UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute

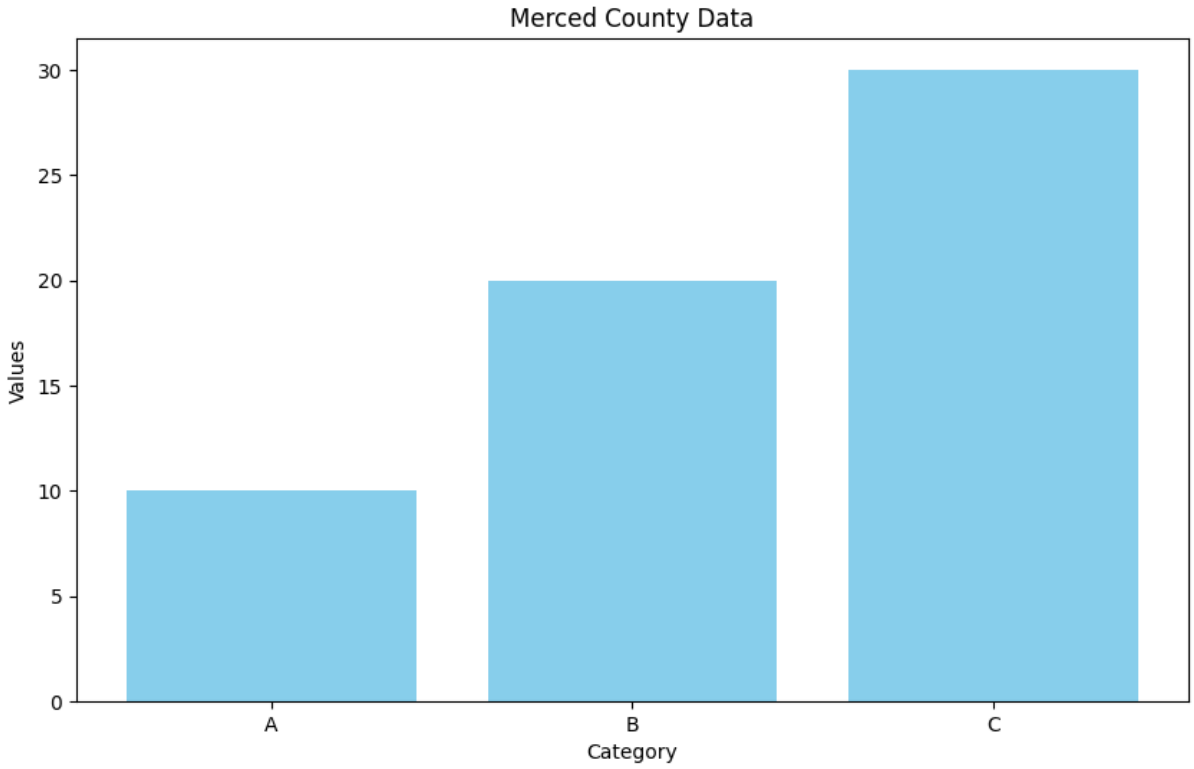
Extreme Heat DRAFT
Merced County

Population Characteristics
Total Population size in 2022: 0.3 million
Latino Population: 0.2 million (62%) #19 in California
Non-Latino White Population: 0.1 million (25%)

County Statistics

Statistic	Latino	NL White	Total
Median Age	27.3	44.7	31.5
Non-U.S. Citizen Population	22%	3%	15%
Limited English Proficiency	30%	3%	21%
Median Household Income	$62,163	$70,561	$64,772
Poverty Rate	21%	13%	19%
No Health Insurance	11%	5%	9%
Renter Occupied Households	52%	39%	47%
SNAP benefits	21%	15%	19%
Food Insecurity	46%	44%	46%
Self-Reported Health Status (Fair or Poor)	21%	18%	20%

Infographics



Neighborhood-Level Analysis

Neighborhood-Level Analysis
Map 1. Latino and NL White Neighborhoods in Merced County
High-Temperature Days
The federal government defines extreme heat in the U.S. as a period of 2 to 3 days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Latino neighborhoods historically experience more days with high temperatures. For instance, the average number of days with temperatures reaching 90°F between 2018 and 2022 is higher in Latino neighborhoods (127 days) compared to NL White neighborhoods (nan days), representing a significant increase of nan days. This pattern extends to higher temperature thresholds of 95, 100, and 105 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Latino neighborhoods endure longer heat waves. In recent years, these neighborhoods experienced an average of 85 consecutive days with temperatures at or above 90°F, while NL White neighborhoods experienced nan consecutive days, a difference of nan days.

Looking forward, Latino neighborhoods are projected to experience a greater number of days with higher temperatures. Between 2035 and 2064, Latino neighborhoods are expected to experience an average of 136 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience nan days, a difference of nan days. Between 2070 and 2099, Latino neighborhoods are expected to experience 159 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience nan days, a difference of nan days.
Projected average number of days with temperatures of 100°F or higher:

- Between 2035 and 2064: Latino neighborhoods: 61 days, NL White neighborhoods: nan days, a difference of nan days.
- Between 2070 and 2099: Latino neighborhoods: 89 days, NL White neighborhoods: nan days, a difference of nan days.

Older adults and children are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses. On average, a higher percentage of residents in Latino neighborhoods are 18 and under (32%) compared to predominantly NL White neighborhoods (nan%), a difference of nan%. However, predominantly NL White neighborhoods, on average, have a higher percentage of the elderly (nan%), with more residents being 65 and over, compared to Latino neighborhoods (10%), a difference of nan%.