

**48,278 evictions
were filed in
Oklahoma in 2023.**

*Why it
matters...*



“Eviction does not simply drop poor families into a dark valley, a trying yet relatively brief detour on life’s journey. It fundamentally redirects their way, casting them onto a different, and much more difficult, path.

Eviction
is a
cause,
not just a
condition,
of poverty.”

Matthew Desmond, *Evicted:*
Poverty and Profit in the American City

Oklahoma
has the **6th highest eviction rate**
in the nation,

and...

The 8th highest **poverty rate**.

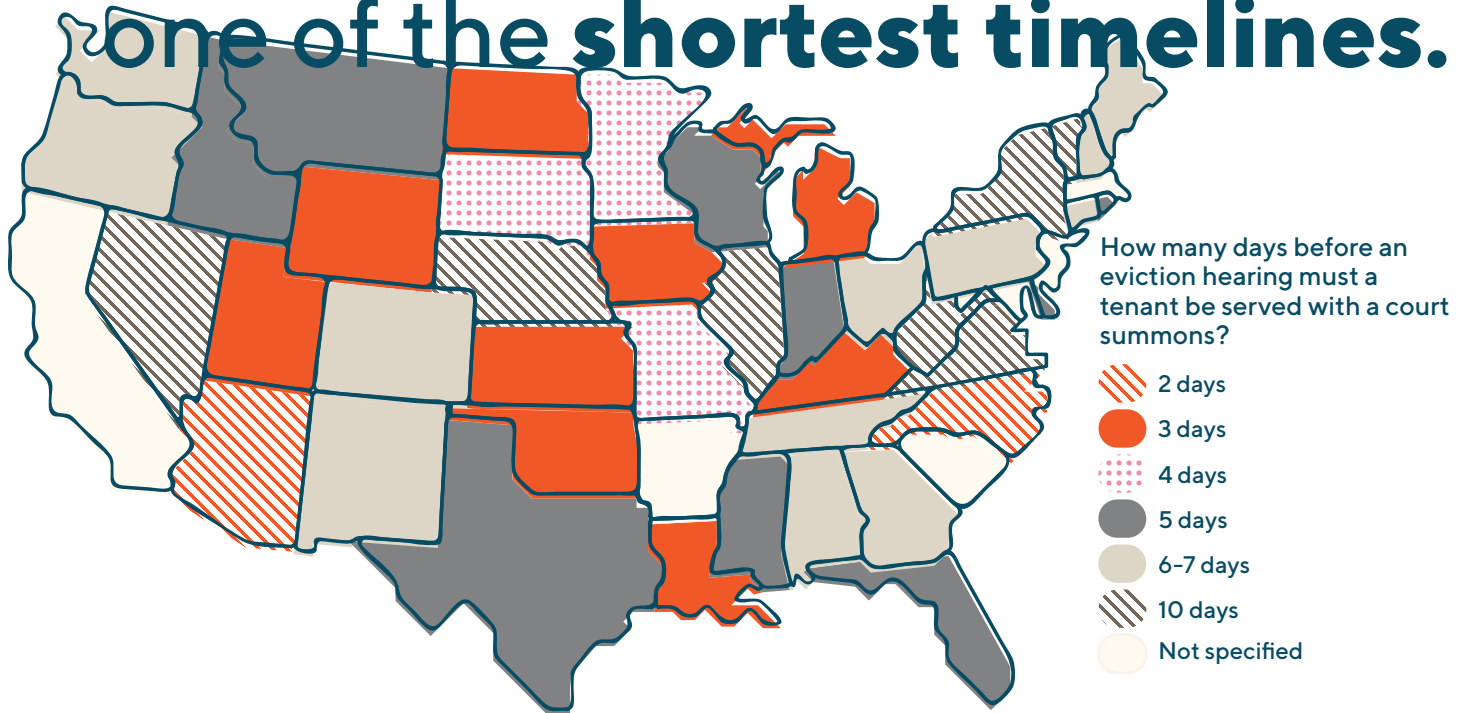
and...

The highest rates of **childhood trauma**.

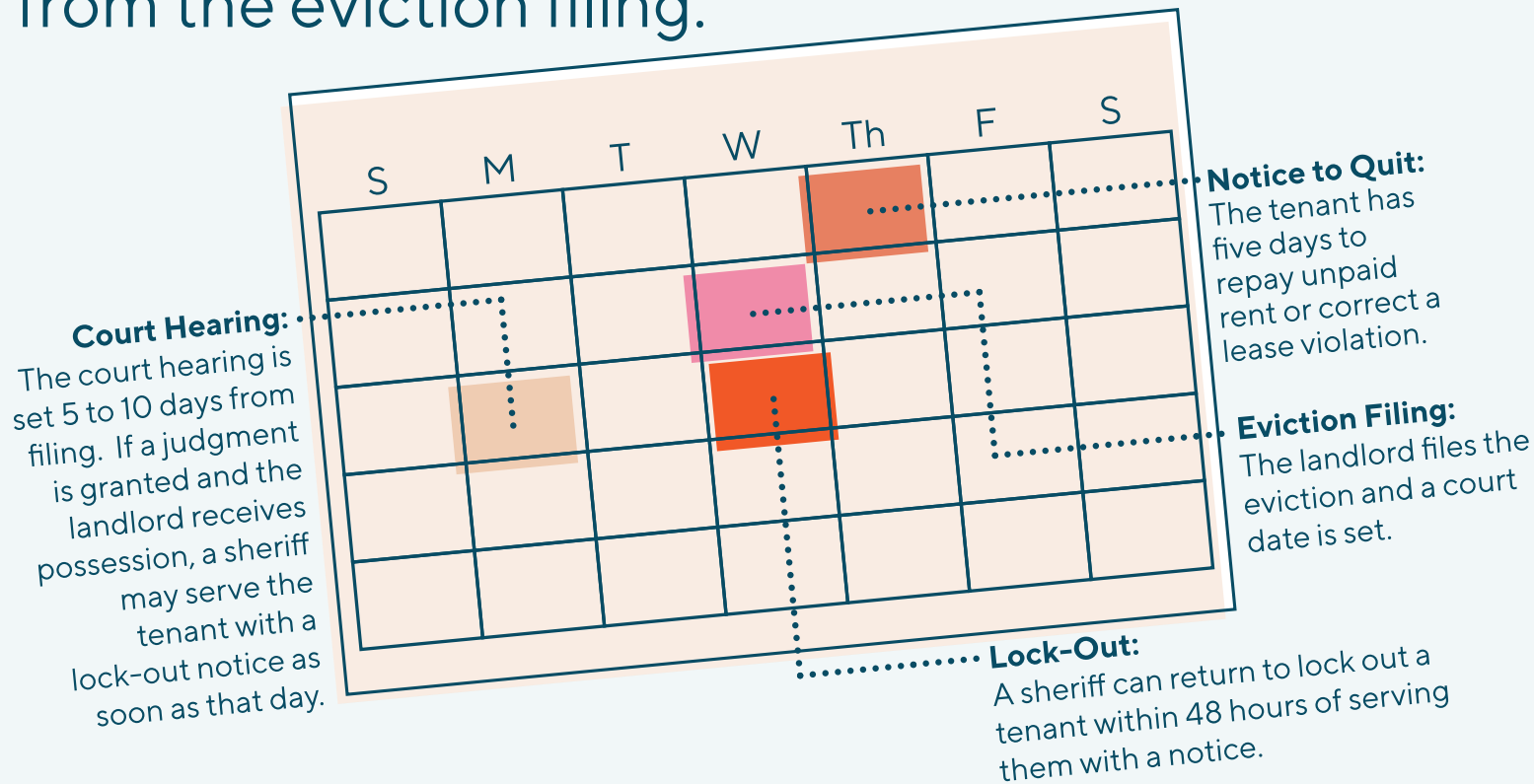
and...

Ranks 46th in **child well-being**.

Oklahoma has the nation's **6th highest eviction rate** and **one of the shortest timelines.**



Under the current law, a judge can grant possession to a landlord in **as few as 5 days** from the eviction filing.



Myth:

It takes 30 days or more to evict a tenant in Oklahoma.

Fact:

In Oklahoma County, **43%** of tenants are locked out of their homes within **10 business days of the eviction being filed.**

Data applies only to cases receiving judgment at the initial hearing.

While the frequency of eviction hearings varies by county, **49% of Oklahoma's residents** live in counties where **8 or more eviction dockets** are scheduled each month, greatly increasing their likelihood of a **speedy eviction.**

County	Eviction Docket Frequency	Population
Oklahoma	4 per week	802,559
Tulsa	4 per week	677,358
Comanche	3-4 per week	123,046
Cleveland	2 per week	299,587
Muskogee	2 per week	66,354

Nearly

Half

of Oklahoma renters are
“cost burdened,” spending
30% or more of their income
on rent and utilities.¹

In Oklahoma, a
living wage for a
single parent with
one child is

\$32.68
per hour.²

Yet, minimum
wage remains

\$7.25
per hour.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services quantifies **poverty** as a single parent
earning less than **\$18.93 per hour**.

There are only

39

homes available
for every

100

extremely
low-income renter
households in
Oklahoma.³

¹Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, “America’s Rental Housing 2024,” Harvard Graduate School of Design, Harvard Kennedy School, 2024. Accessed on February 11, 2024, from https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/americas-rental-housing-2024ng_2024.pdf

²Amy K. Glasmeier, “Living Wage Calculator,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2024. Accessed on February 19, 2024, from <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/40>

³Sabine Brown, “Housing is unaffordable for Oklahoma’s low-wage workers,” Oklahoma Policy Institute, 2023. Accessed on February 11, 2024, from <https://okpolicy.org/housing-is-unaffordable-for-oklahomas-low-wage-workers/>

If you care about...

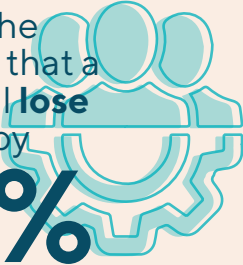
- Strengthening the **economy**
- Ending **homelessness**
- Decreasing **school absenteeism**
- Strengthening the **workforce**
- Investing in **mental health**
- Improving **child well-being**
- Building **stronger families**
- Creating **stronger communities**

then you
already care
about
eviction.



Evictions increase the likelihood that a worker will **lose their job** by

22%



Matthew Desmond & Carl Gershenson,
"Housing and Employment Insecurity among
the Working Poor." *Social Problems*.

"As one of the strongest and most preventable causes of involuntary residential displacement, **evictions should be central to any effort to reduce school changes** resulting from that displacement."

Victor Pearse Haley, Jr.,
"The Impact of Eviction on Student
Displacement: An Atlanta Case Study."
Georgia Institute of Technology.

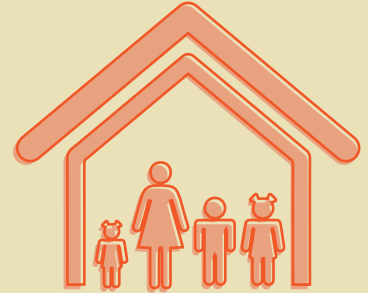
"For children, eviction functions as a major life event that has damaging effects long after they are forced to leave their home. It negatively affects emotional and physical well-being; increases the likelihood of emotional trauma, lead poisoning, and food insecurity; leads to academic decline and delays; and could increase all-cause mortality risk."

Emily A. Benfer, "U.S. Eviction Policy is Harming Children: The Case for Sustainable Eviction Prevention to Promote Health Equity." Harvard University.

If children of unhoused families are investigated by child welfare authorities, they are

34 times
more likely to enter foster care than
stably housed children.

Cheryl Zlotnick, "What research tells us about the intersecting streams of homelessness and foster care." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.



Evictions can be a **death sentence.**

An **eviction filing** increases a tenant's mortality rate by **19%.**

An **eviction judgment** increases a tenant's mortality rate by **40%.**

Nick Graetz, Carl Gershenson, Matthew Desmond. "Rising Rents and Evictions Linked to Premature Death." The Eviction Lab.

Sensible solutions can help **reduce evictions** and **improve outcomes.**

EXTEND THE EVICTION TIMELINE

Extending the timeline would **lessen the burden on the court system** and give renters time to **make a plan and find new housing**. Extending the timeline for nonpayment of rent by even a few days is a needed first step.

EXPUNGE EVICTION RECORDS

A previous **eviction filing** – regardless of the outcome – is often enough for a landlord to **refuse to rent to a prospective tenant**. Expunging these records is an essential step to **housing accessibility and stability**.

INCENTIVIZE MEDIATION PROGRAMS

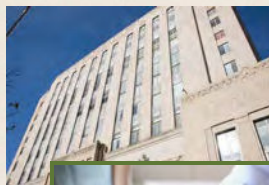
Using mediation **before an eviction is filed** is proven to help landlords and tenants find **satisfactory solutions while creating a framework for future communications**. It saves landlords time and money, benefits the court system, diverts eviction filings, and improves relationships.



Shelterwell fosters a spirit of connected community, centered on the belief that **housing is a human right.**

From future educational attainment, employment growth, health stability, and family preservation - we know **housing is one of the most critical factors in the foundation of a family's success and an individual's ability to thrive.**

We work with tenants, landlords, and community partners to provide awareness, education, and support for housing stability in Oklahoma.



WE CONNECT

We help tenants and landlords negotiate disagreements and create a framework for future communication through mediation, both before and after an eviction is filed.

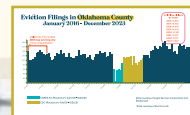
WE EDUCATE

We guide tenants and landlords through educational programs to improve outcomes relating to housing stability.



**live
steady.**

Rent easier. Live better. Shelterwell.



WE SHARE

We share data and insights to raise community awareness and improve housing stability in Oklahoma.



Data methodology for this report is available at shelterwell.org/eviction-data or upon request, by emailing info@shelterwell.org.

Shelterwell is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
Your tax-deductible donation allows us continue to advocate for housing stability for all.
Online donations may be made at shelterwell.org/donate-now.

shelterwell.org



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