EXTREME HEAT

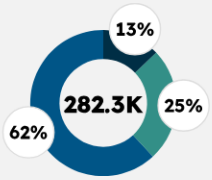
Merced County

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute
Climate & Health Dashboard

County Statistics

Factors Influencing Exposure to Extreme Heat

Population



Latino	175K
Non-Latino	71K
Other	36K

Median Age
Latino: 27
NL: 45

Noncitizen Population
Latino: 22%
NL: 3%

Limited English Proficiency
Latino: 30%
NL: 3%

Renter Households
Latino: 52%
NL: 39%

Poverty Rate
Latino: 21%
NL: 13%

Median Income (Household)
Latino: $62k
NL: $70k

SNAP Benefits
Latino: 21%
NL: 15%

Food Insecurity
Latino: 22%
NL: 12%

Uninsured Rate
Latino: 11%
NL: 5%

Fair/Poor Health Status
Latino: 17%
NL: 16%

Life Expectancy
Latino: 80 yrs
NL: 75 yrs

NL white = Non-Latino white

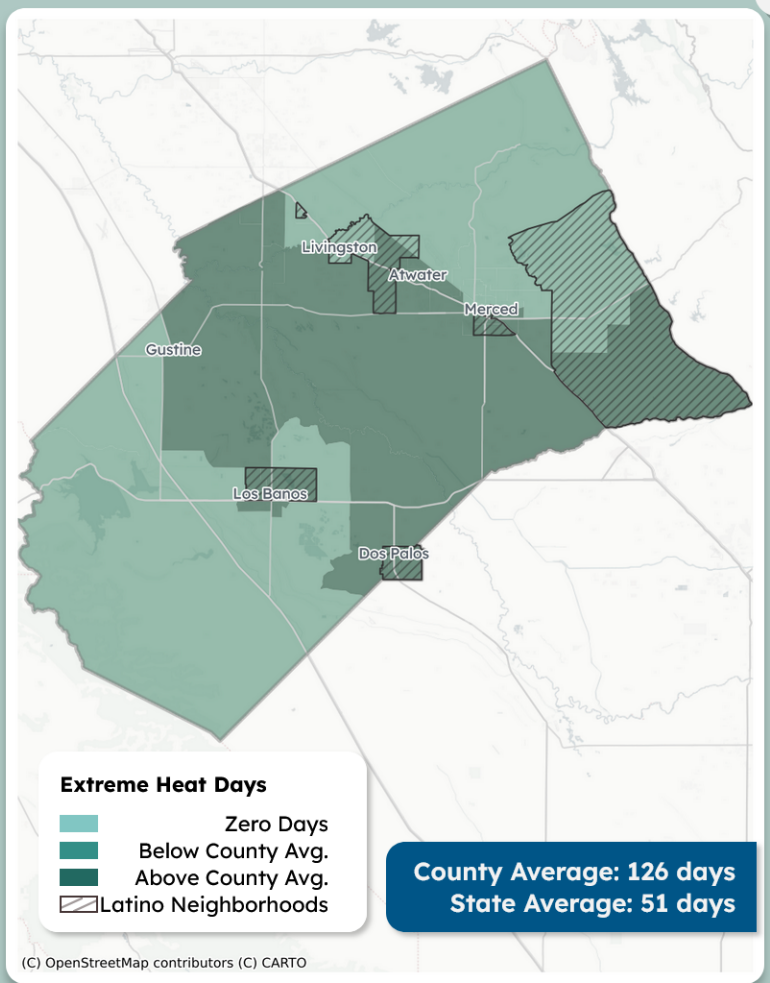
Neighborhood Statistics

Extreme Heat Days

Latino neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ Latino residents
Non-Latino neighborhoods = Census tracts with 70%+ non-Latino 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.

Latino Neighborhoods and Exposure to Extreme Heat Days (≥ 90°F), 2018-2022



Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days (2018-2022)

At 90°F, the risk of heat-related illnesses and conditions increases significantly.

Latino neighborhoods	NL neighborhoods
127 days	126 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 neighborhoods
85 days	82 days

consecutive days ≥ 90°F annually

Projected Number of Extreme Heat Days by Mid-Century (2035–2064)

Looking forward, Non-Latino neighborhoods are projected to experience a greater number of extreme heat days.

Latino neighborhoods	NL neighborhoods
136 days	140 days

expected days ≥ 90°F annually

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

4%	5%
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 heat

% of Land with Impervious Surfaces

21%	22%
Latino neighborhoods	**NL** 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

30%	29%
Latino neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods

Vulnerable Groups

Age

Children and older adults are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses.

32%	10%	27%	12%
ages 0-18	ages 65+	ages 0-18	ages 65+
Latino neighborhoods		**NL 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

37%	26%
Latino neighborhoods	**NL 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

13%	12%	34%	32%
Latino neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods	**Latino** neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods
Diabetes		**Obesity**	

Emergency Department Visits (per 10,000 people)

20	22	97	89
Latino neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods	**Latino** neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods
Heart Attacks		**Asthma Attacks**	

Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

Heat-related emergency room visits serve as a critical indicator of a neighborhood's vulnerability to extreme temperatures and the effectiveness of its heat mitigation strategies.

per 10,000 people

4	4
Latino neighborhoods	**NL 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

100%	78%
Latino neighborhoods	**NL** neighborhoods