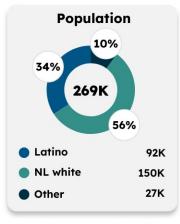
EXTREME HEAT

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute Climate & Health Dashboard

Santa Cruz County

County Statistics

Factors Influencing Exposure to Extreme Heat



Median
Age
Latino: 28 yrs
NL White: 48 yrs

Noncitizen Population

Latino: 20% NL white: 2% A_Z

Limited English Proficiency

Latino: 30% NL White: 1%



Households

NL white: 33%



Rate

Latino: 13% NL white: 10%



Median Income
(Household)

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



SNAP Benefits

Latino: 18% NL white: 6%



Insecurity Latino: 18% NL white: 8%



Rate Latino: 10% NL white: 3%



Health Status Latino: 12%

NL white: 8%

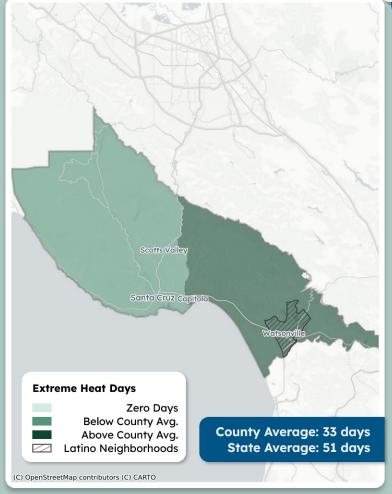


Expectancy
Latino: 82 yrs
NL white: 82 yrs

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

(II)

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 ≥ 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 white neighborhoods

15 days

12 days

consecutive days ≥ 90°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 ≥ 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

5%

38%

Latino neighborhoods

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

% of Land with Impervious Surfaces

18%

49%

Latino

NL white neighborhoods 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% 12% ages 0-18 ages 65+

Latino neighborhoods

16% 21% ages 0-18 ages 65+

NL white 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

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 **NL** white

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Diabetes

30% Latino

24%

neighborhoods

NL white neighborhoods

Obesity

Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

11

Heart Attacks

Latino **NL** white

neighborhoods neighborhoods

51

Latino NL white neighborhoods 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

Latino neighborhoods

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

0% **NL** white

neighborhoods

neighborhoods