Californians faced a housing affordability crisis even before COVID-19, which has pushed even more people into unstable situations. Nearly 1.2 million children in California ages 0 to 5 lived in households that were paying more than 30% of their income toward housing costs in 2019.

More than half of Black children and nearly half of Latinx children ages 0 to 5 lived in households that faced unaffordable housing costs before COVID-19. Racial and ethnic disparities reflect the legacy of explicitly racist policies and practices in housing and other areas that produce inequitable access to housing, education, and well-paying jobs.

Policymakers should extend the COVID-19 eviction pause and provide rental assistance for Californians. State and federal policymakers can help struggling renters and ensure all families can maintain a safe and stable home during the pandemic and beyond.

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