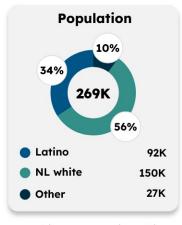
# AIR POLLUTION

# UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute Climate & Health Dashboard

# **Santa Cruz County**

# **County Statistics**

## **Factors Influencing Exposure to Air Pollution**



Median
Age
Latino: 28 yrs
NL white: 48 yrs

Noncitizen Population

Latino: 20% NL white: 2% A<sub>Z</sub>

Limited English Proficiency Latino: 30%

NL white: 1%



Renter Households

Latino: 60% NL white: 33%



Poverty Rate

Latino: 13% NL white: 10%



Median Income (Household)

Latino: \$87k NL white: \$115k



SNAP Benefits

Latino: 18% NL white: 6%



Latino: 18% NL white: 8%



Latino: 10% NL white: 3%



Health Status Latino: 12%

NL white: 8%

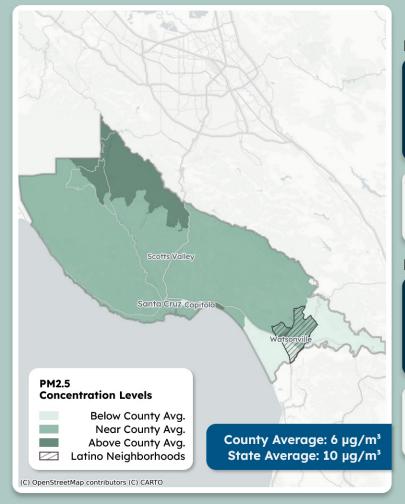


Expectancy
Latino: 82 yrs
NL white: 82 yrs

# **Neighborhood Statistics**

### **Air Pollutants**

# Latino Neighborhoods and Exposure to Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), 2015-2017



Note: µg/m³ = one-millionth of a gram per cubic meter of air.

Note: California's state standard for PM2.5 is an annual average of 12 µg/m³, while the federal standard is 9 µg/m³.

There is no state or federal or state standard for Diesel PM.

#### PM2.5

**PM2.5** is produced from sources like vehicle exhaust, wildfires, and industrial activity. These fine air particles enter the lungs and bloodstream and worsen conditions like asthma and heart disease.

Latino neighborhoods had  $\underline{\text{the same exposure}}$  to PM2.5 as NL white neighborhoods.

6 μg/m³ Latino neighborhoods 6 μg/m³

NL white neighborhoods

Annual mean concentration

### **Diesel PM**

**Diesel emissions** from vehicles and heavy-duty equipment release harmful particulate matter. Exposure to diesel exhaust can raise blood pressure, trigger heart attacks, and worsen lung conditions.

Latino neighborhoods had <u>higher exposure</u> to diesel PM than NL white neighborhoods.

**0.21** tons/year Latino neighborhoods

0.07 tons/year
NL white neighborhoods

Emissions

Latino neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ Latino residents NL white neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ NL white residents

<sup>\*</sup>NL white = Non-Latino white

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# **Neighborhood Statistics (cont.)**

## **Proximity to Major Sources of Air Pollution**

Note: Exposure and proximity scores take into account the number of sites/facilities and their proximity to neighborhoods.

Higher scores = more exposure to pollutants for residents.

Cleanup sites, such as Superfunds, are polluted with materials like lead and asbestos. Examples include old and abandoned processing plants and manufacturing facilities.

#### **Exposure Score**

9 7

**Latino** neighborhoods **NL white** neighborhoods

#### Hazardous waste facilities are

treatment, storage, and disposal sites. They can release toxic substances such as carcinogens, mercury, and asbestos into the air, water, and soil.

#### **Exposure Score**

0.4

Latino neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

RMP facilities are sites where hazardous chemicals—like propane, pesticides, ammonia, and explosives—are present, posing risks to the environment and communities if released.

#### **Proximity Score**

0.0

Latino neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

## **Vehicle Types and Traffic**

#### Lower-emission vehicles (LEVs)

use battery electric, plug-in hybrid, or hybrid technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

% of LEVs owned

12%

Latino neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

of pollutants because they lack advanced emission-control equipment.

**Clunker vehicles** (vehicles 20

years or older) emit high levels

% of clunker vehicles owned

14%

Latino neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

**Traffic density** measures the concentration of vehicles on roads within an area. Neighborhoods near major roadways face greater exposure to harmful emissions released from vehicles.

#### Vehicle kilometers per hour

666 km/hr 861 km/hr Latino neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

## **Vulnerable Groups**

Age

Children and older adults are more vulnerable to air pollution and have a higher risk of developing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. **7%** ages 0-5

12%

ages 65+

Latino neighborhoods

4%

21%

ages 0-5 ages 65+
NL white neighborhoods

### Health

Air pollution worsens pre-existing health conditions like asthma and coronary heart disease, increasing emergency visits and health complications. Long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic illness and premature death.

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

5% Latino 5%

**Latino** NL white neighborhoods

**Coronary Heart Disease** 

10% Latino 9% NL white

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Asthma

#### Low Birth Weight (LBW) Babies

LBW babies are born under 5 lbs. LBW increases the risk of infant mortality, developmental delays, and chronic health conditions. Exposure to air pollution, such as PM2.5, contributes to higher rates of LBW

babies.

% of Infants

**5**%

**Latino** neighborhoods

4%

**NL white** neighborhoods

#### Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

11

8

**Latino** NL white neighborhoods

**Heart Attacks** 

51

23

**Latino** NL white 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

22%

**Latino** neighborhoods

0% NL white neighborhoods