UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute

Extreme Heat DRAFT
Kern County

Population Characteristics
Total Population size in 2022: 0.9 million
Latino Population: 0.5 million (55%) #7 in California
Non-Latino White Population: 0.3 million (31%)

County Statistics

Statistic	Latino	NL White	Total
Median Age	27.1	42.9	32.2
Non-U.S. Citizen Population	19%	1%	12%
Limited English Proficiency	29%	1%	18%
Median Household Income	$55,719	$76,932	$63,883
Poverty Rate	22%	14%	19%
No Health Insurance	10%	4%	8%
Renter Occupied Households	47%	30%	40%
SNAP benefits	20%	14%	18%
Food Insecurity	47%	45%	48%
Self-Reported Health Status (Fair or Poor)	21%	17%	19%

Neighborhood-Level Analysis
Map 1. Latino and NL White Neighborhoods in Kern 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.

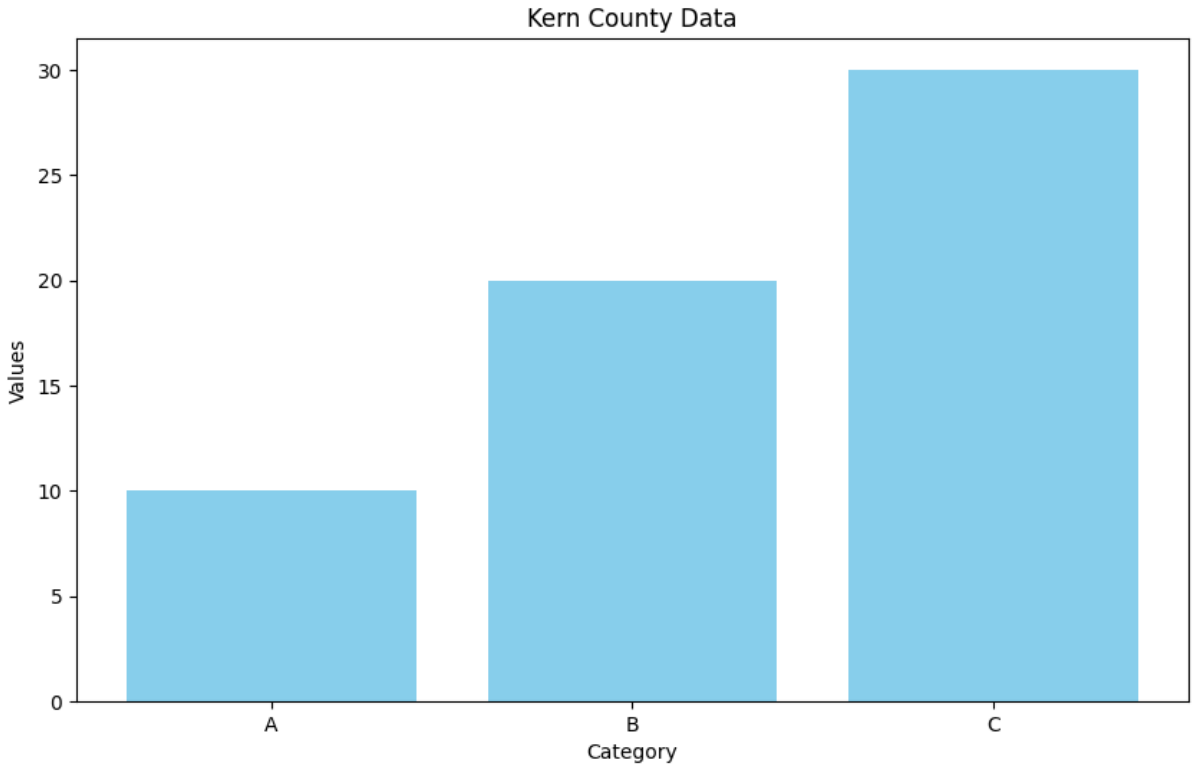
- Latino neighborhoods historically experience more days with high temperatures. For instance, the average number of days with temperatures reaching 90°F between 2018 and 2022 is higher in Latino neighborhoods (147 days) compared to NL White neighborhoods (95 days), representing a significant increase of 52 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 90 consecutive days with temperatures at or above 90°F, while NL White neighborhoods experienced 60 consecutive days, a difference of 30 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 148 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 137 days, a difference of 11 days. Between 2070 and 2099, Latino neighborhoods are expected to experience 169 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 159 days, a difference of 10 days.
Projected average number of days with temperatures of 100°F or higher:

- Between 2035 and 2064: Latino neighborhoods: 82 days, NL White neighborhoods: 72 days, a difference of 10 days.
- Between 2070 and 2099: Latino neighborhoods: 107 days, NL White neighborhoods: 95 days, a difference of 12 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 (33%) compared to predominantly NL White neighborhoods (19%), a difference of 14%. However, predominantly NL White neighborhoods, on average, have a higher percentage of the elderly (27%), with more residents being 65 and over, compared to Latino neighborhoods (8%), a difference of -19%.

Infographics


Kern County Data
Values
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
A
B
C
Category