expenses to make ends meet. In 2020, the number of homeowners in the U.S. who fell behind by at least three months on their mortgage increased by 250% to over 2 million households; these numbers are comparable to those seen in the Great Recession in 2010.

**Average rent-debt
\$3,589/household**

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Eviction moratoria are effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

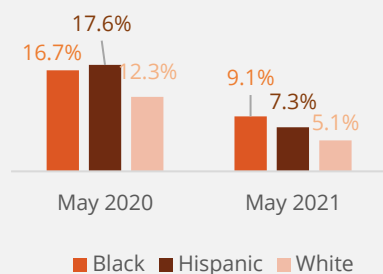
Initial studies indicate eviction moratoria are effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19, preventing mortality, and improving overall wellbeing. National research indicates that local eviction moratoria have reduced the number of COVID-19 cases by 3.8% and the number of COVID-19 related deaths by 11%. Households in states with state-level eviction moratoria (in addition to federal moratoria) reported higher household spending and lower rates of food insecurity and mental stress during the months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency rental assistance has been used in conjunction with eviction moratorium to provide support to households at-risk of eviction when moratoriums end. Between January and July 2021, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County distributed more than \$24,000,000 in emergency rental assistance to 6,561 households.

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Racial/ethnic minorities and low-income households were hit hardest by job loss.

Persons of color were more likely to experience unemployment than White persons, both at the beginning of the pandemic and as the economy began to recover. As of May 2021, 9.1% of Black workers in the United States were unemployed compared to 5.1% of White workers. Low-income employees were particularly vulnerable to job loss and subsequent housing instability; low-paying jobs accounted for 30% of total jobs, but 55% of the jobs lost from February 2020 to February 2021. In Mecklenburg County, nearly half (49%) of low-income jobs (annual earning <\$40,000) lost to COVID-19 were in the Accommodation and Food Services industry. Women, who are disproportionately represented in low-wage and face-to-face jobs, experienced higher levels of unemployment than men during the pandemic.

U.S. Unemployment Rates by Race/ Ethnicity



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