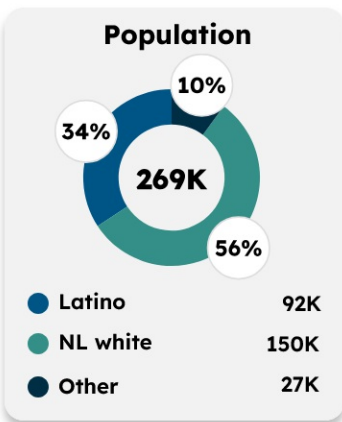


EXTREME HEAT

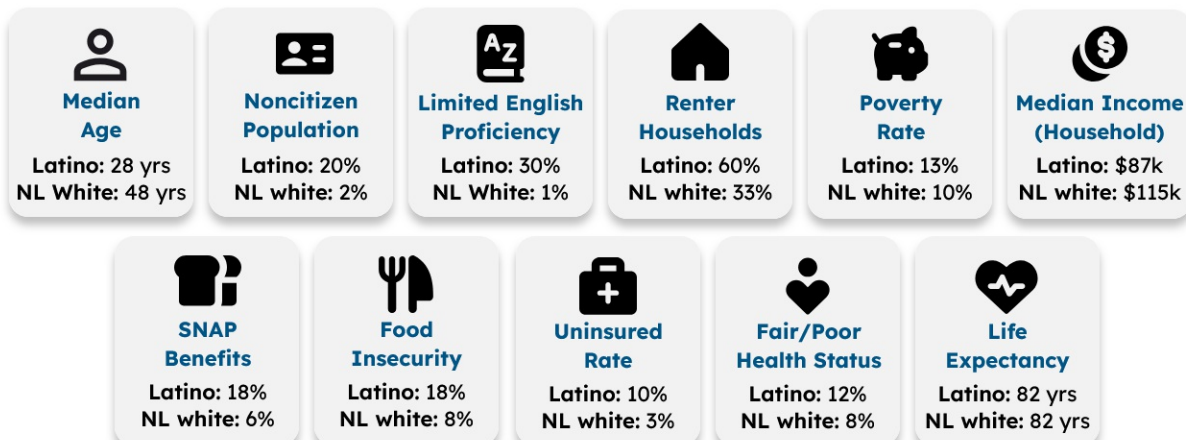
Santa Cruz County

County Statistics

Factors Influencing Exposure to Extreme Heat



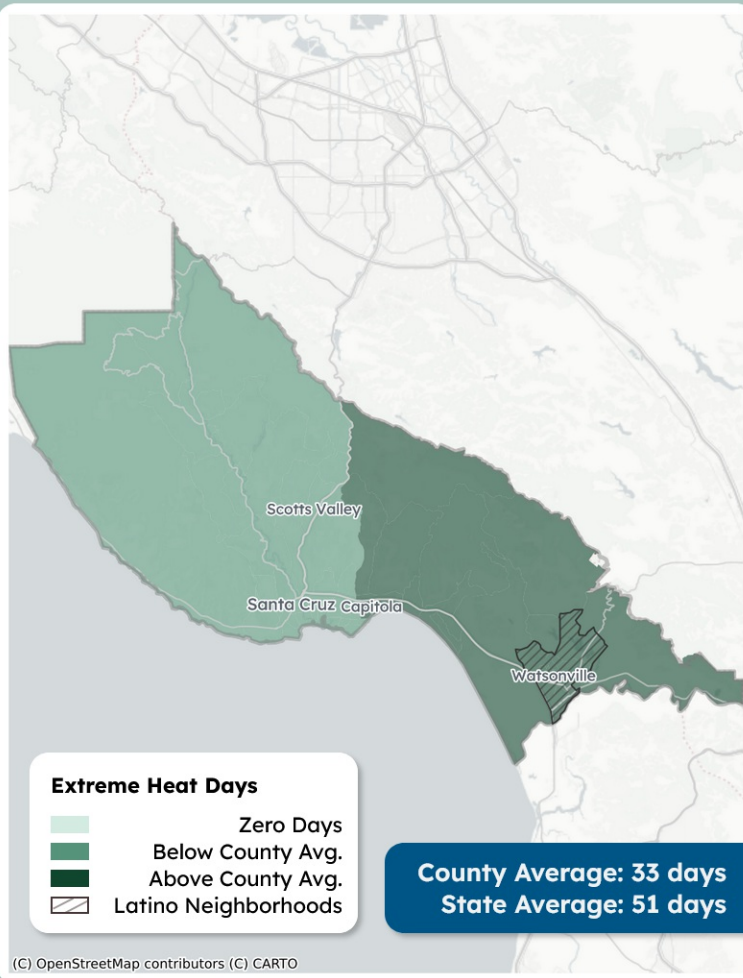
*NL white = Non-Latino white



Neighborhood Statistics

Extreme Heat Days

Latino Neighborhoods and Exposure to Extreme Heat Days ($\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$), 2018-2022



Latino neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ Latino residents
 NL white neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ NL white 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 white neighborhoods
56 days	26 days
average days $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ 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 white neighborhoods
15 days	12 days
consecutive days $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ annually	

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

Looking forward, NL white neighborhoods are projected to experience a greater number of extreme heat days.

Latino neighborhoods	NL white neighborhoods
10 days	23 days
expected days $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ annually	

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

5%

Latino
neighborhoods

38%

NL white
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 heat**

% of Land with Impervious Surfaces

49%

Latino
neighborhoods

18%

NL white
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

42%

Latino
neighborhoods

47%

NL white
neighborhoods

Vulnerable Groups

Age

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

30%

ages 0-18

Latino neighborhoods

12%

ages 65+

16%

ages 0-18

NL white neighborhoods

21%

ages 65+

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

33%

Latino neighborhoods

15%

NL white 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

12%

Latino
neighborhoods

8%

NL white
neighborhoods

Diabetes

30%

Latino
neighborhoods

24%

NL white
neighborhoods

Obesity

Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

11

Latino
neighborhoods

8

NL white
neighborhoods

Heart Attacks

51

Latino
neighborhoods

23

NL white
neighborhoods

Asthma Attacks

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

4

Latino neighborhoods



2

NL white neighborhoods



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