

Comparing the Costs: Allow Eviction or Cancel the Rent

The Cost of Evictions in Oregon

Approximately 89,000 Oregon households owe back rent and as many as 200,000 have little to no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent, which suggests that these numbers will continue to grow. More than half of the 200,000 households include children.

Between **25%-62%** of those facing eviction will need shelter and incur additional costs for shelter, medical care, foster care, and child delinquency.

**Oregon might be forced to spend between
\$1 billion and \$3.3 billion**

to respond to displacement of this magnitude in the short term
if additional eviction supports are not adopted

Note: The estimated costs of evictions does not even account for the likely costs associated with increased spread of COVID-19, as we have seen several studies linking eviction to increased case numbers.

The Cost of Rent Forgiveness

Meanwhile, according to the National Council of State Housing Agencies Report prepared by Stout, the estimated rent owed in Oregon is approximately between

\$249 million and \$378 million

There are 642,000 rental households in Oregon. Census Pulse data for the last week of December 2020 indicated:

14% of renters are not currently
caught up on rent payments

53% of these renters have
children in household

41% of these renters are Black,
Indigenous, or People of Color

91% of these renters had a loss of
employment and

62% are not employed now

What are Tenants Facing?

A tenant survey conducted by Portland State University in partnership with the Community Alliance of Tenants found some alarming trends that directly contradict the popular narrative that tenants are choosing not to pay their rent.

With **52%** of tenants cutting back on paying for **food and medication** to cover their rent, and **84%** experiencing **physical or mental health stress** due to their housing situation, we are seeing tenants struggle to pay as much of their rent as they can while facing landlord threats and attempting to meet their basic needs.

Tenants Are Still Paying Rent...

Despite loss of income, increased childcare responsibilities, and rising unemployment, at least **2/3rds** of tenants reported paying their rent in full each month since March.

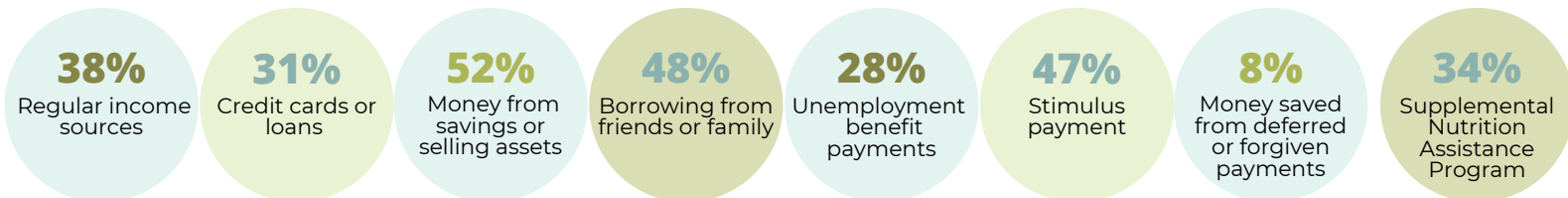


However that number has declined as tenant conditions worsened, with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color disproportionately at risk of eviction

41%
of Oregon tenants
behind on their rent
are BIPOC households*

And Finding Ways to Pay for Necessities

Those behind on rent are primarily taking out loans, selling personal belongings, borrowing from family, and using government benefits to meet their basic needs*.



*compiled from Census Pulse data from the last week of December 2020

Meanwhile, Evictions and Harassment are on the Rise

According to the Oregon Judicial Case Information Network, there have been **6,293 Evictions filed in Oregon since the start of 2020** and the moratoria put in place have only had a marginal effect.

These numbers also do not account for the increase in informal evictions or self-evicting tenants. The CAT Renters Rights Hotline has been inundated with calls describing landlord harassment, threats, an increase in 24-hour notices not previously used, and other means to encourage tenants to remove themselves from their homes.

The cost of eviction data was compiled from the Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative at Portland State University report: <https://www.pdx.edu/news/report-estimates-evictions-could-cost-oregon-much-33-billion>