

A. Overview

The Santa Barbara County Housing Data Dashboard is an interactive tool developed by SBCAG to track housing development, affordability, availability, and demographic trends across the county. The dashboard compiles data from multiple authoritative sources and presents it through filterable visualizations and downloadable datasets to support local jurisdictions, policymakers, researchers, and community members.

B. Navigating the Dashboard

The dashboard is divided into multiple sections, each focusing on different aspects of housing and demographics. Users can interact with drop-down filters, data slicers, and downloadable reports for in-depth analysis. All data sets used in the report are available for download as excel (.xlsx) files, which also contain source information and links.

C. Dashboard Pages (as of 2/24/25)

1. Housing Supply & Production (Annual Progress Report - APR Data)

[HCD APR.xlsx](#)

Tracks housing units through entitlement, building permits, and certificates of occupancy.

- Entitlements: Housing units approved through zoning and land use processes.
- Building Permits: Housing units that have received construction permits.
- Certificates of Occupancy: Housing units that are completed and available for use.

Filters: Users can filter data by jurisdiction, income level, tenure (owner vs. renter), and project approval method (SB 35, deed-restricted, infill, etc.).

Sources:

- California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Annual Progress Reports (APR) 2018–2023
 - Local jurisdiction reporting

2. Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Progress

[RHNA.xlsx](#)

Tracks housing production progress towards RHNA targets for the 5th cycle (2013–2022) and the 6th cycle (2023–2031).

- 5th Cycle Results: Displays final housing production totals across income levels.

- 6th Cycle Progress: Shows housing production trends, with quarterly updates as jurisdictions meet their targets. *(last update 2/18/25)*

Filters: Users can filter data by SBCAG jurisdiction. If you want countywide totals, clear all filters before analyzing the data. Selecting multiple locations will combine their totals for a cumulative view.

Sources:

- California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

3. Housing Affordability

[Affordability.xlsx](#)

- Median Rent & Owner Costs: Displays the average rental and ownership costs (including mortgage payments). This data comes from ACS 2023 5-year estimates and is dynamic at the place (CDP) level.
- Cost Burden by Income: Highlights the percentage of renters and homeowners spending >30% or >50% of income on housing. This data comes from HUD CHAS Data and uses \$90,100 as the HAMFI figure.
- Countywide Income Thresholds: Categorizes affordability levels (Very Low, Low, Moderate, and Above Moderate-Income groups) using SBCAG's RHNA Income Threshold Calculations.
 - The Very Low-Income category includes households earning 50% or less of the AMI. Low-Income households earn between 50% and 80% of the AMI. Moderate-Income households earn between 80% and 120% of the AMI. Above Moderate-Income households earn more than 120% of the AMI.

Filters: Users can select by CDP.

- A CDP is a geographic area defined by the U.S. Census Bureau that represents unincorporated communities.
 - If you want countywide totals, clear all filters before analyzing the data. Selecting multiple locations will combine their totals for a cumulative view.

Sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-Year Estimates
- HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) 2017–2021

4. Housing Availability

[Availability.xlsx](#)

Examines occupancy, vacancy rates, and overcrowding trends using recent data.

- Renter vs. Owner-Occupied Units: Shows housing tenure across jurisdictions and Census-Designated Places (CDPs).
- Vacancy Rates: Differentiates between occupied and vacant housing units.
- Overcrowding Analysis: Identifies housing units with >1.01 occupants per room and severely overcrowded units (>1.51 occupants per room).

Filters: Users can select by CDP.

- A CDP is a geographic area defined by the U.S. Census Bureau that represents unincorporated communities.
 - If you want countywide totals, clear all filters before analyzing the data.
- Selecting multiple locations will combine their totals for a cumulative view.

Sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-Year Estimates

5. General Demographics

[Demographics.xlsx](#)

Provides insights into population trends, age distribution, and urban vs. rural housing development.

- Population Pyramid: Displays the county's age and sex distribution.
- Countywide Population Growth: Tracks population changes from 1970 to the present.
- Urban vs. Rural Housing Units: Visualizes the growth of housing in urban and rural areas over time.

Filters: Users can select by Decennial Census Year (1970-2020 available).

Sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Data (1970-2020)
- National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS)

D. To Download Data

Each dashboard section includes a Download Data button to export Excel files with detailed records.

- To Download: CTRL + Click the "Download Data" button. If the link does not open, copy and paste it into a new browser tab.
- File Format: Data is available in Excel (.xlsx) format for further analysis.
- File Contents: The downloaded file includes data tables and source documentation.

E. Feedback & Support

SBCAG encourages user feedback to improve dashboard functionality. For questions, suggestions, or technical support, contact: Mia Lewis – mlewis@sbacag.org