

2025

Silicon Valley Pain Index

6 Years and No Clear Path to the
Changes We Need and Deserve

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2025 SVPI Project Team

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Introduction

The Silicon Valley Pain Index is an annual report designed to:

- 1) Provide an efficient, digestible, and current¹ quantitative overview of structured inequalities to inform practice and policy in Silicon Valley.²
- 2) Serve to measure and reflect on Santa Clara County's performance as a "human rights county,"³ which it declared in 2018 in accordance with the International Bill of Human Rights⁴ and in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).⁵
- 3) Ignite conversation and collaboration between students, faculty researchers, community members, and policymakers in addressing inequalities and advocating for human rights.

Historical Context and Guiding Principles of the Silicon Valley Pain Index

The first Silicon Valley Pain Index (SVPI) was inspired by Professor Bill Quigley's Katrina Pain Index,⁶ which followed the devastating 2005 hurricane, and the 2020 national Black Lives Matter⁷ protests following the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor in the early months of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The first reports were spearheaded by Scott Myers-Lipton, Professor Emeritus, Sociology. Dr. Myers-Lipton led the development and the expansion of a team of faculty and student researchers for the first five years and has continued to provide leadership and consulting for the current 2025 report. In its sixth year, the report underwent leadership changes and was taken over by Dr. Anji Buckner-Capone, Department of Public Health. Under her leadership, the SVPI Report continues to be a reliable source of data detailing systematic inequalities that harm the quality of life for people who live, work, and play in our communities.

In the SVPI, pain is representative of both personal and community distress or suffering, resulting in negative impacts on a person's quality of life. The SVPI highlights the societal and community pain rooted in systemic and structural inequalities that affects the quality and standard of living for all. However, the magnitude and severity of this type of community distress disproportionately impacts the most marginalized and under resourced communities in our region. It is undoubtedly clear that a high percentage of people and communities in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties are feeling some sort of *pain* that is affecting their overall

¹ Every effort has been made to access and include the most recent research findings and statistical data to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the 2025 SVPI. Any errors brought to the attention of the PI or HRI Leadership will be researched and if verified, will be corrected via the HRI website and social media.

² "Silicon Valley" refers to Santa Clara County and San Mateo County throughout the 2025 SVPI. There are instances where the data are expanded to include the Alameda County cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City and Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. Cities and counties that are represented in the data point are noted in the data summary throughout this index.

³ Board of Supervisors, Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara Designating December 10th as Human Rights Day and Declaring Santa Clara County as a Human Rights County. [Board packet, page 85](#).

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights/international-bill-human-rights>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw>

⁶ 10-years after the Katrina Pain Index (<https://billquigley.wordpress.com/2015/07/20/new-orleans-katrina-pain-index-at-ten-who-was-left-behind/>)

⁷ Black Lives Matter Movement <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

wellbeing. We know, now more than ever, that it will take cross-sector collaboration to make gradual changes in alleviating the pain in our region.⁸

The five previously published reports have all illustrated persistent (and in many cases expanding) inequality in employment, education, housing, population health, and overall well-being. Over the past year, there have been improvements in some areas, including:

- The use of force incidents in the San José Police Department continues a downward trend⁹.
- The continued expansion and utilization of services to prevent homelessness and support housing assistance¹⁰.
- Environmental sustainability efforts through investments in tree planting to expand shade canopies¹¹ and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions¹².

Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts of our locally elected officials endorsing promising legislative action to address some of the foundational issues highlighted in the report, such as:

- SB33 (Dave Cortese) guaranteed income for unhoused high school seniors¹³
- SB685 (Dave Cortese) pilot program covering full cost of college attendance (at select universities) for unhoused youth¹⁴.
- AB3229 (Alex Lee) pilot program to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among CalFresh recipients¹⁵.

However, the 2025 SVPI includes new data showing the continued growth in local disparities and widening gaps in wealth affecting all aspects of life in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

How to read the SVPI

The 2025 Silicon Valley Pain Index is composed of more than 200 statistics drawn from hundreds of sources. The data were obtained from public records and databases, published reports, and research conducted in or about Silicon Valley over the past year. The 2025 statistics are presented chronologically from the smallest to the largest number and are designed to be read from start to finish, emphasizing the dramatization of inequality as the numbers steadily increase.

Readers should observe the trends and consistencies in the inequalities presented in the report, particularly among specific population demographics (e.g., African American, Latine/x, Indigenous) and communities (e.g., East Side San José). It is clear, there are many receiving considerably less of the economic, political, educational, social, and health-related rewards offered in Silicon Valley.

⁸ The SJSU HRI and the SVPI research team make every effort to engage and include all populations through an intersectional lens. We apologize if any communities are left unheard or unseen. If there are any issues in this year's report please contact the SJSU HRI Director, Dr. Michael Dao (michael.dao@sjsu.edu) or the Principal Investigator, Dr. Anji Buckner-Capone (anji.buckner@sjsu.edu).

⁹ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/122884/638853150702570000>

¹⁰ <https://destinationhomesv.org/documents/2025/05/2024-year-end-progress-report.pdf/>

¹¹ <https://eservices.sccgov.org/OffAgenda/Home/ViewFile/1159>

¹² <https://jointventure.org/news-and-media/blog/2716-beyond-the-briefings-sustainability>

¹³ <https://sd15.senate.ca.gov/news/senator-dave-cortese-introduces-bill-give-homeless-youth-pathway-employment-and-college>

¹⁴ <https://sd15.senate.ca.gov/2025-2026-legislation>

¹⁵ <https://a24.asmdc.org/press-releases/20240930-bill-ensure-food-security-through-cal-fresh-signed-governor>

Where do we go from here?

The Silicon Valley Pain Index is designed to inspire action.

The report intentionally exposes the complexity and pervasiveness of inequality in relation to poverty, health, and quality of life for Silicon Valley residents. We hope that the public (e.g., elected officials, community leaders, and community-based organizations) will use data from the report to highlight, reinforce, and advocate for their work and policies. Moreover, as a public resource, we are committed to working in collaboration and partnership across sectors to alleviate the pain permeating our region.

Communities thrive when all members thrive.

To thrive, we must meet the basic needs of the population and then work to provide opportunities for engagement and participation that contribute value and meaning to the work we each do to collectively harness the full power and potential of Silicon Valley. If we are truly to embrace what it means to be dedicated to Human Rights, we must act in ways that will model inclusivity, acceptance, safety, respect, and the important contributions of all community members. We must work to become a place “where all residents are an equal part of our diverse tapestry, and where anyone who wishes to live in acceptance of others can find refuge¹⁶.”

¹⁶ Board of Supervisors, Resolution Declaring Santa Clara County as a Human Rights County. [Board packet, page 85](#).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2025 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

6 Years and No Clear Path to the Changes We Need and Deserve

.001	Percent of residents (9 households) who hold 15% of the wealth of Silicon Valley.
.33	Cents in pay for Hispanic workers for every \$1 earned by a non-Hispanic white worker in San José, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara.
2	The rate at which the wealth divide has widened in Silicon Valley compared to the U.S. overall in the past decade.
4	Global ranking of San José in "Impossibly Unaffordable" cities.
8.2	Percent increase in homelessness in Santa Clara County, from 9,903 in 2023 to 10,711 in the 2025 PIT Count.
81	Percent higher cost of living in San José compared to the national average.
10,394	Number of unhoused residents in Santa Clara County, the highest of all nine Bay Area counties.
54,582	Number of low-income households in San José who do not have access to an affordable home.
126,800	Gap between the lowest and highest earners in Silicon Valley.
136,532	Amount in dollars the average renter in the San José region needs to make annually to keep apartment rents at 30% of the median income, representing the highest threshold in the nation.

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0	Number of student wellness centers in the San José Unified School District that opened in 2024, despite the growing mental health crisis in youth. ¹
0	Number of Narcan kits stocked at San José Unified School District schools, making SJUSD the only major Bay Area school district that does not stock Narcan or train staff to administer Narcan in case of a fentanyl overdose. ²
0	Number of market rate, multi-family buildings with more than 20 units that began construction in SJ in 2024. ³
.001	Percent of residents (9 households) who hold 15% of the wealth of Silicon Valley. ^{4,5}
.1	Percent of residents who hold 71% of the wealth in Silicon Valley. ⁶
.33	Cents in pay for Hispanic workers for every \$1 earned by a non-Hispanic white worker in San José, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara. ⁷
.48	Cents per hour representing the average wage increase in 2024, the equivalent of \$998 in additional income for a full-time worker. ⁸
1.8	Number of new homeless households for every one household housed in Santa Clara County. ⁹
2	The rate at which the wealth divide has widened in Silicon Valley compared to the U.S. overall in the past decade. ¹⁰
2.5	Number of times that Black residents are more likely to suffer from asthma or lung-related health issues due to climate change and poor air quality. ¹¹
3	Parts per billion (ppb) higher than National Ambient Air Quality Standard of ground-level-ozone for 8-hour average concentration (73 ppb) in Santa Clara County. ^{12, 13, 14}
3	Number of cities (out of 15) in Santa Clara County that have gotten close to the pace needed to meet 2031 housing goals, however no cities have gotten close to their affordable housing goals. ^{15, 16}
3	Percent of employees working in Research and Development at Apple are Black, compared to 6% Hispanic/Latinx, 36% White, and 50% Asian, despite shareholder commitment to DEI. Employees of color are predominantly represented in retail, with 18% Black, 1% indigenous, 28% Hispanic/Latinx, 9% Asian, and 35% White, while overall leadership is 5% Black, 1% Indigenous, 3% multiracial, 9% Hispanic/Latinx, 31% Asian, and 49% White. ^{17, 18}

- 3 Number of times a homeless person can deny an offer of shelter (over 18 months) before they can be arrested in San José.¹⁹
- 3.21 Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births in Silicon Valley in 2024, the highest in the last five years.²⁰
- 3.55 Rate of preeclampsia per 1,000 births for Black mothers versus 1.56 per 1,000 births for all mothers in Santa Clara County.²¹
- 3.7 Percent of homes in San Mateo County that sold under 1 million dollars in 2024, a decade ago 47% were sold under 1 million.²²
- 4 Global ranking of San José in "Impossibly Unaffordable" cities.²³
- 4.15 Times as likely Black/African American are to have an infant die before their first birthday in Silicon Valley compared to their White counterparts (8.3 vs 2.0 per 1,000 live births, respectively).²⁴
- 5 Number of San José police officers involved in shootings in 2024, an increase of 3 from the year before.²⁵
- 5.1 Percent of San Mateo County residents facing food insecurity.²⁶
- 5.5 Percent of mega commuters – more than a 90-minute one way commute – in Silicon Valley. The most common professions include firefighters, roofers, and plumbers.²⁷
- 6 Percent increase in Gonorrhea infection rates in San Mateo County from 2022-2023. During the same time there was a 5% increase in Chlamydia, a 26% increase in late latent syphilis.²⁸
- 7 Number of areas in the county - Gilroy (754), Monte Sereno (51), Morgan Hill (187), Mountain View (495), San José (8,397), Santa Clara (1142), and unincorporated (2,016) - identified with a shortage of preschool spaces.²⁹
- 8 Percent difference in tree canopy cover between low-income census blocks and high-income counterparts in Santa Clara County. Hispanic/Latino communities are 21% more likely to suffer from risk of heat stress and heat mortality during heat waves due to lack of green areas and natural landscapes.^{30, 31, 32, 33}
- 8 Percent of Latino first-time homebuyers who can afford to purchase a median-priced home, compared to first time homebuyers who were Black (9%), white (21%), and Asian (25%).³⁴
- 8.2 Percent increase in homelessness in Santa Clara County, from 9903 in 2023 to 10,711 in the 2025 PIT Count.³⁵
- 8.3 Percent of San Mateo County adults who lack insurance coverage, as reported in the 2024-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan.³⁶

- 9 Number of local billionaires who hold 15 times the wealth of the bottom half of all households in Silicon Valley.³⁷
- 10 Number of people who died while in police custody in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office - the highest in two decades.³⁸
- 10 Percent of San Mateo County adults who are emotionally affected by racism, as reported in the 2024-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan.³⁹
- 11.5 Percent of animals euthanized in SJ Animal Care Services.⁴⁰
- 12 Percent decline in startups being founded by women in 2024, a fifty percent drop from 2019.⁴¹
- 13 Number of alcohol retailers per square mile in East San José, a higher density than the county overall at 9.2). There is a similar pattern with tobacco retailers with 6.7 per square mile in East San José, compared to 3 county-wide.^{42, 43}
- 13.2 Rate per 1,000 of teenage pregnancy among Latino youth in Santa Clara County - almost three times more than the county (5.5/1000).^{44, 45}
- 14 Percent of Santa Clara County Schools located within a 500-foot proximity of major highways, disproportionately burdening air pollution related health risk for predominantly low-income students.⁴⁶
- 14 Percent increase in homelessness in San Mateo County when compared to 2023, 3.6% of county residents are homeless.^{47, 48}
- 15 Number of traffic fatalities among unhoused individuals in San José in council District 7 between 2018 and 2022, representing 35% of all traffic fatalities among the unhoused.⁴⁹
- 16.5 Percent increase in community complaints against San José police officers in 2024.⁵⁰
- 16.98 Percent of Washington Elementary students who were proficient or better in English Language Arts, compared to 49.53% for the San José Unified district and 47.04% for the state.⁵¹
- 17 New affordable housing units in a 345-unit complex, representing 5% of all units, unanimously approved by the city council with 4.9 million dollars in tax cuts and bypassing the 15% affordable unit requirement.⁵²
- 18.9 Rate of preterm birth among American Indian/Alaska Native infants in Santa Clara County, a rate that is more than double when compared to Hispanic (9.4%), Asian/Pacific Islander (8.5%), and White (8.1%) infants.⁵³
- 19 Percent of Santa Clara County seniors who reported not having adequate access to transportation.⁵⁴

- 19 Percent of Latino mothers who were food insecure during pregnancy (compared to 8% county-wide and 3% among white pregnant women).⁵⁵
- 19 Percent of Santa Clara and San Mateo Latino 8th graders who met or exceeded 8th grade math standards, compared to 80% of Asian students.⁵⁶
- 19 Number of cities in Silicon Valley that do not have a minimum wage ordinance.⁵⁷
- 20 Percent of Santa Clara County adults who provided unpaid care to another adult.⁵⁸
- 20 Number of superfund sites located in Silicon Valley (Santa Clara and San Mateo County), primarily located in lower income areas.^{59, 60}
- 20 Percent of San Mateo County adults who had difficulty getting to a physician in the past year, as reported in the 2024-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan.⁶¹
- 21 Percent of new unhoused families with children, the highest subpopulation, followed by young adults at 16%.⁶²
- 22 Number of chemical companies that have been sued by Santa Clara County (including 3M and DuPont), for knowing they were contaminating water supplies and profiting while concealing the health impacts.⁶³
- 24.6 Percent of the Campbell Union School District's Class of 2024 who were not prepared for college/career, compared to 38.1% of the San José Unified School District Class of 2024.⁶⁴
- 25 Percent of (potential) first time homebuyers in San Mateo County who can afford to purchase a median-priced home, compared to 26% in Santa Clara County, 31% in the Bay Area, and 53% in the US.⁶⁵
- 25.2 Percent of chronically absent students in San José Unified school district in 2023-2024.⁶⁶
- 25.5 Rate per 100,000 of new HIV cases among Latino men, more than two times the county-wide rate (10.4/100,000).⁶⁷
- 26 Percentage of Latino Silicon Valley residents were concerned about legal status, an increase of 8% from 2018. The majority (54%) reported those concerns prevented the use of health care services (48%), accessing health insurance (46%), and getting or keeping a job (42%).⁶⁸
- 26 Percent of newly reported HIV cases in San Mateo County who were late testers in 2023, an increase from just 16% in the previous year.⁶⁹
- 26.1 Percent decrease in students who met UC/CSU requirements in the San José Unified School District. Slightly more than a quarter (28.6%) of Black students and 31.6% of Hispanic and Latino students met the requirements in 2023-2024.⁷⁰
- 27 Percent of Latino residents who reported unstable housing.⁷¹

- 27 Percent of Silicon Valley Latinos do not have a high school diploma compared to 6% for non-Latinos in 2023.⁷²
- 28 Percent of Latino third graders who met or exceeded the English standards, compared to 79% of Asian students.⁷³
- 29.97 Age-adjusted rate of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) emergency department visits per 10,000 among Black/African Americans aged 25 and older in San Mateo County in 2023, a rate more than 4 times higher than Asian American residents (7.2/10,000).⁷⁴
- 30 Percent of unhoused single mothers with children living along San José city waterways.⁷⁵
- 30 Percent of San Mateo County adults who did not visit a dentist in the past year.⁷⁶
- 30.6 Chronic absenteeism rate for Pacific Islanders in Santa Clara County, compared to 27.2% for Latino students, 25% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 21.6% African American, 11.6% white, 5.9% Asian, and the county overall at 16%.⁷⁷
- 31 Percent of Black San José renters were severely cost burdened in the city of San José compared to 22% overall and 24% for Latinos.⁷⁸
- 31 Percent more electricity per capita used in Silicon Valley than San Francisco and 12% more than the rest of the state.⁷⁹
- 32 Percent increase in Valley Fever cases (coccidioidomycosis) in Santa Clara County from the 2023-2024 average to 2025.^{80, 81}
- 32.1 Percent of Santa Clara County households with an annual income less than \$100,000 who were unable to afford a two-bedroom apartment, which requires an annual income of \$125,280.⁸²
- 35 Percent of Santa Clara County seniors who believe recreation or social activities were lacking.⁸³
- 35 Percent of Santa Clara County jail releases that were late-night released (compared to Alameda at 10%, Contra Costa at 17% and San Mateo at 10%) challenging access to services and intensive case management linked to recidivism.⁸⁴
- 35.7 Percent of SJSU first time freshman students who graduate in 4 years, slightly lower than CSU system overall (36.2%) and the 2025 goal of 40%.⁸⁵
- 36 Hourly wage needed by two wage earners in a family of four to meet basic needs, 30% of households could not meet basic needs.⁸⁶
- 36 Percent of Latino mothers who did not receive adequate prenatal care from 2019-2023.⁸⁷

- 36 Number of San José Police Department officers who received 3 or more complaints in 2024.⁸⁸
- 37 Percent of traffic fatalities among unhoused in San José were in Vision Zero Priority Safety Corridors.⁸⁹
- 38 Percent of Latino families who live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.⁹⁰
- 38.8 Percent of overdose deaths among older Santa Clara County residents (50-64, 18% of county population) from May 2024-April 2025.⁹¹
- 39 Number of heat-related deaths recorded in 2024, (75% since 2018).⁹²
- 39 Percent of all 2024 startups in Silicon Valley were Artificial Intelligence, a value of \$22.3 billion (in Angel, seed, early-stage funding) that has doubled since 2020.⁹³
- 40 Percent of Silicon Valley renters and homeowners spending more than 30% of their income on monthly rent or mortgage payments, classifying them as “cost burdened” by federal standards.⁹⁴
- 40 Percent decrease in enrollment in the Franklin McKinley school district from the 2011-2012 school year (9673) to the 2023-2024 school year (5,766).⁹⁵
- 42 Number of traffic fatalities among unhoused individuals in San José, with the highest number reported in Council District 7 between 2018 and 2022.⁹⁶
- 42 Number of homes in Santa Clara County that sold between \$500-749,000 in 2024, a decrease from 3,702 in 2014.⁹⁷
- 43.8 Percentage of students in San José Unified School District who were socioeconomically disadvantaged (2024).⁹⁸
- 44 Percent of residents who considered extreme weather as serious problem, a 5% increase from 2023 (39%).⁹⁹
- 44 Percent of Silicon Valley residents reported not being able to consistently afford their monthly expenses with enough left over for savings.¹⁰⁰
- 45 Percent of renters who were housing burdened (spending more than 30% of gross income on rent).¹⁰¹
- 45.7 Percent of drug overdose deaths among the Santa Clara County white population (30.7% of the overall population).¹⁰²
- 46.35 Age-adjusted rate of asthma emergency department visits per 10,000 among Black/African American's aged 25 and older in Santa Clara County in 2023 compared to Asian Americans at just 6.77 per 10,000.¹⁰³
- 50 Percent of those who transitioned to permanent housing with the help of subsidized housing in 2024.¹⁰⁴

- 52 Percent gap between Latino students graduating high school (83%) versus Latino students meeting UC/CSU requirements (31%).¹⁰⁵
- 53 Percent of Latino third graders who met or exceeded the math standards, compared to 81% county wide.¹⁰⁶
- 53 Homeless street sweeps (on average) in the first five months following the Supreme Court decision giving local officials more authority (Grants Pass v. Johnson 6/28/24), an increase from 31 monthly average sweeps prior to the ruling.¹⁰⁷
- 54 Percent of Santa Clara County caregivers who reported a household income of less than 59K/year.¹⁰⁸
- 54 Number of force complaint allegations received against San José police officers.¹⁰⁹
- 54.20 Percent difference in education rates of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union School District (79.2%) compared to residents in the East Side Union High School District (25%).^{110,111}
- 55 Percent gap in graduation rates versus meeting CSU/UC graduation requirements among students with disabilities in Santa Clara County (73% and 18% respectively).¹¹²
- 56 Percent of residents who felt the costs of healthcare was a serious problem, a 10% increase from the year before.¹¹³
- 57 Percentage of Foster youth who earned a high school diploma in 2023-2024 4-year cohort (27% dropped out and 11% still enrolled).¹¹⁴
- 57.4 Percent of newly diagnosed HIV cases among Hispanic/Latino residents in San Mateo County, making up 35 of the 61 new HIV cases in 2023.¹¹⁵
- 58 Percent of Santa Clara County caregivers who experience strain and 36% who report symptoms of depression.¹¹⁶
- 58.5 Percent increase in Santa Clara County's homeless counts since 2015, with a 56% increase in the city of San José. San Mateo County saw a 43.6% increase during the same time.¹¹⁷
- 59 Percent of local elected officials who were white, double the representation of the population overall.¹¹⁸
- 60 Amount in hourly wage San José residents need to afford the average monthly rent of \$3,000. The minimum wage for most workers in the city is \$17.55.¹¹⁹
- 60 Percent or more of the electricity supplied by municipal utilities is consumed by data centers to power high performance computing (AI, cloud computing and machine learning).^{120, 121, 122}

- 62 Percent of voter turnout in the 2024 election, which exceeded the state average, but was significantly lower than the 2020 election (73%).¹²³
- 62 Percent of the total County population currently exposed to extreme heat conditions.¹²⁴
- 62 Percent difference between students at Lynbrook High School who passed at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam (80%) compared to William C. Overfelt high school (18%).^{125, 126}
- 63 Percent of Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley survey respondents with at least one household member employed.¹²⁷
- 64 Number of spots the city of San José dropped (from 44 in 2024 to 108 in 2025) in the Milken Institute's Best Performing Cities report which is based on quality of life, affordability, and wage growth.¹²⁸
- 65 Percent of all home sales in Atherton that were all-cash purchases in 2024.¹²⁹
- 67 Percent of San José Police Department issued complaints against officers that were sustained; 14% of community complaints were sustained and the majority (53%) of officer complaints were exonerated.¹³⁰
- 68 Percent of Santa Clara County foster youth that were Latino (as of April 2025).¹³¹
- 68.34 Percent increase of restraints and seclusions in Santa Clara County's public and non-public schools from 2021 to 2024 (136 physical restraints in 21/22 academic year, 177 in 22/23, and 199 in 23/24), the majority were reported in non-public schools.¹³²
- 69 Percent of Santa Clara County high school students who dropped out were Latino.¹³³
- 69.21 Age-adjusted rate of asthma-related emergency department visits per 10,000 among Black/African Americans in San Mateo County in 2023, more than 4 times greater than Asian Americans.¹³⁴
- 71 Graduation rate for students with disabilities in Santa Clara County, a 22% difference compared to students without disabilities that has remained relatively unchanged since 2018.¹³⁵
- 73 Percent of residents who felt access to mental health resources was a serious problem.¹³⁶
- 75 Percent of Silicon Valley residents who were concerned about the growing disparity between tech wages and wages of other industries.¹³⁷
- 75 Percent of extremely low-income families in San José who allocate more than half of their monthly income on housing (severely cost-burdened).¹³⁸
- 77 Percent of youth detained in County Probation were Latino in 2023.¹³⁹

78	Percent of residents who considered traffic congestion as a serious problem, a 15% increase from 2023 (63%). ¹⁴⁰
79	Percent of Silicon Valley residents felt buying groceries was harder to afford in the last 12 months, 72% said utilities were harder to afford, and 65% said transportation was harder to afford. ¹⁴¹
80	Percent of survey respondents who consider increasing wildfires a serious problem. ¹⁴²
80	Percent of Silicon Valley Latinos who graduate from high school, significantly lower than Asian American students at 96%. ¹⁴³
81	Percent higher cost of living in San José compared to the national average. ¹⁴⁴
82	Percent of residents who felt childcare costs were a problem. ¹⁴⁵
83	Percent of Santa Clara County caregivers who provide high level intensity services. ¹⁴⁶
86	Percent of Silicon Valley residents who felt the cost of healthcare was a serious problem, a 10% increase from the year before. ¹⁴⁷
86.1	Age-adjusted rate of asthma emergency department visits per 10,000 among Black/African Americans in Santa Clara County in 2023 compared to Asian Americans at 12.09 per 10,000. ¹⁴⁸
88	Percent of Silicon Valley residents concerned about Artificial Intelligence (AI) deep fakes; 86% were concerned about AI influencing elections; 62% were concerned about the energy use required to power AI. ¹⁴⁹
90	Percent of Second Harvest Food Bank survey respondents with children who worry about not having nutritious foods, almost 60% (of employed respondents) can't cover their monthly expenses, and more than half were worried about next month's rent or mortgage. ¹⁵⁰
90	Percent increase in the price of a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County over the past 10 years. ¹⁵¹
96	Percent of Silicon Valley residents who felt cost of living was a serious problem in 2024, 78% felt the unequal distribution of wealth was a serious problem. ¹⁵²
108	Number of overdose deaths by fentanyl in Santa Clara County reported in 2024, representing a decrease of nearly 50% from 2023. ¹⁵³
111	Percent higher cost of living in Santa Clara compared to the national average. ¹⁵⁴
125	Number of data centers in Silicon Valley. ^{155, 156}

- 154.7 Points below standards for English Language and Arts among homeless students enrolled in San José Unified School District.¹⁵⁷
- 168 Number of people who died by suicide in 2024, an increase of 30 from 2023.¹⁵⁸
- 193.9 Rate of severe maternal morbidity per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations among African/African Ancestry mothers in Santa Clara County between 2020 and 2022 compared to Asian/Pacific Islander (142.5), Latino (140.5), and White mothers (115.6) and the county overall (136.7).¹⁵⁹
- 200 Number of animals exceeding shelter capacity during 2024 point in time count for San José animal services.¹⁶⁰
- 203 Total recorded deaths among those experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County in 2024; fewer than in 2023 (214), 2022 (244), 2021 (256), and 2020 (227).¹⁶¹
- 330 Number of total drug-related deaths in 2024 in Santa Clara County.¹⁶²
- 342 Number of children who were entered into the foster system in Santa Clara County between April 2024-March representing an increase of nearly 100 from 2024 and 200 from 2023.¹⁶³
- 414 Number of complaints filed against San José police officers; 373 were from community members with most complaints filed in District 3 (113) and an increase in citizens' complaints by 94 from 2023 to 2024.¹⁶⁴
- 554 From 2023-2024, SJSU Cares provided 554 emergency beds, a 27% increase since 2021.¹⁶⁵
- 654 Rate of homelessness per 100,000 in the city of San José.¹⁶⁶
- 666 Number of allegations of police misconduct from 373 community complaints against San José police officers, with the most common allegations as procedural (218), courtesy (108), arrest or detention (105), and bias based policing (99).¹⁶⁷
- 900 Number of food distribution sites managed by over 400 local partners to provide food (including fresh fruit and vegetables, protein, dairy, grains, and pantry staples) free of charge from Second Harvest Food Bank.¹⁶⁸
- 950 Number of unhoused children in the East Side High School Union School District as of 2024.¹⁶⁹
- 958 Number of children displaced by 3 schools (McKinley Elementary, Ramblewood Elementary, and Los Arboles Elementary) selected to be shut down in the Franklin McKinley School District.¹⁷⁰
- 969 Fewer homeless people in Santa Clara County were housed in 2024 (3591) when compared to 2023 (4650).¹⁷¹

999	Number of new child welfare cases entered in Santa Clara County, an increase of 245 cases from the previous year. ¹⁷²
1,028	Number of Santa Clara County high school students who dropped out in the 2023/2024 school year. ¹⁷³
1,119	Number of students per every 1 school psychologist in Santa Clara County compared to San Mateo County (994:1) and the state (1041:1). ¹⁷⁴
2,200	Number of San José students experiencing homelessness. ¹⁷⁵
2,281	Number of Juvenile arrests in Santa Clara County in 2024, an increase of 121 since 2023. Most of those arrested were male (70.9%), Latino (67.4%), aged 16-17 (50.8%), and occurred in San José City (53%). ¹⁷⁶
4,666	Number of weapon-involved domestic violence calls in Santa Clara County in 2024 (an increase of more than 1,000 from 2023 and nearly 3,000 compared to 2022). ¹⁷⁷
3,922	Number of Santa Clara County residents living with HIV in 2023; 65% of new HIV diagnoses were among people of Latine/x/Hispanic ethnicity (an increase of 61% from 2022). ¹⁷⁸
4,087	Number of evictions recorded in Santa Clara County in 2024 compared to 3,784 in 2023, 3,310 in 2022, 1,101 in 2021, 884 in 2020, and 2,804 in 2019. ¹⁷⁹
4,098	Number of new unhoused households between July 2023 and June 2024. ¹⁸⁰
4,311	Number of new affordable homes needed in San José per year to meet its 2031 goals. The most the city has gained in the past five years was 259 in 2020; on average, San José gains less than one affordable home per 1,000 residents. ^{181, 182}
4,800	Amount per month to pay for full-time, in-home childcare. ¹⁸³
5,000	Number of farming related jobs provided in Santa Clara County. ¹⁸⁴
5,477	Estimated number of unsheltered San José residents living on the streets. ¹⁸⁵
7,089	Difference in funding per student between basic aid and non-basic aid school districts in Santa Clara County. ¹⁸⁶
7,775	Number of total homes the city of San José would need to build every year until 2031 to meet state housing goals. Since 2019, the most homes the city has added in a single year was 1,710. ^{187, 188}
8,630	Number of elder abuse reports filed with Adult Protective Services in 2023, a 13% increase from 2022. ¹⁸⁹
10,394	Number of unhoused residents in Santa Clara County, the highest of all nine Bay Area counties. ¹⁹⁰

12,000	Difference in dollars in annual expenditure per student between San José's East Side Union High School District, which spends \$14,000, compared to the Palo Alto Unified School District which spends nearly \$26,000 per student. ¹⁹¹
12,628	Total number of child maltreatment allegations in Santa Clara County in 2024 - an increase of 2000 cases since 2020. ¹⁹²
13,042	Number of preschool space shortages in 2023 in 7 Santa Clara County cities - San José (8397), Gilroy (754), Monte Sereno (51), Santa Clara (1142), Mountain View (595), Morgan Hill (187), and unincorporated (2016). ¹⁹³
13,500	Number of acres of farmland at risk of development in the next 20 years, which represents half of the 27,000 acres of farmland in Santa Clara County. ¹⁹⁴
14,700	Number of federal jobs cut in the Bay Area in the first 4 months of 2025 presidential administration, close to half (45%) of the total state loss. ¹⁹⁵
14,900	Average amount in dollars for an emergency department visit related to opioid use, which is highest among 75–79-year-olds at 13 per 100,000. ¹⁹⁶
16,097	Number of homes Santa Clara County would need to build to meet state housing goals, 9,106 of which must be affordable. ^{197, 198}
17,485	The number of people who obtained stable housing in Santa Clara County from Jan 1, 2020, to Dec 31, 2024, not yet meeting the 2025 goal of 20,000. ^{199, 200}
19,908	Median income disparity between females (\$52,299) and males (\$72,207) in San José. ²⁰¹
23,000	The number of people supported in temporary housing and shelter in Santa Clara County from Jan 1, 2022 to Dec 31, 2024. ²⁰²
24,346	Number of older Santa Clara County adults living below the Federal Poverty Line (8.8%), another 6% are between 1-1.5 FPL. ²⁰³
25,072	Total unmet demand for childcare in existing facilities in Santa Clara County (2023). ²⁰⁴
27,518	Enrollment decline in Santa Clara County schools from the 2019/2020 school year to the 2023/2024 school year. ²⁰⁵
31,200	Cost of full-time childcare at a licensed infant care facility in 2024. ²⁰⁶
33,000	Number of Silicon Valley workers laid off in 2023 and 2024; of these, 87% were from tech - a dramatic shift from prior years where most layoffs were in hospitality, entertainment, or recreation. ²⁰⁷
33,193	Number of people who received homelessness prevention assistance in Santa Clara County in 2024. ²⁰⁸

39,523	Median household income for adults with disabilities in Santa Clara County, 16.5% of people with disabilities are below 100 percent of the federal poverty level compared to 6.6% of the non-disabled population. ²⁰⁹
42,600	Number of low-income adults over 60 in Santa Clara County (9.79% of the over 60 population). ^{210, 211}
49,285	Difference in revenue per pupil between the basic aid funded districts of Campbell Union (\$58,897, enrollment 448) and the Rolling Hills Middle (\$9632, enrollment 822); the county average for the 2022-2023 school year was \$17,294 (enrollment 241,986). ²¹²
54,148	Number of new affordable rental homes needed in Santa Clara County to simply existing needs in the county, 40,550 of which must be at or below extremely low-income. ^{213, 214}
54,582	Number of low-income households in San José who do not have access to an affordable home. ²¹⁵
60,000	Number of people within moderate socially vulnerable communities in South Santa Clara County who are at risk for more frequent extreme heat events. ²¹⁶
71,400	Average cost of living per year for a Santa Clara County older adult couple in good health with a mortgage, \$19,656 (138%) higher than the national average. ²¹⁷
110,000	Number of households with near zero (or no) net assets. ²¹⁸
111,700	Annual income that is considered the low-income limit in Santa Clara County for a household of one. ^{219, 220}
125,280	Annual income a household or individual needs to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County, a minimum wage worker would need almost four full-time jobs to afford the monthly rent of \$3,123. ²²¹
126,800	Gap between the lowest and highest earners in Silicon Valley. ²²²
128,773	Number of new homes needed by 2031 across all cities in Santa Clara County to meet housing goals, 72,848 of which must be affordable, or below 120% of the area median income. ^{223, 224}
136,532	Amount in dollars the average renter in the San José region needs to make annually to keep apartment rents at 30% of the median income, representing the highest threshold in the nation. ²²⁵
156,650	Annual income considered low income in San Mateo County for a household of 4, compared to 159,550 for Santa Clara County and 94,500 for the state. ^{226, 227}
201,000	Number of households that have less than \$5000 in total assets. ²²⁸

321,779	Monetary labor productivity value for Silicon Valley employees (42% higher than California and 75% higher than the country). ²²⁹
367,500	Minimum qualifying income for a first-time homebuyer in San Mateo and \$340,200 for Santa Clara County, compared to the state at \$67,800. ²³⁰
370,000	Annual income necessary to afford a median priced home in San José, 54% more than six years ago. ²³¹
620,000	Settlement amount approved by the San José City Council for 2020 George Floyd protest injuries in a civil-rights lawsuit filed by 7 people. ²³²
830,000	Projected Title I funding cuts at Campbell Union School District that directly supports the most vulnerable children. ²³³
1 million	Amount unanimously approved by SJ City Council in June 2025 to pay to the family of a man killed by police in 2021. ²³⁴
1.15 million	Amount of grant funding ceased in February 2025 from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative's (CZI) Science and Leadership Awards; CZI formally shifted the focus of their philanthropy by halting grants to local non-profits working in the areas of equity and social advocacy. ^{235, 236, 237, 238}
1.8 million	Number of people in Santa Clara County who face health risks due to poor air quality. ^{239, 240}
1.92 million	Amount in dollars representing the median home price in Silicon Valley and nearly 71% of all homes sold. ²⁴¹
2.171 million	Cost of a median priced single-family home in Santa Clara County in May 2025, a 3.4% increase from the prior year. ²⁴²
2.6 million	Square footage commissioned in Silicon Valley for data center space, including 34 data centers in a 3.5 square mile area of Santa Clara. ²⁴³
2.8 million	Amount in dollars of projected decrease in parks funding in the 2025-2026 San José City Budget. ²⁴⁴
20 million	Amount in dollars spent over budget in the Alum Rock School District, leading to the closure of 6 schools in 2025/2026, 2 in 2026-2027, 3 consolidated schools, and 3 redesigned - impacting 3,625 students. ²⁴⁵
22.9 million	Budget shortfall at Franklin-McKinley school district, with the potential to lead to 3 school closures in a district that is 70% low income and 45% English Language learners. ²⁴⁶
25 million	Amount in dollars spent per year on disbanding and cleaning up homeless camps in San José. ²⁴⁷

35.6 million	Budget deficit expected for the City of San José in 2025-2026. ²⁴⁸
55.9 million	Amount in dollars in cancelled in National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant funding to Bay Area Universities from Jan to March 2025. ²⁴⁹
70 million	Amount of projected loss in federal funding in Santa Clara County. ²⁵⁰
193 million	Total amount invested over six years in affordable housing by Meta, despite pledge of 1 billion over 10 years. ²⁵¹
225 million	Amount of decreased state funding for affordable housing in Santa Clara County. ²⁵²
554 million	Amount in dollars of the maintenance backlog at San José city parks. ²⁵³
1 billion	Projected costs for Santa Clara Valley to address historical land “subsidence” (gradual settling or sudden sinking of land) due to groundwater pumping. ²⁵⁴
1.9 billion	Amount of federal Medicaid funds at risk for Santa Clara County’s healthcare financing, which supports hospitals, clinics, and behavioral health services for low-income residents. ²⁵⁵
13.7 billion	Amount in dollars approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 30% of which may be in jeopardy due to federal funding uncertainties. ²⁵⁶
230 billion	Estimated costs associated with local inaction in addressing rising sea levels, which will disrupt transportation, water supply, wastewater treatment, jobs, and housing. ²⁵⁷
253.5 billion	Amount in dollars of the net worth of Mark Zuckerberg (Meta CEO), which is more than 20 times the wealth of the bottom 446,505 households. ^{258, 259, 260}
535 billion	Amount of combined net worth across 3 companies (Adobe, Alphabet, Meta) that ceased DEI initiatives in early 2025. ^{261, 262, 263, 264}
683.2 billion	Amount in dollars of the collective net worth of the wealthiest 9 households in 2025, 136 billion dollars more than their collective net worth in 2024. ²⁶⁵
1.01 trillion	Amount in dollars of liquid wealth in Silicon Valley. ²⁶⁶

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WEALTH INEQUALITY

2025 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

6 Years and No Clear Path to the Changes We Need and Deserve

40	Percent of Silicon Valley renters and homeowners spending more than 30% of their income on monthly rent or mortgage payments, classifying them as “cost burdened” by federal standards.
44	Percent of Silicon Valley residents reported not being able to consistently afford their monthly expenses with enough left over for savings.
60	Amount in hourly wage San José residents need to afford the average monthly rent of \$3,000. The minimum wage for most workers in the city is \$17.55.
75	Percent of extremely low-income families in San José who allocate more than half of their monthly income on housing (severely cost-burdened).
19,908	Median income disparity between females (\$52,299) and males (\$72,207) in San José.
110,000	Number of households with near zero (or no) net assets.
125,280	Annual income a household or individual needs to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County, a minimum wage worker would need almost four full-time jobs to afford the monthly rent of \$3,123.
156,650	Annual income considered low income in San Mateo County for a household of 4, compared to \$159,550 for Santa Clara County and \$94,500 for the state.
367,500	Minimum qualifying income for a first-time homebuyer in San Mateo and \$340,200 for Santa Clara County, compared to the state at \$67,800.
370,000	Annual income necessary to afford a median priced home in San José, 54% more than six years ago.

RACIAL INEQUALITY

2025 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

6 Years and No Clear Path to the Changes We Need and Deserve

2.5	Number of times that Black residents are more likely to suffer from asthma or lung-related health issues due to climate change and poor air quality.
4.15	Times as likely Black/African American are to have an infant die before their first birthday in Silicon Valley compared to their White counterparts (8.3 vs 2.0 per 1,000 live births, respectively).
18.9	Rate of preterm birth among American Indian/Alaska Native infants in Santa Clara County, a rate that is more than double when compared to Hispanic (9.4%), Asian/Pacific Islander (8.5%), and White (8.1%) infants.
19	Percent of Latino mothers who were food insecure during pregnancy (compared to 8% county-wide and 3% among white pregnant women).
19	Percent of Santa Clara and San Mateo Latino 8th graders who met or exceeded 8th grade math standards, compared to 80% of Asian students.
27	Percent of Silicon Valley Latinos who did not have a high school diploma compared to 6% for non-Latinos in 2023.
31	Percent of Black San José renters were severely cost burdened in the city of San José compared to 22% overall and 24% for Latinos.
46.35	Age-adjusted rate of asthma emergency department visits per 10,000 among Black/African American's aged 25 and older in Santa Clara County in 2023 compared to Asian Americans at just 6.77 per 10,000.
59	Percent of local elected officials who were white, double the representation of the population overall.
193.9	Rate of severe maternal morbidity per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations among African/African Ancestry mothers in Santa Clara County between 2020 and 2022 compared to Asian/Pacific Islander (142.5), Latino (140.5), and White mothers (115.6) and the county overall (136.7).

Full report available: www.sjsu.edu/hri

Infographic by: Briyana Costa

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TECH INEQUALITY

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3	Percent of employees working in Research and Development at Apple are Black, compared to 6% Hispanic/Latinx, 36% White, and 50% Asian, despite shareholder commitment to DEI.
39	Percent of all 2024 startups in Silicon Valley that were Artificial Intelligence, a value of \$22.3 billion (in Angel, seed, early-stage funding) that has doubled since 2020.
60	Percent or more of the electricity supplied by municipal utilities is consumed by data centers to power high performance computing (AI, cloud computing and machine learning).
75	Percent of Silicon Valley residents who were concerned about a growing disparity between tech wages and wages of other industries.
88	Percent of Silicon Valley residents concerned about Artificial Intelligence (AI) deep fakes; 86% were concerned about AI influencing elections; 62% were concerned about the energy use required to power AI.
33,000	Number of Silicon Valley workers laid off in 2023 and 2024; of these, 87% were from tech - a dramatic shift from prior years where most layoffs were in hospitality, entertainment, or recreation.
2.6 million	Square footage commissioned in Silicon Valley for data center space, including 34 data centers in a 3.5 square mile area of Santa Clara.
193 million	Total amount invested over six years in affordable housing by Meta, despite pledge of 1 billion over 10 years.
253.5 billion	Amount in dollars of the net worth of Mark Zuckerberg (Meta CEO), which is more than 20 times the wealth of the bottom 446,505 households.
535 billion	Amount of combined net worth across 3 companies (Adobe, Alphabet, Meta) that ceased DEI initiatives in early 2025.

HOUSING INEQUALITY

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1.8	Number of new homeless households for every one household housed in Santa Clara County.
27	Percent of Latino residents who reported unstable housing.
42	Number of homes in Santa Clara County that sold between \$500-749,000 in 2024, a decrease from 3,702 in 2014.
45	Percent of renters who were housing burdened (spending more than 30% of gross income on rent).
58.5	Percent increase in Santa Clara County's homeless counts since 2015, with a 56% increase in the city of San José. San Mateo County saw a 43.6% increase during the same time.
90	Percent increase in the price of a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County over the past 10 years.
950	Number of unhoused children in the East Side High School Union School District as of 2024.
4,087	Number of evictions recorded in Santa Clara County in 2024 compared to 3,784 in 2023, 3,310 in 2022, 1,101 in 2021, 884 in 2020, and 2,804 in 2019.
4,098	Number of new unhoused households between July 2023 and June 2024.
7,775	Number of total homes the city of San José would need to build every year until 2031 to meet state housing goals. Since 2019, the most homes the city has added in a single year was 1,710.

PUBLIC HEALTH INEQUALITY

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0	Number of Narcan kits stocked at SJUSD schools, making SJUSD the only major Bay Area school district that does not stock Narcan or train staff to administer Narcan in case of a fentanyl overdose.
2.5	Number of times that Black residents are more likely to suffer from asthma or lung-related health issues due to climate change and poor air quality.
3.21	Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births in Silicon Valley in 2024, the highest in the last five years.
6	Percent increase in Gonorrhea infection rates in San Mateo County from 2022-2023. During the same time there was a 5% increase in Chlamydia, and a 26% increase in late latent syphilis.
10	Number of people who died while in police custody in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office - the highest in two decades.
14	Percent of Santa Clara County Schools located within a 500-foot proximity of major highways, disproportionately burdening air pollution related health risk for predominantly low-income students.
25.5	Rate per 100,000 of new HIV cases among Latino men, more than two times the county-wide rate (10.4/100,000).
38.8	Percent of overdose deaths among older Santa Clara County residents (50-64, 18% of county population) from May 2024-April 2025.
168	Number of people who died by suicide in 2024, an increase of 30 from 2023.
60,000	Number of people within moderate socially vulnerable communities in South Santa Clara County who are at risk for more frequent extreme heat events.

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EDUCATION INEQUALITY

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7	Number of areas in the county - Gilroy (754), Monte Sereno (51), Morgan Hill (187), Mountain View (495), San José (8,397), Santa Clara (1142), and unincorporated (2,016) - identified with a shortage of preschool spaces.
16.98	Percent of Washington Elementary students who were proficient or better in English Language Arts, compared to 49.53% for the San José Unified district and 47.04% for the state.
26.1	Percent decrease in students who met UC/CSU requirements in the San José Unified School District. Slightly more than a quarter (28.6%) of Black students and 31.6% of Hispanic and Latino students met the requirements in 2023-2024.
40	Percent decrease in enrollment in the Franklin McKinley school district from the 2011-2012 school year (9,673) to the 2023-2024 school year (5,766).
52	Percent gap between Latino students graduating high school (83%) versus Latino students meeting UC/CSU requirements (31%).
54.20	Percent difference in education rates of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union School District (79.2%) compared to residents in the East Side Union High School District (25%).
958	Number of children displaced by 3 schools (McKinley Elementary, Ramblewood Elementary, and Los Arboles Elementary) selected to be shut down in the Franklin McKinley School District.
27,518	Enrollment decline in Santa Clara County schools from the 2019/2020 school year to the 2023/2024 school year.
20 million	Amount in dollars spent over budget in the Alum Rock School District, leading to the closure of 6 schools in 2025/2026, 2 in 2026-2027, 3 consolidated schools, and 3 redesigned - impacting 3,625 students.
22.9 million	Budget shortfall at Franklin-McKinley school district, with the potential to lead to 3 school closures in a district that is 70% low income and 45% English Language learners.

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