

Welcome to the Biggest Eviction Horror Show in US History

It is the beginning of August, and a day of reckoning has finally arrived for renters all over the nation. Since last September, a moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been protecting millions of renters that have been unable or unwilling to make their monthly rent payments.

But now that moratorium is officially over, and all of that back rent is due. For some renters, that will mean that nearly a full year of rent will need to be paid. The millions of Americans who cannot or will not pay what is owed can now be legally evicted. This is a major national disaster that has been building up for many months, and now it is finally here.

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It is going to be a doozy.

Some are still desperately hoping that members of Congress will do something once they return from their August vacations. At this point, that does not appear likely.

For now, there doesn't appear to be any hope of averting the largest eviction tsunami that any of us have ever seen.

Of course, it was inevitable that this day was going to come sooner or later. After all, what else could we do? Did anyone out there actually think that it would be possible to tell landlords that they could never collect rent ever again?

If we did that, there wouldn't be any more landlords.

So many landlords out there are hurting financially right now. In fact, some of them have not been able to collect rent from certain tenants since the eviction moratorium was first put into place last September.

Due to widespread job loss and the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, many renters in the US faced difficulty making their rent payments every month when the pandemic began in early 2020, and the federal government stepped in to prevent people from getting evicted in the midst of it. As part of this response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention instituted a moratorium in September 2020 that prevented landlords from evicting their tenants regardless of whether they could pay their monthly rent in full or at all.

A federal freeze on most evictions enacted last year expired Saturday after President Joe Biden's administration extended the original date by a month. This means the wait is over, and landlords have nearly a year's worth of eviction notices to file.

During the early part of this week, landlords will be racing to take advantage of their sudden opportunity. There is still a possibility that Congress could decide to do something in a few weeks, and so landlords will want to evict people as quickly as they can.

And we are talking about a massive number of people. According to *USA Today*, this eviction moratorium "was the only tool keeping millions of tenants in their homes." Many of them lost jobs during the coronavirus pandemic and had fallen months behind on their rent.

In this case, "millions" is not an exaggeration at all.

According to the Census Bureau, approximately 3.6 million Americans are potentially facing eviction within the next two months, and the Aspen Institute says that over 15 million Americans are currently behind in making rent payments...

More than 15 million people live in households that owe as much as \$20 billion to their landlords, according to the Aspen Institute. As of July 5, roughly 3.6 million people in the U.S. said they faced eviction in the next two months, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey.

Others have come up with similar numbers.

On his website, Mike Shedlock shared numbers that he pulled from official U.S government data:

- 43 million in rental properties are not current.
- 95 million owner-occupied housing are not current.