Oregon Eviction Filings Data

Compiled and Analyzed by Eviction Defense Project Attorneys

Oregon Law Center (OLC) and Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) 7/2021 – 12/2022



Court-Filed Eviction Cases, By Month *Since August of 2022, filing #s have far surpassed pre-pandemic levels*

Source: Oregon Law Center analysis of Oregon Judicial Department publicly available eviction court data

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|---------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----|--|-----|-------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------------|------|
| | 2019 | 20 | 21 – mo | oratoriu | um , th | en safe | e harbo | or | 2022 – Safe Harbor in effect till July, Phase-out July thru Sept, Expired in October | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Monthly | Jan-June Average per month | | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | Apr | May | June . | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Filings | 1,556 | 377 | 752 | 909 | 881 | . 770 | 920 | 857 | 806 | 889 | 1122 | 1188 | 1266 | 5 1470 | 1370 | 1992 | 1912 | 2347 | 2083 | 2036 |
| % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| nonpayment | | | 48% | 51% | 54% | 54% | 62% | 60% | 54% | 61% | 66% | 65% | 67% | 68% | 72% | 79% | 80% | 86% | 86% | 86% |

• Since expiration of all protections, there have been an average of 2,155 eviction filings per month, which is a 43% increase over pre-pandemic levels. 86% of these filings have been for late payment.

• Data collected as of 1/25/23 shows that we are projected to see total filings of approx. 2246 evictions.

Note that eviction filing numbers are the tip of the iceberg in measuring displacement. <u>Studies</u> indicate that approximately 2-5x the # of people who face formal eviction filings are displaced through informal evictions.



Case Outcomes

- When Safe Harbor and tenant protections were in place, along with robust rent assistance, not only were there fewer eviction cases, but more cases were resolved successfully – more landlords got paid and more tenants kept their homes.
- When protections and assistance expired, more cases were filed, and outcomes were worse.

Nearly 80% of cases that accessed the SB 891 safe harbor resulted in payment and dismissal of the case – these tenants remained housed



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When Protections and Rent Assistance go Down, More People Lose Their Homes

Nonpayment case outcomes (April vs. Nov 2022): As rent assistance and eviction protections expired, negative outcomes nearly tripled

- Percent of agreements to move nearly tripled
 - Many of these agreements end not only in displacement but also judgment against tenant
- Percent of court-filed payment plans increased nearly 5x.
 - Generally, approximately 30-40% of payment plans end in default and subsequent eviction judgment.

Lessons Learned

Eviction Protections plus Accessible Rent Assistance = Fewer Evictions and

Fewer Displacements

Removal of Protections and Expiration of Rent Assistance

= More Evictions and More Displacements Black and Brown Oregonians are at greater risk of home loss and homelessness. In Oregon, Black women face eviction filings at <u>more than twice</u> the rate of white renters.

Households of color are at <u>greater risk</u> of homelessness after losing their homes.

We must change the eviction process to address these impacts, so that people get the help they need and can avoid displacement.

Evictions, displacements, and homelessness are systemic.

Evictions and high rents cause homelessness.

When people get evicted, many become homeless. (<u>Studies show</u> between 12% and 37%)

High rents lead to <u>demonstrably higher rates</u> of eviction and homelessness. Inflation is making things <u>worse</u>.

What We've Learned Over the Past Few Years

Affordability: SB 611 and HB 2733

Reasonable protections from extreme rent increases can prevent displacement and homelessness. Our current policies do not provide adequate protection.

Eviction Process: SB 799 People facing eviction have better outcomes if they have time to get rent assistance, legal and translation services.

Landlord and Owner Data: HB 3169 More accurate data about the availability of Oregon's rental housing across the state can help us better understand shortages..

Rent Assistance:

Emergency rent assistance should be fast, available, and flexible to meet needs, especially for communities at greatest risk.