

Estimated Cost of Evictions in Harris County

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Motivation for this project



Photo by [Jon Tyson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- The **fallout** from ~35,000 yearly evictions (in 2019) is **broad** and **severe**.
- We use **Innovation for Justice's (i4J)** Eviction Cost Calculator (www.evictioninnovation.org)
- The eviction calculator measures the **broader social cost of Houston's eviction crisis**
- Thank you: PCIC, January Advisors, Harris County Youth Collective, Coalition for the Homeless for providing local data.

What 35,335 evictions cost Harris County

- i4J Model

- i4J framework and some national estimates

- Base Model

- Changes in inpatient medical care, juvenile delinquency costs

- Base Plus Model

- Assumes 25% of “unknown” eviction court outcomes are disruptive moves

	I4J	Base	Base Plus
Total Cost	\$199,088,000	\$241,410,000	\$259,605,000
Emergency shelter	\$120,210,000	\$120,210,000	\$129,443,000
Inpatient medical care	\$13,912,000	\$22,131,000	\$23,831,000
Emergency room care	\$36,188,000	\$36,188,000	\$38,967,000
Child welfare services	\$4,527,000	\$4,527,000	\$4,527,000
Juvenile delinquency	\$24,252,000	\$58,355,000	\$62,837,000

Cost Breakdown 1: Shelter Costs

	I4J	Base	Base Plus
# of households evicted	35,335	35,335	38,049
# of people per household	2.88	2.88	2.88
% needing shelter	25%	25%	25%
cost of a one-day stay	\$75	\$75	\$75
# of days stayed per year	63	63	63
Total Shelter Cost	\$120,210,000	\$120,210,000	\$129,443,000

- Largest cost
 - Exceeds estimated shelter budget already
- Paid by public and not-for-profit sectors, and evicted's loved ones.

Breakdown 2: Child Delinquency Costs

- 2nd largest cost
- Child criminal justice costs are immense
- Estimation differences
 - In the i4J model we use national estimates for % committing act and cost.
 - Base & Base Plus: use median Harris County cost per capita

	I4J	Base*	Base Plus*
# of households evicted	35,335	35,335	38,049
% households with children	38.18%	38.18%	38.18%
% needing shelter	25%	25%	25%
Avg # of children/household (10 to 17 years old)	0.84	0.84	0.84
% committing act of juvenile delinquency	44.00%	44.00%	44.00%
cost of one act (*annual median juvenile probation cost)	\$19,455	\$46,813	\$46,813
Total Delinquency Cost	\$24,252,000	\$58,355,000	\$62,837,000

Conclusion & next steps

- **All statistics are pre-COVID 19** (a bad situation is getting worse)
- Costs are unsustainable, but, anti-eviction policies in other states have high ROI, may be future research project:
 - Free legal aid for tenants in court (\$3 ROI per dollar spent in [Baltimore](#))
 - Direct landlord or tenant cash subsidies (\$8 per \$1 spent in [MA](#))

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Breakdown 3: Inpatient Medical Costs

- Paid by (mostly) not-for-profit healthcare providers
 - Costs pushed onto paying customers
- Cost estimate differences
 - i4J model uses the average cost of a medical visit in Texas, national estimate of visits/year
 - The base and base plus models use the annual average Harris County per capita cost of inpatient medical and mental health services of a person experiencing homelessness

	I4J	Base	Base Plus
# of households evicted	35,335	35,335	38,049
# of people per household	2.88	2.88	2.88
% needing shelter	25%	25%	25%
Usage rate	3%	3%	3%
cost of one visit	\$2,604	\$28,996	\$28,996
# of visits per year	7		
Total Inpatient Medical Cost	\$13,912,000	\$22,131,000	\$23,831,000

Breakdown 4: Emergency Room Care and Child Welfare Costs

- Paid by not-for-profit medical sector, and public sector

	I4J	Base	Base Plus
# of households evicted	35,335	35,335	38,049
# of people per household	2.88	2.88	2.88
% needing shelter	25%	25%	25%
Usage rate	17.50%	17.50%	17.50%
cost of one visit	\$2,032	\$2,032	\$2,032
# of visits per year	4	4	4
Total ER Cost	\$36,188,000	\$36,188,000	\$38,967,000

	I4J	Base	Base Plus
Total spending	\$257,213,183	\$257,213,183	\$257,213,183
% county is responsible for	11%	11%	11%
% from "inadequate housing"	16%	16%	16%
Total Child Welfare Cost	\$4,527,000	\$4,527,000	\$4,527,000

Three major takeaways

1. Evictions' costs are unsustainable
2. The costs affect all Harris County residents, not just the tenant/landlord
3. *We have time to implement policies* between now and CDC moratorium's end