UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute

Extreme Heat DRAFT
Santa Cruz County

Population Characteristics
Total Population size in 2022: 0.3 million
Latino Population: 0.1 million (34%) #25 in California
Non-Latino White Population: 0.1 million (56%)

County Statistics

Statistic	Latino	NL White	Total
Median Age	28.3	48.4	39.2
Non-U.S. Citizen Population	20%	2%	10%
Limited English Proficiency	30%	1%	12%
Median Household Income	$86,530	$115,325	$104,409
Poverty Rate	13%	10%	11%
No Health Insurance	10%	3%	5%
Renter Occupied Households	60%	33%	40%
SNAP benefits	18%	6%	9%
Food Insecurity	44%	30%	36%
Self-Reported Health Status (Fair or Poor)	16%	11%	13%

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

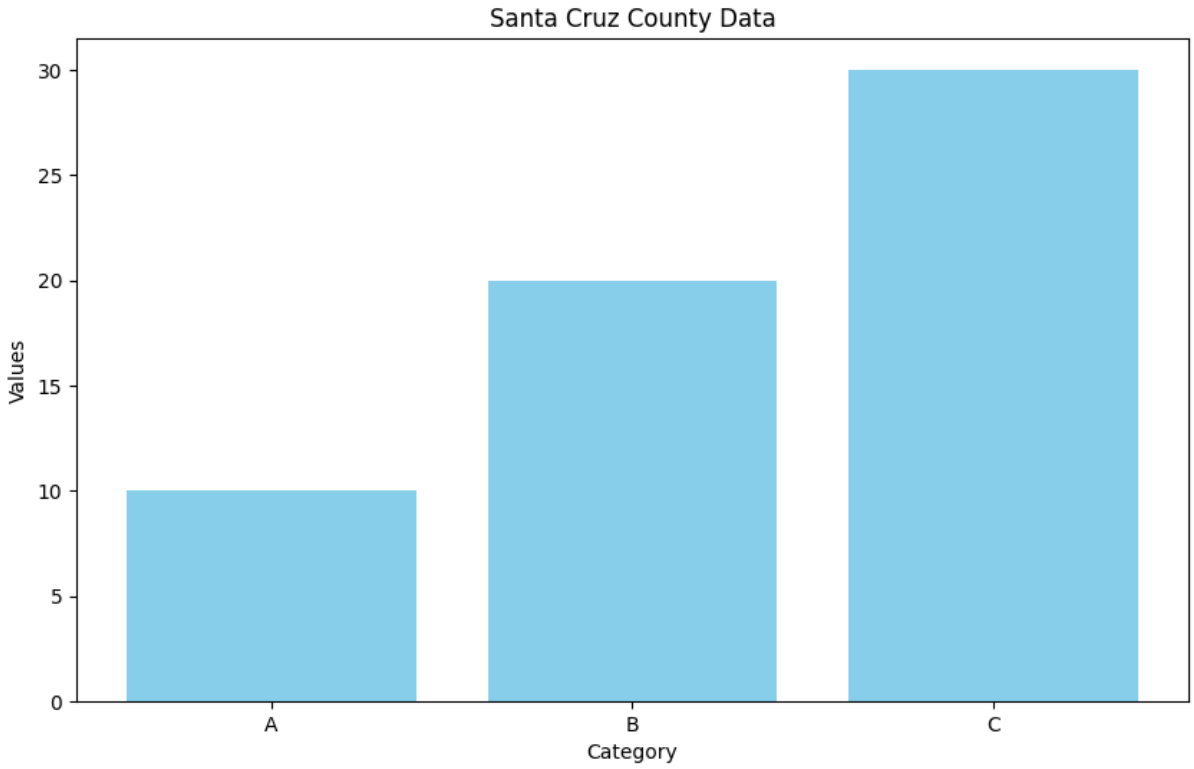
- Latino neighborhoods historically experience more days with high temperatures. For instance, the average number of days with temperatures reaching 90°F between 2018 and 2022 is higher in Latino neighborhoods (56 days) compared to NL White neighborhoods (26 days), representing a significant increase of 30 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 15 consecutive days with temperatures at or above 90°F, while NL White neighborhoods experienced 12 consecutive days, a difference of 3 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 10 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 23 days, a difference of -13 days. Between 2070 and 2099, Latino neighborhoods are expected to experience 18 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 39 days, a difference of -21 days.
Projected average number of days with temperatures of 100°F or higher:

- Between 2035 and 2064: Latino neighborhoods: 1 days, NL White neighborhoods: 3 days, a difference of -2 days.
- Between 2070 and 2099: Latino neighborhoods: 3 days, NL White neighborhoods: 6 days, a difference of -3 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 (30%) compared to predominantly NL White neighborhoods (16%), a difference of 14%. However, predominantly NL White neighborhoods, on average, have a higher percentage of the elderly (21%), with more residents being 65 and over, compared to Latino neighborhoods (12%), a difference of -9%.

Infographics


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