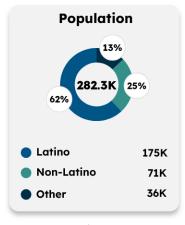
# **EXTREME HEAT**

#### Latino Policy & Politics Institute UCLA Climate & Health Dashboard

# **Merced County**

# **County Statistics**

### **Factors Influencing Exposure to Extreme Heat**



Median Age Latino: 27 NI: 45

**2**3 **Noncitizen Population** 

**Limited English Proficiency** Latino: 22% NI : 3% NI : 3%

Latino: 30%

**Households** Latino: 52%

Rate NI: 39%

Latino: 21% NI · 13%



**Median Income** (Household)

Latino: \$62k NL: \$70k



Latino: 21%

NL: 15%

Food Insecurity Latino: 22% NL: 12%

Uninsured Rate

Latino: 11% NL: 5%

Latino: 17%

Fair/Poor **Health Status** 

NL: 16%



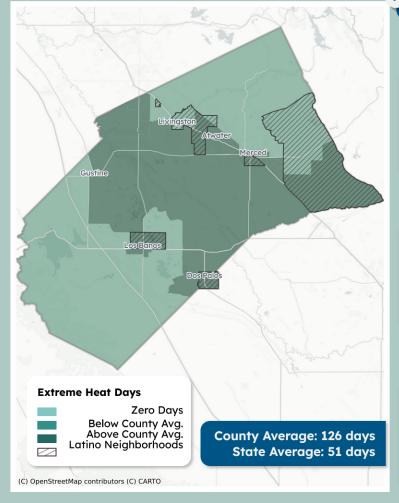
Life Expectancy

Latino: 80 yrs **NL:** 75 yrs

# **Neighborhood Statistics**

**Extreme Heat Days** 

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



**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.

### **Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days** (2018-2022)

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

Latino neighborhoods

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 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

<sup>\*</sup>NL = Non-Latino



# **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%

Latino neighborhoods

NL neighborhoods

5%

#### **Impervious Surfaces**



Impervious surfaces are water-resistant surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, and stone.

More impervious surfaces (like paved roads) = Increased exposure to extreme

% of Land with Impervious Surfaces

21%

Latino

neighborhoods

22% 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%

Latino

neighborhoods

29% NL neighborhoods

### **Vulnerable Groups**

#### Age

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

**32%** 10% ages 0-18 ages 65+

Latino neighborhoods

27% 12% ages 0-18 ages 65+

**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%

Latino neighborhoods

26% **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%** 

Latino neighborhoods neighborhoods

**Diabetes** 

32% **34%** Latino

neighborhoods neighborhoods

Obesity

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

20

Latino NL neighborhoods neighborhoods

**Heart Attacks** 

**97** 

Latino

neighborhoods neighborhoods

**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

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%

Latino

NL neighborhoods neighborhoods

**78%**