Summary Report

City Nuisance Property Ordinances

City nuisance property ordinances require landlords to regulate the conduct of their tenants, and often penalizethem when they fail to do so. Although these laws were initially enacted to target drug use, many ordinances now include a wide variety of actions that the city deems to be a nuisance. These laws may force tenants to choose between calling the police in an emergency and being threatened with eviction, and can have a disproportionate effect on domestic violence survivors and people with disabilities.

This report summarizes key findings from the City Nuisance Property Ordinances dataset. This dataset islongitudinal, displaying city nuisance property ordinances in effect from August 1, 2017 through August 1,2019. Additional maps and tables are available at www.lawatlas.org.



Cities Considering Calls for Emergency Service to be Nuisance Activities

Thirty-seven of the 40 most populous U.S. cities have an ordinance regulating nuisance activity at residential properties. **Five of thosecities** consider calls for emergency service to be nuisance activities.

Jurisdictions: 5 (Albuquerque, NM; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Fresno, CA; Milwaukee, WI)



As of August 1, 2019, 7 cities Exempted Domestic Violence Related Incidents from Being Considered Nuisance Activities. Thiswas an increase from 6 cities as of August 1, 2017 (adding Columbus, OH).

Jurisdictions: 7 (Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Fresno, CA; Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Milwaukee, WI)

In addition, Chicago expanded its exemption for emergency calls to apply to calls related to domestic or sexual violence or an individual's disability.