



MECKLENBURG COUNTY Community Support Services

September 25, 2017

Enclosed is a copy of the report, **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Evictions Part 1: An Introduction to Evictions in Charlotte-Mecklenburg**. This report is the first in a series of reports on evictions that is part of the [Housing Instability & Homelessness Report Series](#), which is designed to better equip our community to make data-driven decisions around housing instability and homelessness.

The [Urban Institute](#) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte prepared the report. [The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg](#), a volunteer board appointed by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and the Charlotte City Council, initiated the report series in 2014. [Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#) provides funding for the report series.

The report provides information on evictions in Mecklenburg County, including an overview of the process and local data on formal evictions that take place through the court system. This is the first study to examine evictions in Mecklenburg County.

An eviction is defined as an action to force a tenant with a written or oral lease to move from the premises where they reside. The report describes the impact of evictions on individuals, families and the community. Evictions can have ripple effects that go beyond housing to affect overall health and well-being of families, education attainment of children and neighborhood stability.

Some findings from the report include:

- In Mecklenburg County, 28,471 households faced formal evictions in FY2015/2016.
- In North Carolina, 162,355 households were at risk of eviction in FY2015/2016.
- 45% of renter households were cost burdened in Mecklenburg County in 2015.

The number of renter households in Mecklenburg County is increasing. At the same time, a higher number of renter households are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs. This means that more households are teetering at the edge of losing their housing and becoming homeless. Through the process of evictions, households become caught in a vicious cycle where losing housing becomes a barrier to obtaining housing.

This report helps Charlotte-Mecklenburg to learn more about evictions and the role they play at the intersection of housing and homelessness. The next two reports will take a deeper dive into local eviction data, including data on writs of possession. Through increased understanding, we are better equipped to help landlords and tenants navigate the legal process and reduce the impact of evictions on tenants, which contributes to stable housing and a stronger community.

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