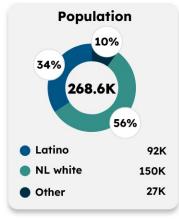
EXTREME HEAT

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

Proficiency

Latino: 30% NL white: 1%



Households
Latino: 60%

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%



Fair/Poor Health Status

Latino: 12% NL white: 8%

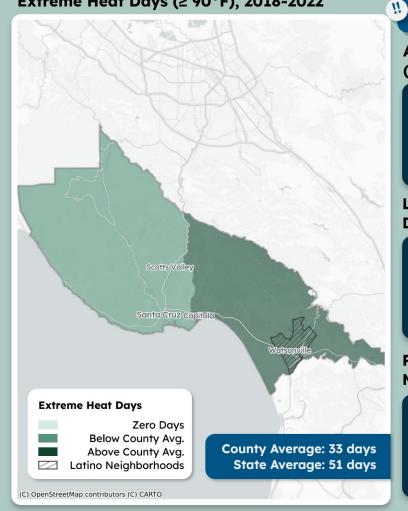


Expectancy
Latino: 82 yrs
NL white: 82 yrs

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

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

Latino Policy & Politics Institute UCLA Climate & Health Dashboard

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

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% 12% ages 0-18 ages 65+

Latino neighborhoods

Heat-related

indicator of a

neighborhood's

vulnerability to extreme temperatures

strategies.

emergency room visits

and the effectiveness

of its heat mitigation

serve as a critical

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%

8%

Latino **NL** white neighborhoods neighborhoods

Diabetes

30% Latino

24% NL white

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Obesity

Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

Latino neighborhoods

per 10,000 people

NL white neighborhoods

Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

11

Latino **NL** white neighborhoods neighborhoods

Heart Attacks

51

Latino NL white 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

22%

Latino neighborhoods

0% **NL** white neighborhoods