

Evictions in Iowa:

Statistics, Trends, and Common Scenarios

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Evictions at a Glance

- 7,964 evictions have been filed in 2021
 - 44% of those were filed in Polk County
- As of today there are more than 485 evictions pending across the state
 - The vast majority were based on **nonpayment of rent**
- Between 2016 and 2019 evictions went up 20% across the state
 - Over 18,000 evictions filed in 2019
 - Now that moratorium is over, we may go back to that trend?

A post moratorium surge?

- No data to support a huge spike (yet?)
- Iowa Legal Aid is seeing **increased calls** for help with eviction over the spring and summer
 - For the last year ILA has seen **140% increase** in calls over any time previous
- **46.1% of lowans** reporting that they are not current on their housing payment and are somewhat or very likely to be evicted or foreclosed upon (census pulse data)
 - **11th highest** in the country

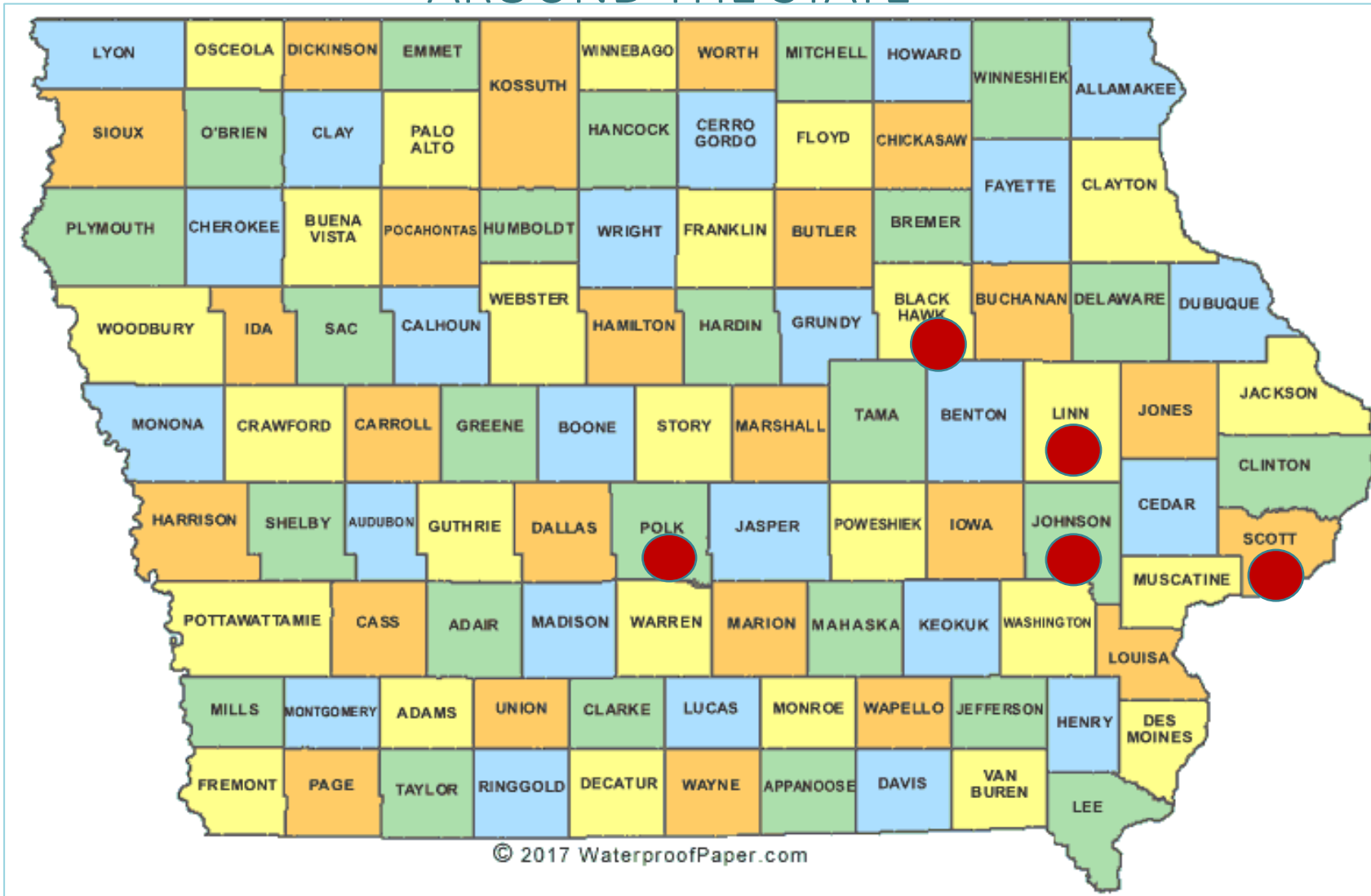


The Inequities of Eviction in Iowa

Eviction disproportionately affects women, people with disabilities, and people of color.

- Out of the **22,835** eviction intakes Iowa Legal Aid opened between 2015 and 2020:
 - **71%** (16,131) involved women as the primary clients.
 - **37%** (8,393) were people with disabilities.
 - **33%** (7,823) were people of color, primarily black folks. In many counties, this percentage was higher – e.g. Linn at 42%, Polk at 43%, Black Hawk at 45%, Scott at 48%, Johnson at 56%
- **Almost half** of the eviction intakes ILA opened involved households with children
 - **59%** of households of color facing eviction had children
 - **37%** of white households had children
- The disproportionate impacts have **worsened in 2021**
 - We have opened 2,900 new eviction cases since January 1, 2021. **40%** of these cases involve households with at least one person of color
 - 45% in Polk
 - 51% in Linn
 - 67% in Johnson
 - 50% in Scott and Black Hawk

EVICTON DIVERSION HELP DESKS AROUND THE STATE



Polk County Eviction Diversion Help Desk

- ✓ Opened September 1, 2020
- ✓ Provided over 1,094 households with access to lawyers and financial assistance
- ✓ ILA advocates prevented or delayed evictions for 926 of those households – just under 85%
- ✓ The help desk has helped provide housing stability for 2,501 people of whom 1,077 are children



Barriers to Maintaining Housing

High default rates

Lack of affordable housing

- Average rent for 2-bedroom: \$831
88 hours/week minimum wage
- Average rent for 1-bedroom: \$656
70 hours/week minimum wage
- SSI Amount \$794
- Only 1 in 4 eligible renters can access housing subsidies

Access to resources, including rent assistance

Evictions being filed while IFA application is still pending

Past eviction records

Habitability concerns

Often, the inability to pay rent is a symptom of a legal issue. Iowa Legal Aid may be able to help!

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Family Law (for victims of domestic violence +)
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Government Benefits
- ✓ Disability Benefits
- ✓ Consumer Debt
- ✓ Collateral Consequences



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Questions?