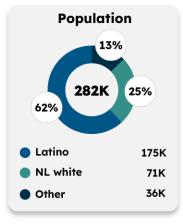
EXTREME HEAT

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute Climate & Health Dashboard

Merced County

County Statistics

Factors Influencing Exposure to Extreme Heat



Median
Age
Latino: 27 yrs
NL white: 45 yrs

Noncitizen Population

Latino: 22% NL white: 3% AZ Limited English

Proficiency
Latino: 30%

NL white: 3%



Renter Households

Latino: 52% NL white: 39%



Poverty Rate

Latino: 21% NL white: 13%



Median Income (Household)

Latino: \$62k NL white: \$71k



SNAP Benefits

Latino: 21% NL white: 15%



Insecurity Latino: 22% NL white: 12%



Latino: 11% NL white: 5%



Health Status

Latino: 17% NL white: 16%

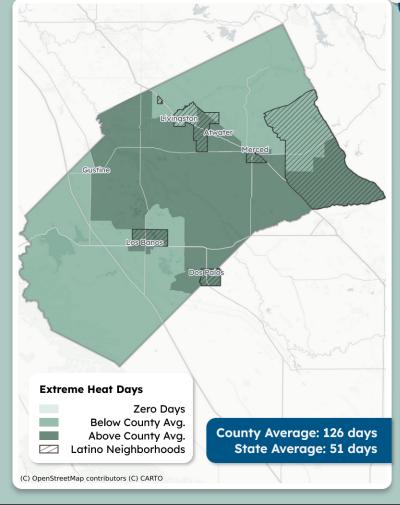


Expectancy
Latino: 80 yrs
NL white: 75 yrs

Neighborhood Statistics

Extreme Heat Days

Latino Neighborhoods and Exposure to Extreme Heat Days (≥ 90°F), 2018-2022



Latino neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ Latino residents
NL neighborhoods = Census tracts with less than 70% Latino residents

Extreme heat days are defined as days where the temperature is at or above 90°F. Exposure to extreme heat poses significant health risks.

Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days (2018-2022)

At 90°F, the risk of heat-related illnesses and conditions increases significantly. **Latino** neighborhoods **NL** neighborhoods

127 days

126 days

average days ≥ 90°F annually

Longest Period of Consecutive Extreme Heat Days (2022)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency defines a period of extreme heat in most of the U.S. as a period of 2 to 3 days above 90°F.

Latino neighborhoods

NL neighborhoods

85 days

82 days

consecutive days ≥ 90°F annually

Projected Number of Extreme Heat Days by Mid-Century (2035–2064)

Looking forward, Latino neighborhoods are projected to experience less extreme heat days. **Latino** neighborhoods

NL neighborhoods

136 days

140 days

expected days ≥ 90°F annually

^{*}NL white = Non-Latino white



Neighborhood Statistics (cont.)

Barriers and Facilitators To Preventing Heat Exposure

Tree Canopy



- · Tree canopy is land shaded by trees.
- Less tree canopy (fewer trees) = **Increased** exposure to extreme heat

% of Land with Tree Canopy

4%

Latino neighborhoods

5% NL neighborhoods

Impervious Surfaces



- Impervious surfaces are water-resistant surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, and stone.
- More impervious surfaces (like paved roads) = Increased exposure to extreme

% of Land with Impervious Surfaces

21%

Latino

neighborhoods

22% NL

neighborhoods

Older Housing Units



- Older housing units are homes built before 1970 that often have poor insulation and inefficient HVAC systems.
- More older homes = Increased exposure to extreme heat

% of Older Housing Units

30%

Latino

neighborhoods

29% NL neighborhoods

Vulnerable Groups

Age

Children and older adults are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses.

32% 10% ages 0-18 ages 65+

Latino neighborhoods

27% 12% ages 0-18 ages 65+

NL neighborhoods

Workers in Heat-Exposed Industries

Industries with the highest exposure to extreme heat include agriculture, construction, waste management, and warehousing. Jobs in these sectors carry increased risks of heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, dehydration, chronic heat stress, and even premature death.

% of Workers in Heat-Exposed Industries

37%

Latino neighborhoods

26%

NL neighborhoods

Health

Extreme heat poses serious health risks, especially for people with conditions like heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and obesity. These individuals are more vulnerable because heat places extra stress on the body, worsening symptoms and increasing the risk of medical emergencies.

% of Adults (18+) with Pre-Existing Conditions

13% Latino

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Diabetes

32% **34%** Latino

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Obesity

Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

Heat-related emergency room visits serve as a critical indicator of a neighborhood's vulnerability to extreme temperatures and the effectiveness of its heat mitigation

strategies.

per 10,000 people

Latino neighborhoods

NL neighborhoods

Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

20 Latino NL

neighborhoods neighborhoods **Heart Attacks**

97 89 Latino neighborhoods neighborhoods **Asthma Attacks**

Disadvantaged Communities

The CA Environmental Protection Agency defines disadvantaged communities based on their environmental pollution burden and population characteristics. Under Senate Bill 535, revenue from CA's Cap-and-Trade Program is partly directed toward these communities through the CA Climate Investments program to reduce pollution, enhance climate resilience, and improve health and economic well-being.

% of Disadvantaged Communities

100%

Latino neighborhoods

78% NL neighborhoods