



The Affordable Housing Crisis Revisited 2024: An RHS Perspective

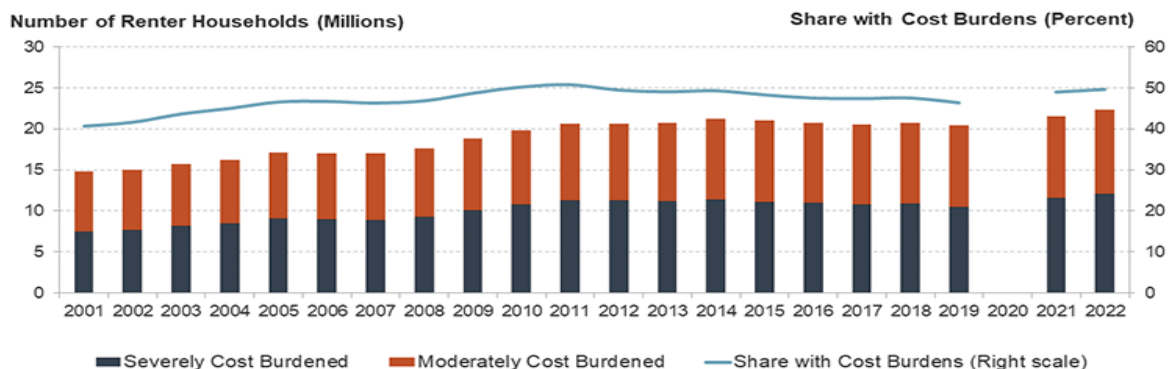
This is a summary of the housing situation for newcomers today; it is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis.

In following up on early RHS research and reflection on the affordable housing crisis <https://refugeehousing.org/resource-library> the RHS team sees compelling indicators that depict the U.S. housing crisis as continuing. Nationwide vulnerable families remain in peril and in housing poverty not least because of underfunded rental assistance programs. *The common theme in ongoing research on the state of the U.S. housing crisis is that well-funded housing assistance programs are central to viable solutions to housing poverty and for moving from crisis to stability.*

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) research cited in earlier RHS research, figures illustrated an extreme shortage of housing in the U.S. Latest figures reveal an increase in shortage of 7.3-plus million rentals for extremely low-income families and approximately 10 million low-income families struggling with extreme socioeconomic circumstances that, if not addressed, will see families continuing to contend with the possibility of becoming homeless.

America's affordable housing crisis affects many low-income and low-wealth people. Among these are refugees and other newcomers to the country. In a 2023 [research product](#) by RHS and Church World Service colleagues noted this: *Adequate housing is recognized ... as part of the human right to an adequate standard of living. Per the Migration Policy Institute, whether they are forcibly displaced or migrating for work or other reasons, many migrants are particularly vulnerable because they cannot access this right. Refugees ... may also misunderstand or be unaware of their rights when dealing with housing providers.*

In light of continuing evidence that the affordable housing crisis persists, the **Refugee Housing Solutions** team and myriad newcomer housing stakeholders continue **working to build multi-sectoral partnerships** with a bold vision to ensure that every refugee and newcomer household has access to safe and affordable housing. We are continuing to work to find creative solutions to the affordable housing crisis, particularly as it affects U.S. aspirations to welcome individuals and families seeking refuge from civil unrest and violence, discrimination and persecution and, increasingly, the hazards of climate change.



Source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, "Six Takeaways from America's Rental Housing 2024"

Coda: As the number of new affordable rental units steadily decreases and the costs continue to rise, the burden on renter households has continued to be a challenge.

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