

# Addressing the Structural Roots of Inequality

Webinar November 2020  
@wtgrantfdn

# Today's Webinar

## PART I

- Research on Reducing Inequality
- Addressing Structural Barriers: Desmond and Ayón
- Questions

## PART II

- The Award and Application Process
- Resources
- Questions

# Focus Areas

*Supporting Research to Improve the Lives of Young People*

Youth ages 5 to 25 in the U.S.

- Improve the use of research in policy and practice in ways that benefit youth
- Programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in youth outcomes



# Reducing Inequality

- Findings about programs and practices that reduce inequality will have limited societal impact until the structures that create inequality in the first place have been transformed.
- We encourage research that addresses ways to combat systemic racism and the structural foundations of inequality.
- Such research shifts the focal point of change from individuals to social institutions and asks: *How can institutions be altered, transformed, or changed to reduce inequality among youth?*

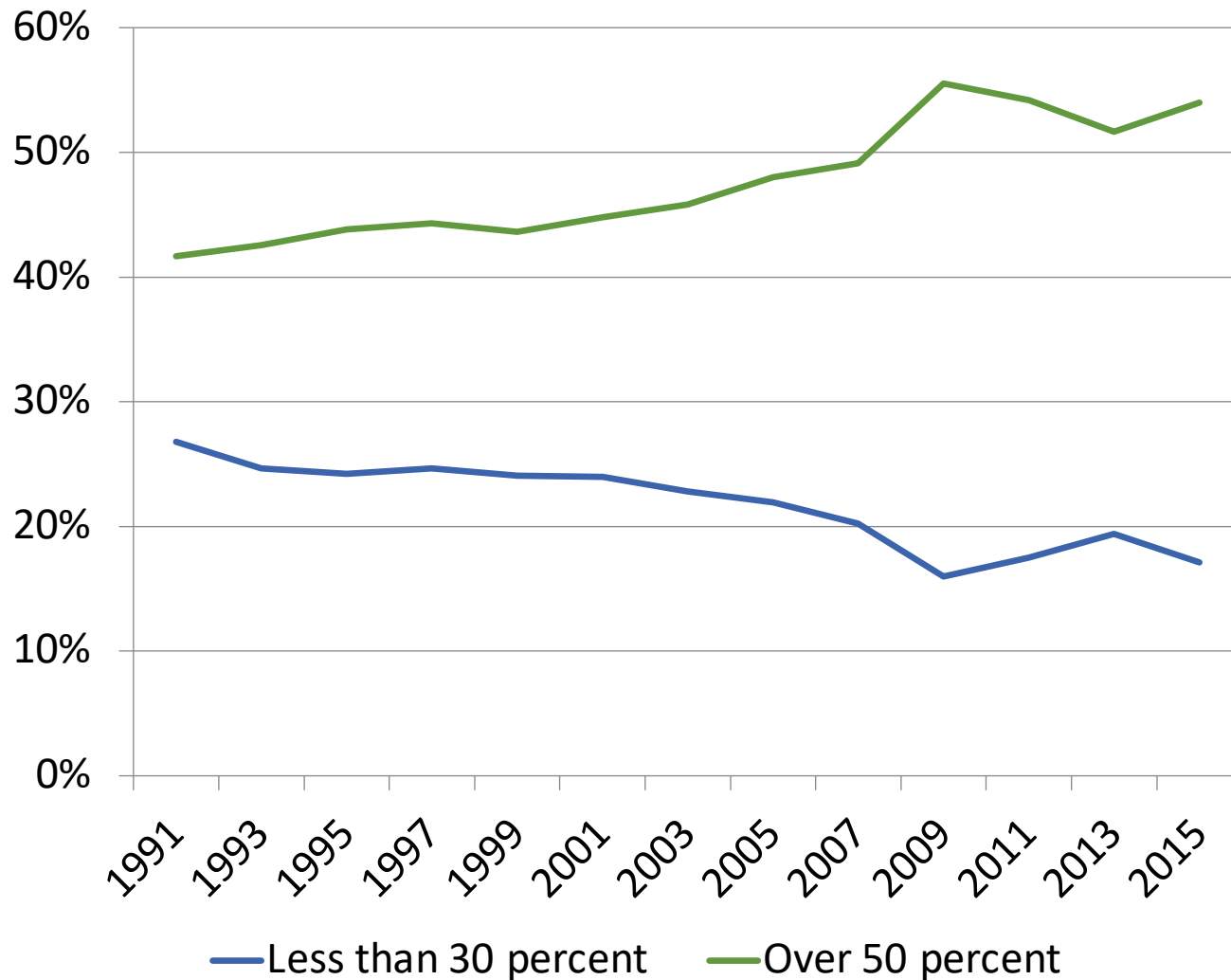




# Evictions in America

Matthew Desmond, *Princeton University*

# Most Poor Renting Families Devote Over Half of Their Income to Housing



Source: American Housing Survey, 1991-2015





*Danielle being comforted by her eleven-year-old nephew, during her eviction*



# Critical Questions

How many Americans are evicted every year?

Where is housing insecurity increasing or decreasing?

What is eviction doing to families, schools, and communities?

What cities or states have the most effective policies and laws in place?





# EVICTIION LAB

---

**We've built the first nationwide database of evictions in America**

Roughly **100 million** court records related to eviction cases, from 2000

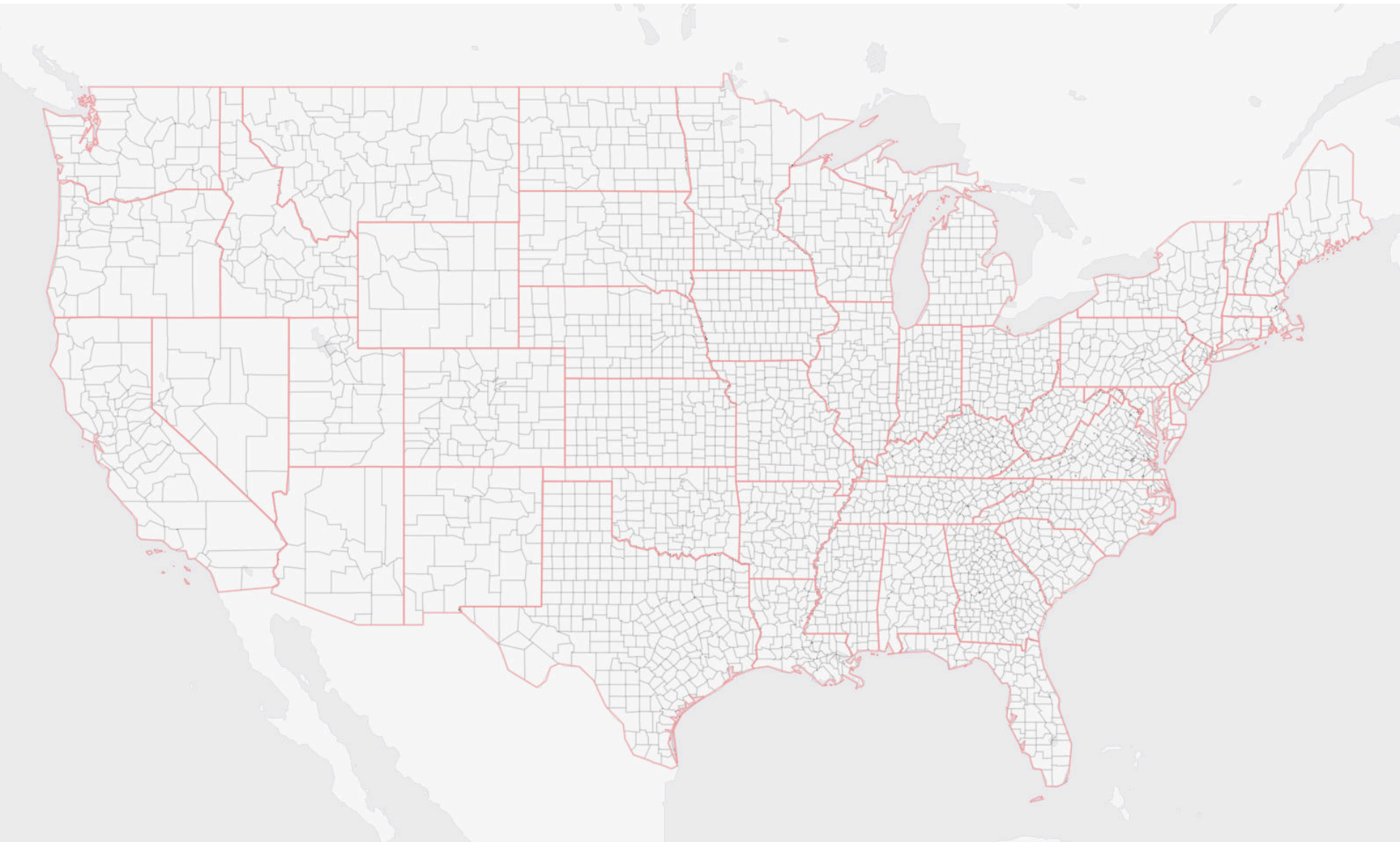
Formal eviction records from 48 states and the District of Columbia,  
received from states and two companies

Data were cleaned, validated, geocoded, mapped, & published

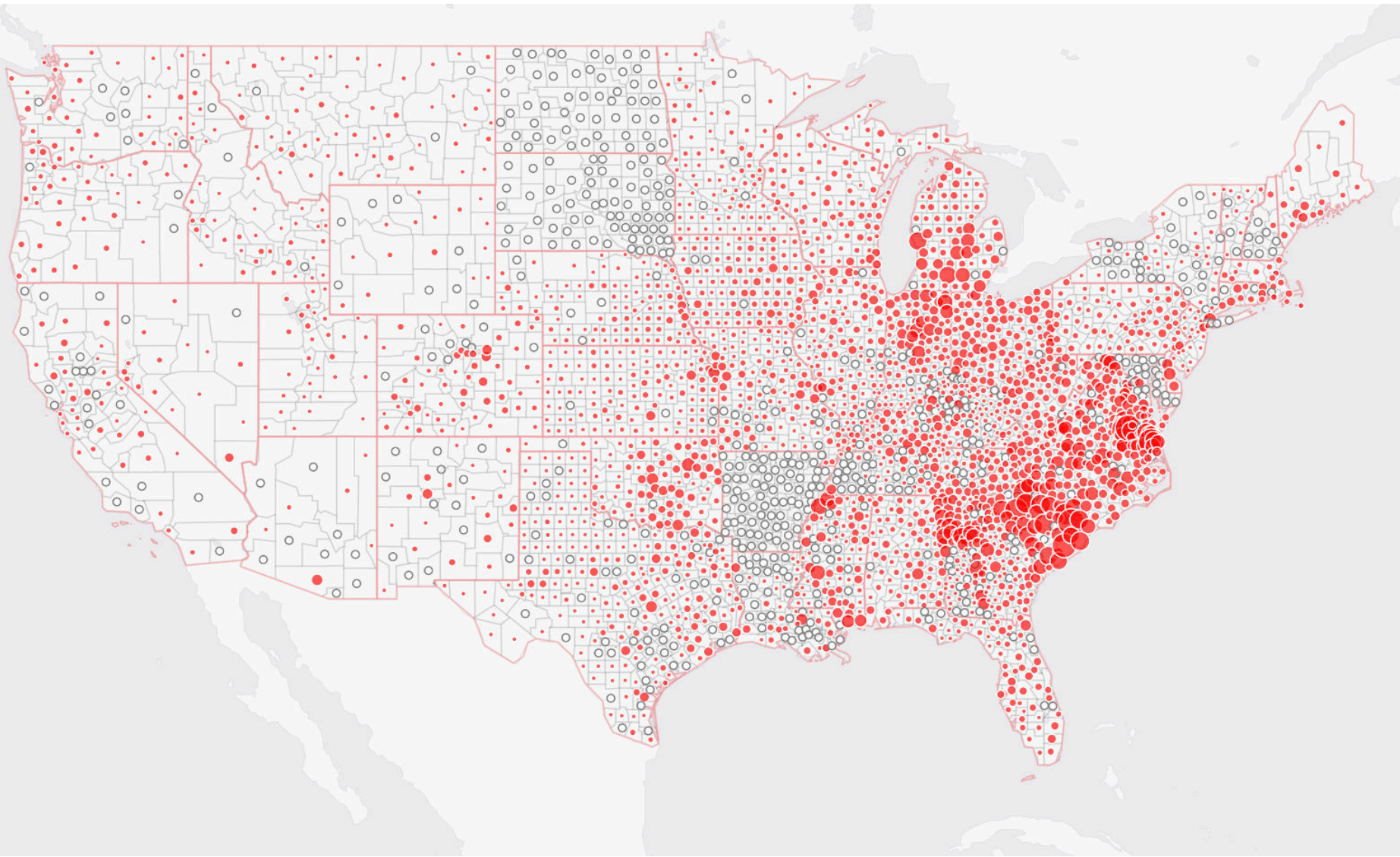
[evictionlab.org](http://evictionlab.org)

The Eviction Lab is funded by the JPB, Gates, and Ford Foundations as well as the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

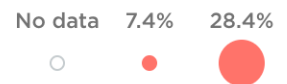
# Making an Invisible Problem...



# Making an Invisible Problem...Visible



Eviction rate





# 3.7 Million Evictions Filed each Year

## Eviction cases filed

Between 2000 and 2018, more than **99.9 million eviction cases** were filed in the United States

In an average year, 3.7 million eviction cases are filed, 7 each minute.



*Photo by Sally Ryan, Milwaukee, WI*



## We're unpacking America's eviction crisis.

The Eviction Lab at Princeton University has built the first nationwide database of evictions. Find out how many evictions happen in your community. Create custom maps, charts, and reports. Share facts with your neighbors and elected officials.

GET STARTED



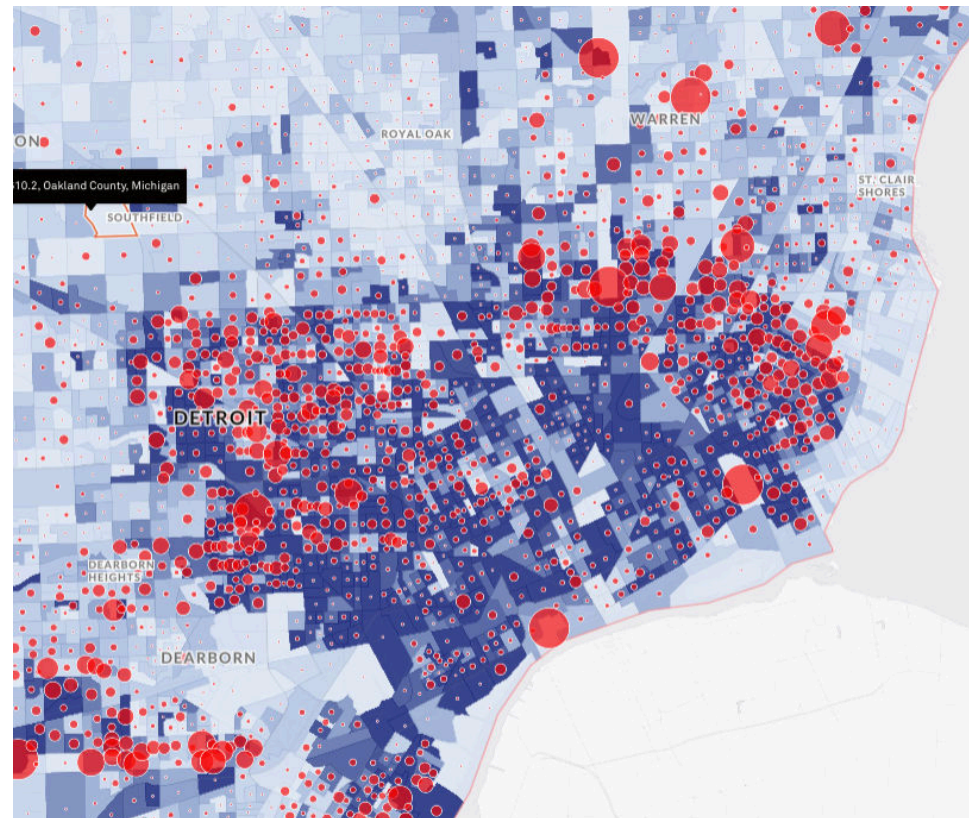
# Interactive Tools

## Top Evicting Large Cities in the United States

Ranked by Eviction Rate

Viewing 2016 eviction rankings for locations across America. Scroll through the list or use the search bar to find a place. To refine your results, choose an area type and a data type. You can also search within states using the Region menu. (For more about the locations ranked here, [see our FAQ.](#))

|    |                            |        |
|----|----------------------------|--------|
| 1  | <b>NORTH CHARLESTON SC</b> | 16.5%  |
| 2  | <b>RICHMOND VA</b>         | 11.44% |
| 3  | <b>HAMPTON VA</b>          | 10.49% |
| 4  | <b>NEWPORT NEWS VA</b>     | 10.23% |
| 5  | <b>JACKSON MS</b>          | 8.75%  |
| 6  | <b>NORFOLK VA</b>          | 8.65%  |
| 7  | <b>GREENSBORO NC</b>       | 8.41%  |
| 8  | <b>COLUMBIA SC</b>         | 8.22%  |
| 9  | <b>WARREN MI</b>           | 8.08%  |
| 10 | <b>CHESAPEAKE VA</b>       | 7.9%   |
| 11 | <b>TULSA OK</b>            | 7.77%  |
| 12 | <b>KILLEEN TX</b>          | 7.67%  |
| 13 | <b>FORT WAYNE IN</b>       | 7.39%  |
| 14 | <b>INDIANAPOLIS IN</b>     | 7.27%  |
| 15 | <b>VIRGINIA BEACH VA</b>   | 7.26%  |



# Whose Problem is Eviction?

## 1. The housing crisis is bigger than New York, Seattle, and San Francisco

*Renter households evicted in 2016:*

Richmond, Virginia: 1 in 9

Tulsa, Oklahoma: 1 in 13

Waterbury, Connecticut: 1 in 16

Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1 in 21

## 2. Eviction is not only a big city problem

Small cities (pop. 20K- 99K):

Muskegon, Michigan: 1 in 9

Wilmington, Delaware: 1 in 13

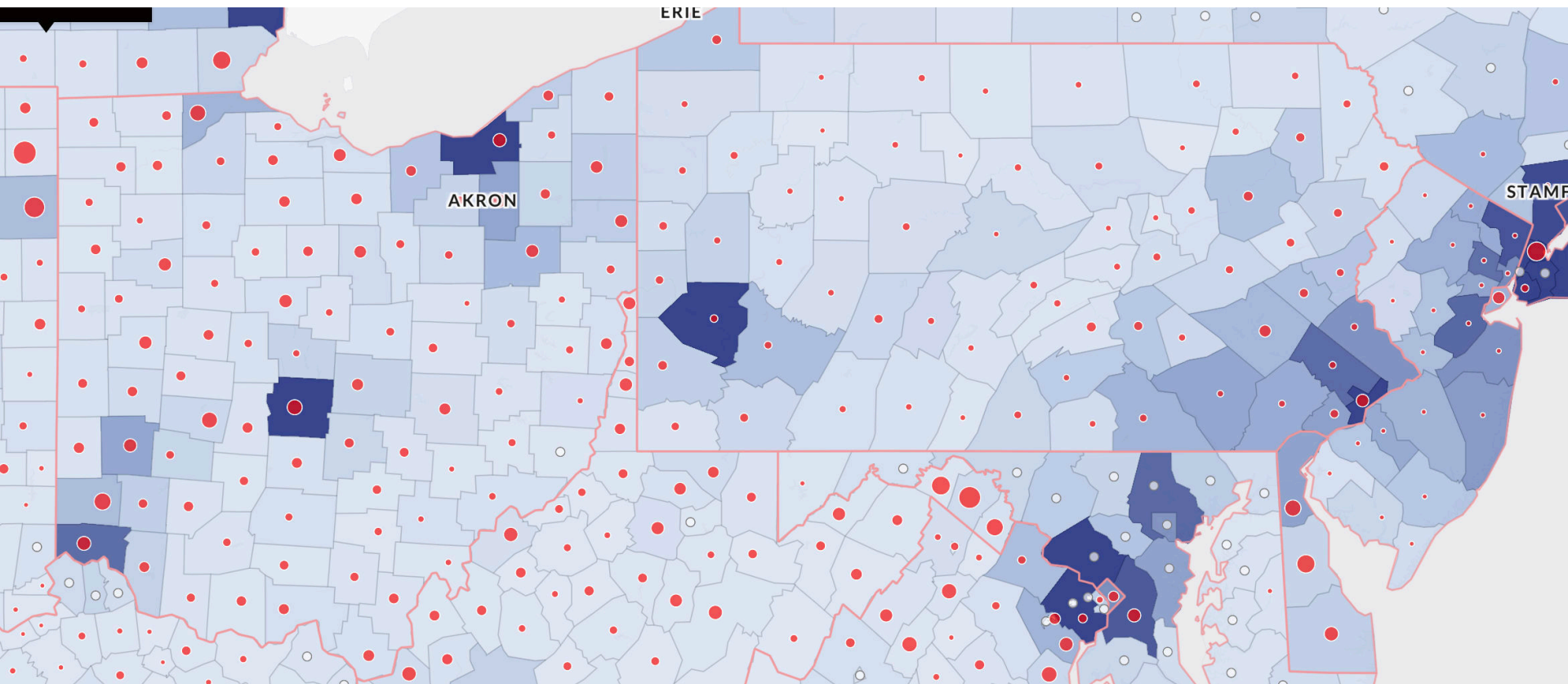
Rural areas (pop. < 20K):

Houlton, Wisconsin: 1 in 8

Centreville, Illinois: 1 in 9

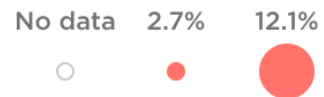


# Evictions in Ohio and Pennsylvania



Red = eviction rate

Purple = Population



# Measuring Impact

## Driving Traffic

### Visitors & Sessions

**JUL**  
1-31

Users

57,975

↑ 49.9%

Sessions

70,224

↑ 46.1%

Avg. Sessions / Day

2,340.8

↑ 46.1%

Sessions to Date

535,455

**Users** = unique visitors

**Sessions** = Visits to website (including repeat visits)

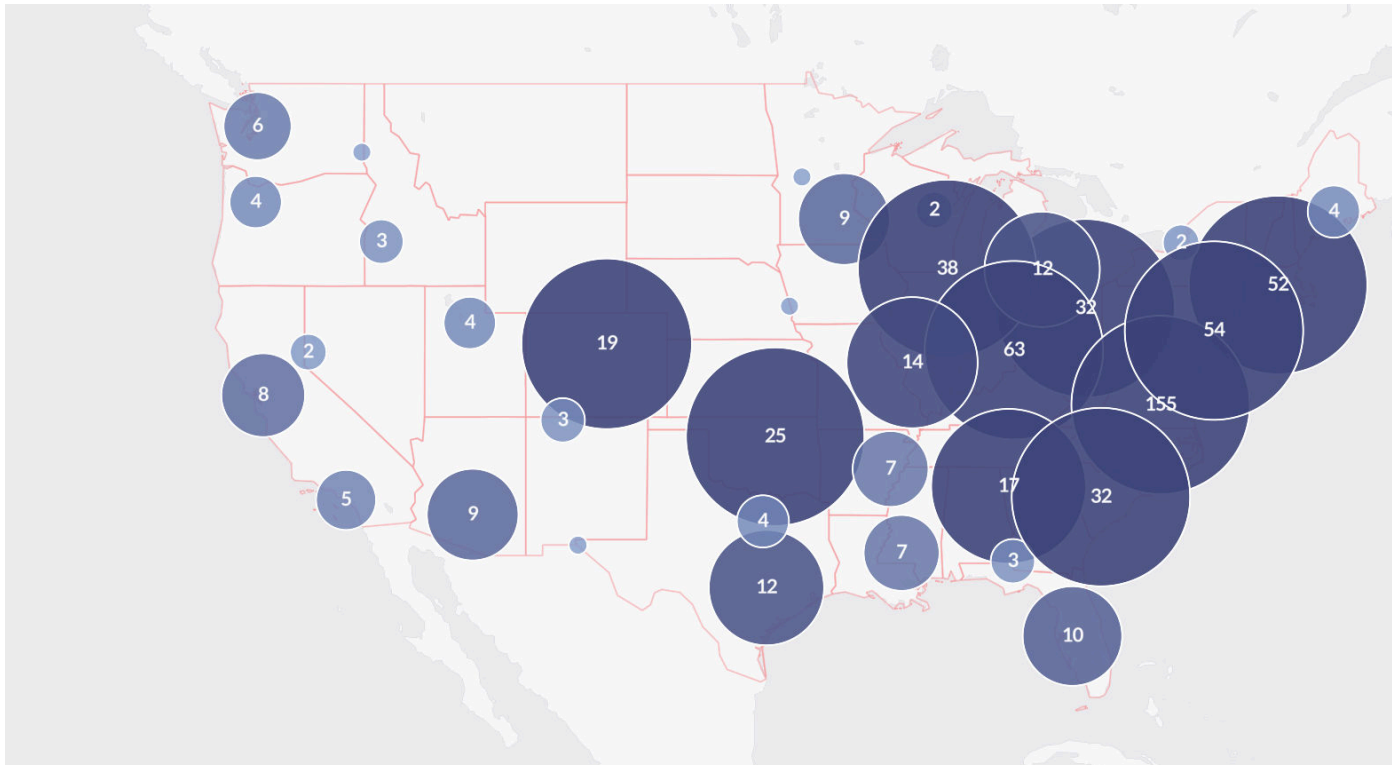
Sessions & users (current & previous 2 periods: May 1 – Jul 31):





# Media Map

927 news stories between 4/2018 - 9/2020



---

## EVICTIION LAB MEDIA COVERAGE

^ **Map:** 624 stories in local outlets, 46 LMS referrals | v **Table:** 303 stories in national outlets | Updated: 9/28/2020

# Virginia Case Study

**TheUpshot**

FOLLOW US: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)  
GET THE UPSHOT IN YOUR INBOX

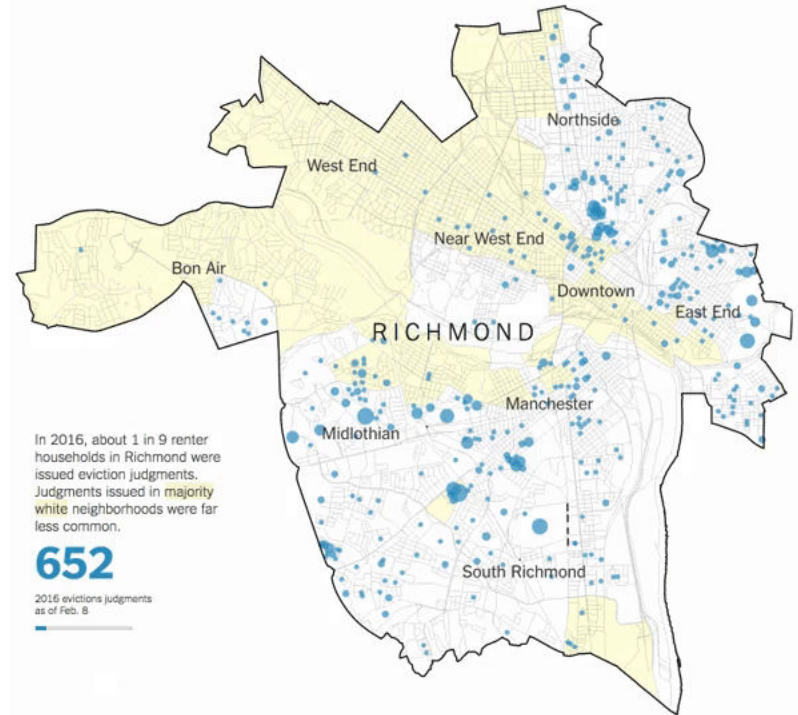
[SHARE](#)

## *In 83 Million Eviction Records, a Sweeping and Intimate New Look at Housing in America*

By EMILY BADGER and QUOCTRUNG BUI APRIL 7, 2018



Nearly one million American households received eviction judgments in 2016 in new data spanning dozens of states. Candace Williams was evicted in Richmond, Va., which has one of the highest eviction rates in the data. Matt Rich for The New York Times



*New York Times, Sunday, April 8, 2018*

# Virginia Case Study

1. **Local Capacity Building.** After *NYT* story was published, nonprofit lawyers, university researchers, and community organizers formed the Campaign to Reduce Evictions. Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University founded the Richmond Eviction Lab to supplement our data with new information and local knowledge.
2. **Local Media Push the Story.** These efforts helped spur the press to dedicate sustained attention to this issue: by our count, 66 news stories on evictions in Virginia, citing our data, were published in the last year.
3. **Policy Response.** In December 2018, Governor Ralph Northam released a budget proposal that including \$19 million for affordable housing, \$2.6 million of which was dedicated to legal aid for tenants in eviction court. In February, the Governor signed a suite of legislation to promote housing stability throughout the state.

Governor Northam specifically cited “Virginia’s disproportionately high eviction rates,” revealed in the Eviction Lab’s data, as a motivating force behind the new laws.

Data → Narrative Change → Local Solutions

*Eviction Lab*

*Journalists & community orgs.*

*Policymakers & philanthropists*

- After our dataset launched, Philadelphia introduced the Mayor's task force on [Eviction Prevention and Response](#)
- The city of Newark introduced a measure to provide [free legal help to low income tenants](#) facing eviction
- Los Angeles' City Council is moving forward with a [right to council ordinance](#)

# Implications for Narrative Change

Build the thing ...

Leverage resources to collect data & provide expertise

Prioritize the public over publication

Release the data through user-friendly platforms

... then, get out of the way.

Narrative change goes further when local journalists and community organizations **take ownership** over the story.

*According to a study by ...*

*vs.*

*Last year, 1 in 21 renter homes were evicted in Albuquerque ...*

Focus on how to support local capacity.





## ‘Eviction: Life Unpacked’ Series Looks At Crisis Facing Maine Renters

By SUSAN SHARON & IRWIN GRATZ • AUG 5, 2018

PROGRAM  
Eviction: Life Unpacked

PROGRAM  
Morning Edition



Share



Tweet



Email

All this week we'll be taking an in-depth look at the problem of eviction in Maine [in a series called "Eviction: Life Unpacked."](#)

[\(Click here to read the first story in the series, "What Maine Families Face When They're Evicted."\)](#)

Eviction tactics squeeze  
renters: AJC analysis  
shows landlords  
increasingly use filings  
to collect late rent

June 22, 2018

By [Chris Joyner](#), [Jeff Ernsthausen](#) and [Willoughby Mariano](#), The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

AJC INVESTIGATION: EVICTION FILINGS

# EVICTED

The National Building Museum presents this exhibition free of charge. Please visit the Admissions Desk for entry to other galleries.

## Evicted National Building Museum Exhibit, Washington, D.C.

Now travelling to 16 other cities





Podcast launching this month!

*American Eviction: Why a Nation of Renters  
Can't Make the Rent*





Jaylen Williams with The Squad



With Jeffrey and Jaylen Williams before testifying.





Eviction Warehouse, Milwaukee, WI



# Sanctuary City Policy: A Mechanism for Reducing Inequalities by Immigrant Status in Latinx Children's Mental Health

Cecilia Ayón, MSW, PhD

School of Public Policy

University of California, Riverside

## Research Team

Bruce Link

Tanya Nieri

Maithili Ramachandran

Tim Bruckner

University of California, Riverside

University of California, Irvine

# Immigration policy enforcement and Latinx Families

- Immigration policy climate has become more restrictive
  - Enforcement, removing legal protections, reduce access
- Latinx communities tend to be disproportionally exposed to immigration policy enforcement
- Implications for children in immigrant families
  - Aware of the deportability of family members
  - Fear family separation
  - Immigration policy context as a form of “toxic stress”

# Shifting to pro-Integration policy making

- **California at forefront of passing pro-integration policies**
  - Education for undocumented students
  - Employee protections
  - Enforcement and safety
  - Access to services/resources
- **Sanctuary policies have emerged to counter restrictive immigration policy**
  - Designate an area (state, county, or city) as a “sanctuary” to protect immigrants from restrictive immigration policy, such as by prohibiting use of local funds or resources to further federal immigration enforcement.
  - *Sanctuary policies are meant to be a mechanism by which inequality experienced by immigrants is reduced.*

# Aim and hypotheses

- The aim of our study is to examine whether sanctuary city policy positively impacts Latinx children's mental health.
- Hypotheses
  - Residing in a sanctuary city, relative to residing in a non-sanctuary city, will be associated with better mental health for Latinx children.
  - Residing in a sanctuary city, relative to residing in a non-sanctuary city, will be associated with better mental health for Latinx parents.

# Data Sources

- Sanctuary City Data (city level data)
  - 482 incorporated cities
  - 82 cities have sanctuary policies
  - 45 cities have anti-sanctuary policies
- California Health Interview Survey (person level data)
  - Provides representative state data at the individual level, 2001 to 2018
  - Includes adult, teen, and child interview surveys
  - Restricted data
    - Includes household variable that links adult, adolescent, and child files
    - Includes data of immigration status
  - Sample: 70,283 children aged 4-11 years, 27,906 of whom are Latinx, 28,008 children aged 12-17 years, 10,281 of whom are Latinx; and 385,363 adults, 73,573 of whom are Latinx.

# Variables

- CHIS
  - Dependent variable on MH for children, teens, parents
  - Individual level control variables (children's gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, nativity, language spoken at home; and, parents' educational level, citizenship and immigration status, length of time in the U.S.)
- Sanctuary City Data
  - Sanctuary city info and date of policy implementation
- Additional control variables
  - City-level covariates will include variables from the U.S. Census (% Hispanic, % foreign born, rate of concentrated disadvantage), California Secretary of State (% voting Democratic in the general election), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report (rates of violent crime, property crime, and rape).
  - County level – Sheriff cooperation with ICE
  - State-level covariates will include pro-integration policy with a dummy variable indicating whether data is from before state enactment or after it.



# Analysis plan

- Three-part analysis strategy
  - Synthetic control analysis;
  - Difference-in-difference approach; and
  - An interrupted times series design

# Potential implications of findings

- If findings support our hypothesis, they would signal toward a structural level change that could reduce inequalities faced by children of immigrants.
  - Pro-integration policies such as sanctuary policies can be protective of health.
  - Support future policy and advocacy work.
- A null finding would also provide useful information, as policy makers would then know that achieving health protection might require other policy initiatives or policies at different levels (i.e., state or federal level) to better address inequalities faced by children in immigrant families.

---

# Questions?

REDUCING INEQUALITY

---

# The Major Grants Application Process



# Reducing Inequality

## WHAT WE WELCOME

- Descriptive studies that clarify the processes for reducing inequality
- Intervention studies that examine attempts to reduce inequality
- Measurement studies of inequality that will enhance the work of researchers, practitioners, or policymakers

## MAKING THE CASE

- Clarify and conceptualize the dimension(s) of inequality
- Identify and contextualize unequal outcomes
- Systems and settings: education, child welfare, justice, labor market, neighborhoods, schools, families
- Identify a lever of change – program, policy, or practice

# Research Grants

- Letter of Inquiry
  - Deadlines in January, May, and August
  - 6-8 week response time
  - Internal review for fit with current interests and funding criteria
- Full Proposal
  - External Review
  - Internal Review
- Applicant Response to Reviews
  - Internal Review
  - Board of Trustees meetings in March, June, and October
- Awards
  - Officers' Research Grants (\$50k) – January and August
  - Major Research Grants (\$100k-\$600k)

# Application Tips

- Make sure the fit is strong.
- Show how the work significantly adds to theory and prior empirical work.
- Tackle a few research questions or hypotheses well.
- Show the project's relevance for policy or practice.

# Application Tips

- Map research design, methods, and analyses tightly to the research questions or hypotheses.
- Provide sufficient information for reviewers to evaluate rigor and appropriateness of methods.
- Demonstrate your understanding of the strengths and limitations of the design, methods, and analyses.
- Respond to reviews seriously, graciously, and in depth.



# On Our Website

[wtgrantfoundation.org/grants/research-grants-reducing-inequality](https://wtgrantfoundation.org/grants/research-grants-reducing-inequality)

- ✓ Research Grants Application Guide and submission instructions
- ✓ Relevant papers and essays
- ✓ FAQs
- ✓ Webinar recording and slides

# Noteworthy

- We encourage proposals from teams with African-American, Latinx, Native American, and Asian American members in leadership roles
- We welcome multi-disciplinary and mixed method studies.
- Resubmissions welcome!

---

# Questions?