

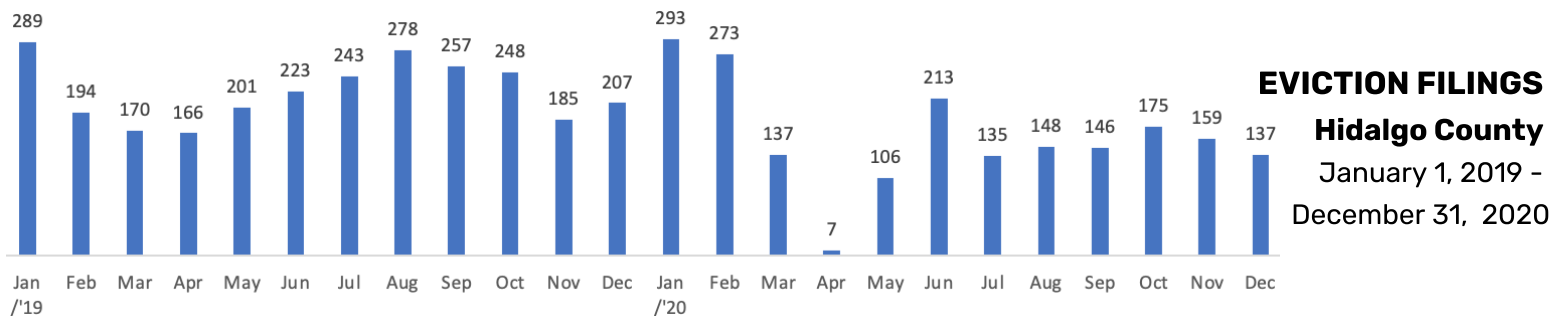
# EVICTIION: HIDALGO COUNTY



## FACT SHEET

May 21, 2021

Eviction filing data collected by cdcb through open records requests to Hidalgo County Open Government Division



**4,591** EVICTIONS  
FILED SINCE  
JAN 2019

**6+** EVICTIONS FILED  
PER DAY FOR THE  
LAST TWO YEARS

**1,226** EVICTIONS FILED  
SINCE CARES ACT  
MORATORIUM  
(3/27/2020)

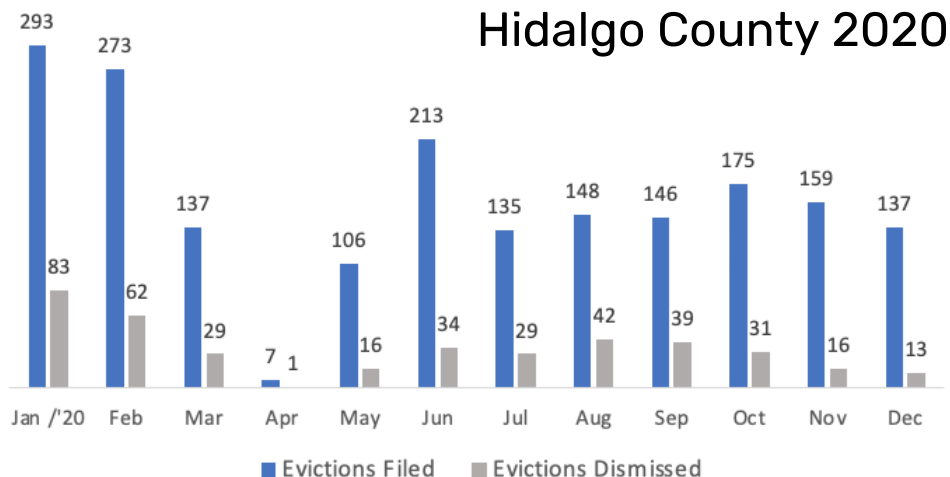
### NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EVICTION

- Eviction significantly increases the risk of unemployment (Desmond & Gershenson, 2016).
- Persons threatened by eviction are more likely to experience depression, high blood pressure, and alcohol dependence (Vasquez-Vera et al, 2017).
- Eviction and residential instability are closely linked to childhood trauma, as well as poor educational achievement (Sandstrom & Huerta, 2013; Gruman et al, 2013).
- A city's financial health is closely tied to the financial health of its residents, and evictions play a large part (Urban Institute, 2017).

ONLY **18%**  
OF EVICTIONS  
DISMISSED\*\*

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:  
**3.5** PEOPLE  
Compared to 2.5 national average\*

### EVICTIIONS FILED vs. DISMISSED Hidalgo County 2020



\*on average according 2015 US Census data. \*\* Since March Cares Act moratorium



# IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

## An eviction crisis exists in the Rio Grande Valley

**cdcb has witnessed the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on low-income communities of color throughout the United States.**

Despite the national moratorium on evictions issued in March 2020, court records collected by cdcb indicate that the rate of eviction filings in Hidalgo County has remained high. In 2019, 2,021 evictions were filed from late March through December. During the same eight months in 2020, despite an entire month of halted filings in April, Hidalgo County alone had over 1,200 eviction petitions filed.

The threat of eviction alone has documented effects on the financial and physical health of individuals, families and a cities, and in a persistent poverty area like the RGV, the economic stress caused by the pandemic hits especially hard.

## The RGV's Eviction Crisis is Escalating

Over the last few months, cdcb has seen a marked increase in applications for Tenant Based Rental Assistance and Emergency Rental Assistance (TBRA). As households struggle with increased unemployment and underemployment, it is clear that an increasing number of RGV residents are experiencing a housing crisis as they are unable to sustain their current rental payments.

**Federal, state, and local governments are well positioned to implement policies that directly mitigate the harm that housing instability and eviction cause. In light of the extreme financial stress households in the RGV have experienced during the coronavirus crisis, cdcb suggests the following:**

### Federal Level

- Extend the CDC Moratorium through the end of 2021.
- Support passage of the Monthly Economic Support Act (S.3784) providing cash rebates to individuals and children from March 2020 until 3 months after the Department of Health and Human Services determines that the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended.

### State Level

- Allow no increases in rent while the COVID-19 public health pandemic is designated as a public health emergency by the Centers for Disease Control.
- Set a defined cap on all late fees that tenants accrue during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enforce protocols for statewide eviction filings and court proceedings.

### Local Level

- Implement Tenant Protection Order in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr Counties that will provide tenants with a 60-day grace period to make late rent payments due to a COVID-19 hardship through the end of 2021.