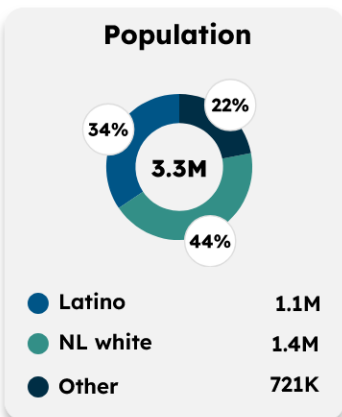


# AIR POLLUTION

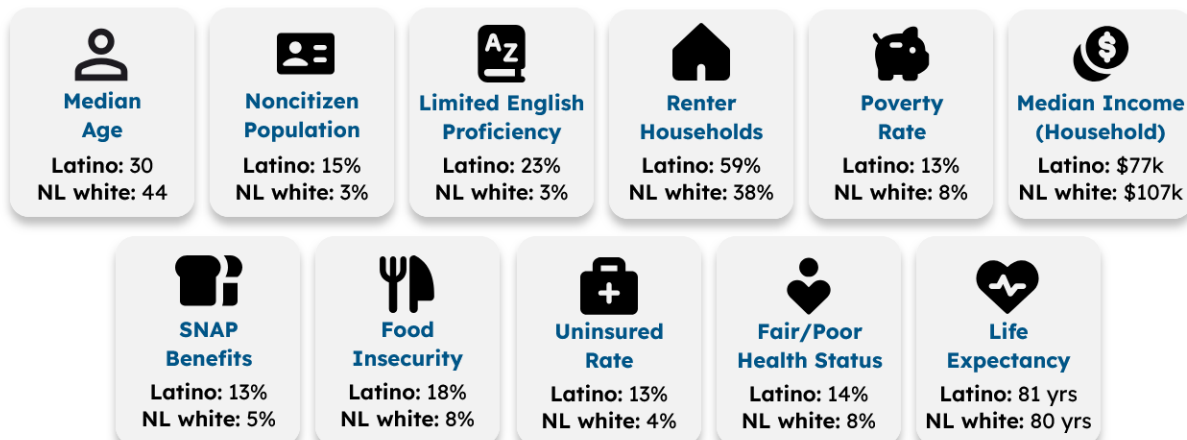
## San Diego County

### County Statistics

#### Factors Influencing Exposure to Air Pollution



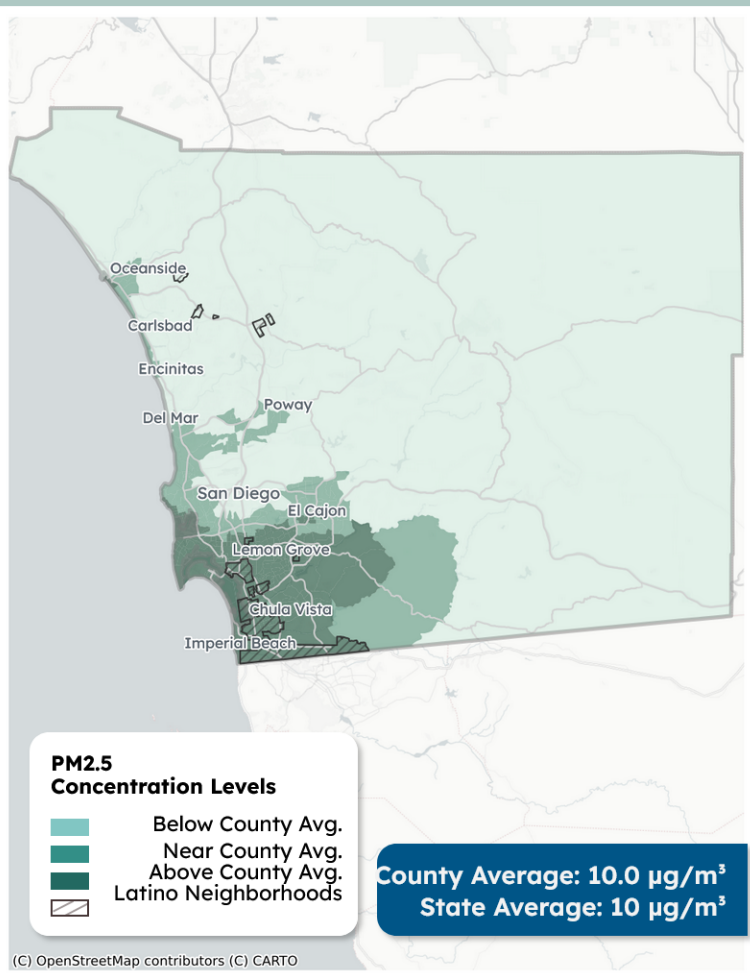
\*NL white = Non-Latino white



### Neighborhood Statistics

#### Air Pollutants

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

Note:  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  = one-millionth of a gram per cubic meter of airNote: California's state standard for PM2.5 is an annual average of  $12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , while the federal standard is  $9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . 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 **higher exposure** to PM2.5 than NL white neighborhoods. **$11.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** 

Latino neighborhoods

 **$9.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** 

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 **higher exposure** to diesel PM than NL white neighborhoods.**0.28 tons/year**

Latino neighborhoods

**0.13 tons/year**

NL white neighborhoods

Emissions

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

## 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

2

Latino neighborhoods

3

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

0.7

Latino neighborhoods

0.4

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

0.2

Latino neighborhoods

0.2

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

3%

Latino neighborhoods

11%

NL white neighborhoods

**Clunker vehicles** (vehicles 20 years or older) emit high levels of pollutants because they lack advanced emission-control equipment.

#### % of clunker vehicles owned

11%

Latino neighborhoods

9%

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

1904 km/hr

Latino neighborhoods

847 km/hr

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.

6%

ages 0-5

Latino neighborhoods

11%

ages 65+

5%

ages 0-5

NL white neighborhoods

22%

ages 65+

#### 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 neighborhoods

5%

NL white neighborhoods

Coronary Heart Disease

10%

Latino neighborhoods

9%

NL white neighborhoods

Asthma

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

13

Latino neighborhoods

8

NL white neighborhoods

Heart Attacks

59.4

Latino neighborhoods

23.5

NL white neighborhoods

Asthma Attacks

#### 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

#### 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

47%

Latino neighborhoods

0%

NL white neighborhoods