

Facts about the eviction crisis in Iowa

Iowa eviction filings broke records in 2022, but 2023 beat that record by almost 20%.

- There were at least 18,330 evictions filed in Iowa in 2022, beating the previous record of 18,072 (2019). These evictions were filed in all 99 of Iowa's counties.
- 2023 has already beat 2022's record by almost 20%, with 21,902 evictions filed statewide as of December 8, 2023. This is the first time in history we have seen over 20,000 filings in a year.
- January 2024 saw 1906 filings, the highest for any January on record.
- In 2023, Polk County alone saw just short of 10,000 eviction filings. This is roughly the same number of evictions as the entire state experienced in 2011 (9,945).

~90% of evictions are about economics, and hit rural and urban Iowans alike.

- Polk County is not the only driver of evictions in Iowa – evictions rose across urban, suburban, and rural Iowa in 2023.
- This is not surprising. Our data shows that around 92% to 95% of evictions are due to nonpayment of rent.
- HUD data shows a statewide average increase in 2BR rents in 2014-2024 was 31%, but rents increased at a much higher rate in rural or medium population counties.

County	2BR in 2014	2BR in 2024	% increase
Dickinson	\$602	\$1,043	73%
Lucas	\$579	\$981	69%
Buchanan	\$579	\$920	59%
Wapello	\$650	\$997	53%
Jefferson	\$639	\$976	53%
Sioux	\$579	\$882	52%
Marshall	\$625	\$947	52%
Keokuk	\$579	\$877	51%
Des Moines	\$682	\$1,029	51%
Tama	\$596	\$897	51%

Evictions have a greater impact on vulnerable populations.

Between 1/1/2018 and the present, Iowa Legal Aid has served 30,380 households in eviction related cases. The demographics we captured show disparities in how evictions impact vulnerable Iowans, especially people of color.

- In about 2/3 of cases, the primary clients were women.
- One third of these clients reported a disability.
- 40% of these clients were people of color.
- These percentages are much greater in more populated counties, notably Linn (45%), Polk (49%), Black Hawk (49%) Scott (52%), and Johnson County (62%).

2020-2022 Davenport Eviction Filings over Percentage of People of Color

