

PASS THE *JUST CAUSE FOR EVICTIONS* ORDINANCE.

PROTECT AND PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH BY REDUCING EVICTIONS IN CHICAGO.

The Just Cause for Evictions ordinance (O2020-3449) will help reduce evictions in Chicago. Homes provide an essential element of human flourishing, safety, health, community, and a base for living a happy and fulfilling life.

Evictions are a public health crisis. Nationwide, up to 40 million people are at risk of eviction, a long-term problem that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis and will have drastic effects for thousands of Chicagoans if and when the Illinois moratorium is lifted.^[1] The health of people who experience eviction is harmed through various mechanisms, and evictions are linked to broader health inequity.

Like health, housing should be guaranteed as a human right. Evictions and the threat of being removed from one's home infringe on the right to housing, which undermines the human right to health.

Health is a value shared across communities. Do you care about improving people's opportunities for good health and advancing health justice? Join the Chicago Housing Justice League's to help pass the Just Cause for Evictions ordinance to help protect public health!

Evictions contribute to the public health problems and health inequities, listed below. The Just Cause for Evictions ordinance is one part of the policy remedy to health inequities in Chicago.

EVICTIONS HARM HEALTH BY WORSENING LIVING CONDITIONS

- Evictions lead to reduced quality housing or homelessness and increases the likelihood of multiple moves. The evidence is clear: Living conditions are a critical factor in people's health. Homelessness, which can result from eviction, has dire consequences for people's health.^[2,3,4]

EVICTIONS CAUSE STRESS AND SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

- Experiencing an eviction and worrying about the possibility of eviction are stressful for individuals and families and contributes to mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression.^[5]
- Evictions intensify stress and associated negative health outcomes like high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and obesity.^[6,7]

EVICTIONS HARM MOTHERS, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

- Maternal depression rate is twice as high for evicted mothers compared to non-evicted mothers, even controlling for socioeconomic factors.^[8]
- Evictions harm academic performance and lead to worse educational attainment and exacerbate behavioral problems. Getting a good education is crucial to people's health and ability to succeed.^[7]
- Evictions and frequent moving impact the health and wellness of children. 11% of mothers who experienced eviction reported that their children were in poor or fair health, compared to only 4% of mothers who had not experienced eviction.^[6]

EVICTIONS EXACERBATE FINANCIAL INSTABILITY

- Economic wellbeing is important to health. Evictions lead to loss of belongings, increased costs of living, and other costs associated with moving. This harms the financial stability of individuals and families.^[8]
- Eviction pushes families out of their community and often into homelessness or neighborhoods that may have fewer resources essential to health and wellbeing, such as transportation networks, jobs, grocery stores, and health and social safety nets.^[9]

EVICCTIONS CAUSE DISPLACEMENT, LOSS OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, AND COMMUNITY DESTABILIZATION AND GENTRIFICATION

- Social relationships are crucial to people's health. Eviction cuts off relationships among trusted neighbors. Evictions reduce people's feeling of belonging and ability to uplift their families' and community's health and wellbeing.^[10]
- Chicago is losing communities of color in droves in what some have called the "reverse Great Migration." Thousands of Black Chicagoans move away each year, and this is exacerbated by the eviction crisis.^[11, 12]
- People's relationships and ability to civically engage, express Individual and collective power, and to have social cohesion are central to progress on reducing structural Inequality and Improving social determinants of health.^[4]

EVICTION PATTERNS REFLECT STRUCTURAL RACISM AND CLASS INEQUITY, BOTH ROOT CAUSES OF HEALTH INEQUITY

- Both structural racism and class inequity are considered to be structural determinants of health inequities, functioning as fundamental causes of unfair and remediable differences in health status and outcomes.^[4]
- At its worst, Chicago has a 30-year longevity gap, a major health inequity, the largest in the U.S., linked to inequitable living conditions comparing predominantly White and wealthy neighborhoods and Black, low-income, high-poverty neighborhoods. These are the results of economic injustice and structural racism.^[13]

In sum, evictions harm the physical and mental health of the individuals being evicted, and the health of their communities, contributing to already large health inequities—harming public health—in Chicago.

This is an urgent public health and housing justice issue! Without urgent action on evictions, thousands of children and families will be displaced and thrust into poverty, poor health, and food insecurity. No-cause evictions have long been allowed and are common in Chicago.

To protect public health, help pass Just Cause for Evictions in Chicago. Join us at justcausechicago.org.

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