

Extreme Heat DRAFT Santa Barbara County



Population Characteristics

Total Population size in 2022: 0.4 million

Latino Population: 0.2 million (47%) #17 in California

Non-Latino White Population: 0.2 million (43%)

County Statistics

Statistic	Latino	NL White	Total
Median Age	27.5	46.9	34.3
Non-U.S. Citizen Population	24%	3%	14%
Limited English Proficiency	31%	1%	16%
Median Household Income	\$78,142	\$105,367	\$92,332
Poverty Rate	16%	10%	14%
No Health Insurance	16%	4%	10%
Renter Occupied Households	58%	39%	47%
SNAP benefits	16%	5%	9%
Food Insecurity	53%	45%	50%
Self-Reported Health Status (Fair or Poor)	22%	10%	16%

Neighborhood-Level Analysis

Map 1. Latino and NL White Neighborhoods in Santa Barbara 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 (6 days) compared to NL White neighborhoods (14 days), representing a significant increase of -8 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 8 consecutive days with temperatures at or above 90°F, while NL White neighborhoods experienced 5 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 9 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 21 days, a difference of -12 days. Between 2070 and 2099, Latino neighborhoods are expected to experience 19 days with temperatures of 90°F or higher, while NL White neighborhoods are expected to experience 34 days, a difference of -15 days.

Projected average number of days with temperatures of 100°F or higher:

- Between 2035 and 2064: Latino neighborhoods: 1 days, NL White neighborhoods: 4 days, a difference of -3 days.
- Between 2070 and 2099: Latino neighborhoods: 2 days, NL White neighborhoods: 7 days, a difference of -5 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 (16%), a difference of 16%. However, predominantly NL White neighborhoods, on average, have a higher percentage of the elderly (28%), with more residents being 65 and over, compared to Latino neighborhoods (9%), a difference of -19%.

Infographics

