

2026

Silicon Valley Pain Index

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

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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 county³”, which it declared in 2018 in accordance with the International Bill of Human Rights and in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2023.
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 SVPI was inspired by Professor Bill Quigley’s Katrina Pain Index⁴, which followed the devastating 2005 hurricane, and the 2020 national Black Lives Matter⁵ 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, SJSU. 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 support the research team each year. The report is currently led by Dr. Anji Buckner (Department of Public Health) and Dr. Michael Dao (Department of Kinesiology), of the SJSU Human Rights Institute. Under their 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.

The SVPI highlights societal and community pain rooted in systemic and structural inequalities that highly affect all aspects of wellbeing. Pain is representative of both community and personal distress or suffering, resulting in negative impacts on quality of life. Furthermore, our community pain disproportionately impacts the most marginalized and under resourced populations. As this report shows, it is undoubtedly clear that people and communities in Silicon Valley are experiencing pain that is detrimental to wellbeing. We know, now more than ever, that it will take grassroots activism and cross-sector collaboration to make changes designed to alleviate the pain in our region.⁶

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 2026 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 2026 SVPI. There are instances where the data are expanded to include the San Francisco, Alameda County cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City and Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County.

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 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/>)

⁵ Black Lives Matter Movement <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

⁶ 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

The six previously published reports have all illustrated persistent inequality in employment, education, housing, population health, and overall well-being. The 2026 report draws new attention to the rising concerns in natural resource consumption of data centers and the potential health risks associated with these emerging technologies and the evolving financial realities of federal policies that have drastically altered community social service obligations.

Simultaneously, there have been notable improvements, including:

- Continued growth in the diversity of local leadership, for example 32% of city and county managers in Silicon Valley are women, significantly higher than the state (19%);⁷
- Ongoing commitment to environmental improvements such as residential solar capacity and public availability of EV charging stations;^{8,9}
- Behavioral Health programs reaching the community widely through youth, parent, and community-based programs designed to improve mental health;¹⁰
- Incremental, but important gains in community safety, e.g., there were fewer traffic fatalities in the past year, crime rates in San José decreased, local law enforcement use of red flag laws, and juvenile arrests were lower in 2025 than 2024;^{11,12,13}
- Access to transitional housing opportunities for unhoused San José residents through the development of 11 new tiny home villages servicing 1240 people;¹⁴
- Sustained engagement in higher education, noted in the decade high enrollment at SJSU with more than 35,000 matriculated students;¹⁵
- Increased number of nonprofit arts organizations from 2024.¹⁶

So, where do we go from here?

The SVPI is designed to motivate action. The report intentionally exposes regional inequality in relation to poverty, health, and quality of life for Silicon Valley residents. We hope the public (e.g., elected officials, community leaders, community-based organizations, and concerned residents) will use data points from the report to highlight and reinforce advocacy and social change efforts.

How to read the SVPI

The 2026 Silicon Valley Pain Index is composed of more than 300 statistics drawn from over 250 sources. The data were obtained from public records, reports, and research about Silicon

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⁷ <https://jointventure.org/images/stories/pdf/index2026-jvsv.pdf>

⁸ <https://jointventure.org/images/stories/pdf/index2026-jvsv.pdf>

⁹ <https://siliconvalleyindicators.org/data/place/environment/cleantech/electric-vehicle-infrastructure/>

¹⁰ https://files.santaclaracounty.gov/exjcpb1431/2026-01/fy25-division-report-final-revised112425.pdf?VersionId=u4hVQbL2e_9QNRyeowuMsLtXjaH2bT3t

¹¹ <https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-traffic-deaths-dropped-in-2025/>

¹² <https://www.sjpd.org/records/crime-stats-maps/crime-statistics>

¹³ <https://pro.santaclaracounty.gov/data-and-reports/data-dashboard/juvenile-arrests-and-citations>

¹⁴ <https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-opens-tiny-home-village-on-valley-water-land/>

¹⁵ https://prd-analytics.sjsu.edu/t/IRPublic/views/QuickFacts_Consolidated_Dashboard/SJSUQuickFacts?%3Aorigin=card_share_link&%3Aembed=y

¹⁶ <https://siliconvalleyindicators.org/data/society/arts-culture/arts-culture-organizations/nonprofit-arts-organizations/>

Valley published over the past year. The statistics are presented numerically and chronologically from the smallest to the largest. The table is intended to be read from start to finish, dramatizing 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 and communities. It is clear, there are many communities and populations receiving considerably less of the economic, political, educational, social, and health-related rewards offered in Silicon Valley.

Communities can thrive when all members thrive. To thrive, we must meet the basic needs of the population and provide opportunities for engagement that contribute value and meaning to collectively harness our full potential. Being 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 refuge”¹⁷ requires collective action, sustained commitment, and innovative leadership. If we truly embrace what it means to be dedicated to Human Rights, we each must act in ways that will model inclusivity, acceptance, safety, and respect.

¹⁷ Board of Supervisors, Resolution Declaring Santa Clara County as a Human Rights County. [Board packet, page 85.](#)

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0	Number of new undocumented Medi-Cal enrollments in 2026. ¹
0.1	Percent of Silicon Valley homes were less than \$500,000 in 2025 (a total of 8 homes). ²
0.1	Percent of Silicon Valley households that hold over 30 million dollars in investable assets. ³
1	Ranking of San José as the least affordable city to buy a home in the world. ⁴
1.98	The median price of all single-family homes sold in Silicon Valley, in millions, more than 1.1 million dollars higher than the state. ⁵
3.4	Higher rate of arrests among Latino residents compared to the white arrest rate in Santa Clara County in 2025, the highest in the state. ⁶
3.6	Percent GDP growth in Silicon Valley in 2025, 2.8% greater than the state and 2.5% more growth than the US. ⁷
4	Number of superintendents in Alum Rock School District since March 2024. ⁸
4.3	Percent increase in groceries over the last year among Bay Area households. ⁹
4.5	Wastewater recycling rate in 2025, which decreased from 4.7% in 2024. ¹⁰
5	Increase in gallons per person per day in Silicon Valley per-capita water use in 2025 compared to 2024. ¹¹
5	Percent of single-family homes sold between \$500k-999k in 2025. ¹²
5	Number of elementary schools the San Jose Unified School District Board voted to close (Empire Gardens, Lowell, Gardner, Canoas, Terrell) in the next school year, with one (Hammer Montessori) being relocated to the Gardner Campus; all five are Title 1 schools predominantly serving low-income students and families. ^{13,14}
5	Percent of Bay Area workforce decline in the top 20 Silicon Valley tech companies (about 13,400 jobs), while their global workforce increased by 4% in 2025. ¹⁵
5	Times more allegations of child maltreatment in Santa Clara County among Black children compared to white in 2025. ¹⁶

- 5.1 Increased rate of HIV diagnoses per 100,000 among males aged 25-44 in Santa Clara County from 2023 to 2024.¹⁷
- 6 Percent of technical roles at Silicon Valley's largest tech companies held by Black or African American employees.¹⁸
- 7.4 Percent of children in Santa Clara County are living in poverty.¹⁹
- 8 Percent of technical roles at Silicon Valley's largest tech companies held Hispanic or Latino employees.²⁰
- 8 Number of acres required for the Santa Clara Data Center (CA3).²¹
- 8 Number of youth ages 10-24 who die by suicide per every 100,000, which is higher than the state (6.0), and significantly higher than San Mateo County (3.9).²²
- 8.6 Percent of Silicon Valley's wealthiest residents' 1.52 billion dollars in philanthropic donations that were directed towards local needs in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.²³
- 9 Percentage of global tech workforce who are working in Silicon Valley, approximately 215,000.²⁴
- 9.7 Births per 1000 residents in Silicon Valley, the lowest since 1978 despite a small increase from 2024.²⁵
- 9.8 Higher rate of arrests among Black residents compared to the white arrest rate in Santa Mateo County in 2025, the highest in the state.²⁶
- 10 Number of recorded heat-related deaths in Santa Clara County from 6/1/25 through 3/8/26.²⁷
- 12 Number of households (.001% of the regional population) that hold 18% of the wealth in Silicon Valley, a 3% increase from 2024.²⁸
- 12 Percentage of Latino/a/x/e children who experienced poverty in 2024, compared to 7% of all children.²⁹
- 12 Difference in years of life expectancy between Asian & Pacific Islander (87.7) and American Indian and Alaskan Native (75.3).³⁰
- 14 Percent of adults with 4 or more adverse childhood experiences.³¹
- 15 Percent increase in TB diagnoses in 2025.³²
- 15 Percent of Silicon Valley residents who likely had serious psychological distress in 2024.³³
- 16 Percentage of unhoused respondents fleeing domestic violence.³⁴

16.6	Percent of Silicon Valley adult and teen residents who had thought about suicide in 2024. ³⁵
18	Percent Santa Clara County Special Education students met standard math proficiency in 2024-2025 school year. ³⁶
18	The percentage of pay difference by gender in Silicon Valley tech. ³⁷
18	Percentage of unhoused respondents with a history in the foster care system. ³⁸
20	Percent decline in enrollment in SJ unified school district since 2017 (approximately 6000 students). ³⁹
20	Percent of respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who did not feel safe expressing ethnic or cultural identity. ⁴⁰
21.5	Percentage of all funded startups in the state (1251) that were in Silicon Valley (269). ⁴¹
22	Percent of households in Silicon Valley that do not fall below the Federal Poverty Level but are below self-sufficiency standard. ⁴²
22	Percent retired respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who are struggling or in serious financial trouble. ⁴³
23	Percent of students from non-traditional schools in Santa Clara County who currently use alcohol or drugs. ⁴⁴
24	Percentage of unhoused veterans who report their primary reason for homelessness is job loss. ^{45,46}
24	Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who started doing gig work to make ends meet. ⁴⁷
24	Percent of Medi-Cal redeterminations discontinued in Santa Clara County. ⁴⁸
25	Percent of unhoused who reported not receiving any form of government assistance (e.g., Medi-Cal/Medicare, SNAP, SSI/SSDI, CalWorks/TANF, social security). ⁴⁹
25	Percent of Santa Clara County residents who rely on Medi-Cal. ⁵⁰
25	Percent increase in household liquid wealth since 2023, outpacing public capital, which grew 16% since 2023. ⁵¹
25	Percent Santa Clara County Special Education students who met UC/CSU requirements. ⁵²

25	Percent of students from non-traditional schools in San Mateo County who currently use alcohol or drugs. ⁵³
25	Percent babies born from cesarian births in Silicon Valley in 2024. ⁵⁴
25	Percent of Medi-Cal redeterminations discontinued in San Mateo County. ⁵⁵
26	Percent of Silicon Valley first time homebuyers who can afford the median home price in 2025. ⁵⁶
26	Percent of Silicon Valley 7th graders who reported "cyberbullying" during the 2023-2024 school year. ⁵⁷
26	Percent of Hispanic SJSU students who graduated in four years (entering cohort 2021). ⁵⁸
26	Percent of overdose deaths that occurred in East San Jose from 2022-2024. ⁵⁹
26.53	Difference in average hourly wage between Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino employees and white employees; Hispanic/Latino county employees are paid less in every category measured. ⁶⁰
27	Percent of those surveyed during the 2025 Santa Clara County PIT count who cited job loss/income as the primary cause of homelessness. ⁶¹
27	Percent of respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who report not being treated well due to their ethnic or cultural background. ⁶²
28	Percent of local households who need outside assistance to survive in the region. ⁶³
28	Percent of Santa Clara County 11th graders who reported chronic sadness/hopelessness during the 2023-2024 school year. ⁶⁴
29	Percent of Santa Clara County residents who reported they did not get the social or emotional support they needed, compared to 24% across the country. ⁶⁵
29.35	Percentage of graffiti removal requests involving private property (mostly impacting small businesses), a 23% increase from the prior year. ⁶⁶
29.5	Percent of Black SJSU students who graduated in four years (entering cohort 2021). ⁶⁷
30	Percentage of East San José residents at risk of food insecurity, more than double that of affluent communities such as Saratoga. ⁶⁸
30	Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who delayed starting a family to make ends meet. ⁶⁹

31	Percentage of time the average full-time worker in the Bay Area works at home. ⁷⁰
31	Percentage of technical roles at the largest tech firms held by women. ⁷¹
32	Percent of all approved housing units in Silicon Valley in 2025 designated affordable, with 37% of these units designated affordable for very-low-income households. ⁷²
33.5	Amount, in millions, invested in 11 tiny home villages in San José (9 million from the state, 7 million from Measure E, 2.5 million donations, and 15 million donated to the contractor); providing 1240 new places for unhoused residents to stay. ⁷³
34	Percent of high school students reporting sadness or hopelessness for more than 2 weeks over the past year (as reported in the 2022-2023 school year). ⁷⁴
34	Percent of SJSU students who graduated in four years (entering cohort 2021), a decrease of 2% from the prior year cohort, 3% lower than systemwide, and 6% lower than campus goal of 40%. ⁷⁵
36	Percent of Black elementary students in SJUSD who could be displaced by the proposed closures, despite Black students only making up 2.2% of the total elementary population. ⁷⁶
36	Percent of faculty at SJSU who are white (fall 2025). ⁷⁷
36	Percent of overdose deaths among 50–64-year-olds in Santa Clara County from 2022-2024. ⁷⁸
37	Percent video recordings of Alum Rock School Board meetings not available to the public. ⁷⁹
37	Percent increase in use of harm reduction services in Santa Clara County. ⁸⁰
37	Percent of Silicon Valley 7th graders who reported "any harassment at school" during the 2023-2024 school year. ⁸¹
37	Percent of 11th graders in Silicon Valley schools who reported "school was boring" in the 2023-2024 school year. ⁸²
39	Percent of child deaths among Latino children (37 of 95) from 6/1/25 to 7/17/26. ⁸³
39.17	Percent of registered voters in Santa Clara County who cast a ballot in the June 2026 primaries. ⁸⁴
40	Number of homicide deaths 6/1/25 to 7/10/26. ⁸⁵

40	Percent of all drug related deaths due to methamphetamine 6/1/25 - 5/31/26. ⁸⁶
41	Annual Santa Clara city revenue, in millions, from data centers. ⁸⁷
41	Traffic fatalities in San Jose in 2025 (16% drop from 2024). ⁸⁸
41	Percent of students from non-traditional schools in San Mateo County who were chronically absent in the 2023-2024 school year. ⁸⁹
42	Percent of 11th graders in Santa Clara County schools who reported they had "trouble focusing on schoolwork" in the 2023-2024 school year. ⁹⁰
43	Percent of overdose deaths among white Santa Clara County residents from 2022-2024. ⁹¹
43.13	Average dollar amount for a 30-minute Uber ride in San José. ⁹²
44	Percent of Silicon Valley renters who spend more than 30% of their income on housing. ⁹³
44	Percent of homes sold between \$1-1.99 million dollars. ⁹⁴
44	Percent of 11th graders in San Mateo County schools who reported they had "trouble focusing on schoolwork" in the 2023-2024 school year. ⁹⁵
44.1	Percent of Black SJSU students who graduated in five years (entering cohort 2020). ⁹⁶
45	Percent of homes sold between \$2-4.99 million dollars. ⁹⁷
45	Percent of use of force directed to Latino residents by the county Sheriff. ⁹⁸
45.2	Percent of registered voters in San Mateo County who cast a ballot in the June 2026 primaries. ⁹⁹
46	Percent of Silicon Valley City Councils who use district-based election methods, an increase of 43% over the past 10 years. ¹⁰⁰
46	Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who indicated the Bay Area is a poor place to retire. ¹⁰¹
47	Percent of child deaths that occur among infants, 0-1 from 6/1/25 to 7/17/26. ¹⁰²
48	Percentage of VTA ridership compared to 2019 pre-pandemic levels. The percentage was 86% lower than what was projected. ¹⁰³
49	Percentage of Latinx, non-White who live below the self-sufficiency standards in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. ¹⁰⁴
50	Percentage of unhoused population that was Hispanic or Latino in the 2025 PIT. ¹⁰⁵

50	Percent of all total arrests made by Santa Clara County Sheriff's department were Latino residents, despite representing 25% of the county population. ¹⁰⁶
51	Percentage of Silicon Valley cities with minimum wage ordinances. ¹⁰⁷
51.7	Percent of Hispanic SJSU students who graduated in five years (entering cohort 2020). ¹⁰⁸
52	Percentage of Santa Clara County Latino children who did not meet 3rd grade math standards. ¹⁰⁹
52.8	Percentage of Latinx households below the cost of living adjusted federal poverty line in Santa Clara County. ¹¹⁰
53	Percent of those surveyed during the 2025 Santa Clara County PIT who relied on Medi-Cal or Medicare. ¹¹¹
53	Percentage of Santa Clara County Latino children who did not meet 3rd grade reading standards. ¹¹²
53	Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who are not confident they will be able to retire when they want to. ¹¹³
55	Percent of foster youth who graduated from high school in 4 years in Santa Clara County. ¹¹⁴
56	Number of allegations of exploitation among children in Santa Clara County from Ap 2025 to March 2026, an increase of 13 from the previous 12 months. ¹¹⁵
57	Percentage of newly funded AI startups in Silicon Valley in 2025. ¹¹⁶
57	Percentage of Santa Clara County HI/PI children who did not meet 3rd grade math standards. ¹¹⁷
57	Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt immigration enforcement was a serious problem. ¹¹⁸
58	Percent home ownership rate in Santa Clara County in 2024. ¹¹⁹
58	Percent of Santa Clara County's unhoused that is homeless for first time, according to the 2025 Santa Clara County PIT. ¹²⁰
60	Percent of unhoused students who graduated in 4 years in Santa Clara County (797/1320). ¹²¹
61	Percent home ownership rate in San Mateo County in 2024. ¹²²
61	Percentage of those surveyed during the 2025 Santa Clara County PIT count who reported that the length of the current episode of homelessness was more than 3 years. ¹²³

- 62 Percentage of householders with less than a high school diploma who are living below the self-sufficiency standard.¹²⁴
- 62 Percent of Silicon Valley residents who indicated an interest in moving out of the area in the next two years due to high cost of living.¹²⁵
- 64 Percent of Silicon Valley Poll respondents indicating an increase cost of groceries in 2025.¹²⁶
- 64 Percentage of food distributed through public programs.¹²⁷
- 64 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who cut back on groceries or necessities to make ends meet.¹²⁸
- 64 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congression decisions regarding stricter immigration enforcement will negatively affect the bay area.¹²⁹
- 65 Percent of startup funding that went to AI in 2025.¹³⁰
- 66 Percentage of Silicon Valley emissions related to transportation.¹³¹
- 68 Number of new HIV diagnoses among Latinos.¹³²
- 69 Percent of technical roles filled by men among the largest Silicon Valley tech companies.¹³³
- 69 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congress will have a negative impact on the Bay Area in the next few years.¹³⁴
- 70 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congression decisions leading to cutting of federal government offices, programs, and staff will negatively affect the bay area.¹³⁵
- 71 Percentage of Santa Clara County Latino youth who did not meet 11th grade math standards.¹³⁶
- 71 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congression decisions leading to cuts in federal grants and funding to nonprofits will negatively affect the bay area.¹³⁷
- 71 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congression decisions leading to reduced funding and access to Medi-caid will negatively affect the bay area.¹³⁸
- 72 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who delayed a major purchase to make ends meet.¹³⁹
- 73 Percentage of those surveyed during the 2025 Santa Clara County PIT had a disabling condition.¹⁴⁰

- 73 Number of gonorrhea cases that increased from 2023 to 2024, new cases predominantly occur among 25-29 and 35-44 age groups, and women.¹⁴¹
- 73 Percent of overdose deaths among men in Santa Clara County from 2022-2024.¹⁴²
- 74 Percentage of Santa Clara County HI native/PI youth who did not meet 11th grade math standards.¹⁴³
- 75 Percent of total liquid wealth held by 10% of the population in Silicon Valley, an increase of 4% from 2024.¹⁴⁴
- 75 Difference in average hourly wage between computer and mathematical (97.15) and healthcare support (22.41) occupation groups in Santa Clara County in 2025.¹⁴⁵
- 75 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the current President and Congression decisions leading to cuts in academic research and funding will negatively affect the bay area.¹⁴⁶
- 79 Percent of Hispanic/Latino youth who graduate from high school in 4 years in Santa Clara County.¹⁴⁷
- 80 Amount, in billions invested in Silicon Valley AI companies from venture capitalists in 2025, representing 83% of all venture capitalist funding in the region.¹⁴⁸
- 80 Percent Santa Clara County Special Education students did not meet the ELA/Literacy standards.¹⁴⁹
- 80 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt traffic congestion was a problem.¹⁵⁰
- 81 Absolute Gini Coefficient (a measure of income inequality) in 2024, nearing total inequality in Silicon Valley and representing a 3% increase from the prior year.¹⁵¹
- 81 Percentage of single Latina mothers below the self-sufficiency standard.¹⁵²
- 82 Percent of opioid related deaths due to Fentanyl, same as the prior year.¹⁵³
- 83 Percent of the unhoused population in Santa Clara County was living in the county before becoming homeless.¹⁵⁴
- 83 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who cut back on eating out, entertainment, or hobbies to make ends meet.¹⁵⁵
- 84 Percent of students who dropped out of school in Santa Clara County who were Hispanic or Latino (1283/1535).¹⁵⁶
- 85 Percent minority enrollment at Santa Clara County Special Education.¹⁵⁷

- 87 Percent of socioeconomically disadvantaged East Side Union High school students who graduated in 4 years (2024/2025 cohort).¹⁵⁸
- 87 Percent of Silicon Valley residents who did not engage in any formal volunteer work to help solve community problems.¹⁵⁹
- 88 Percentage of residents saying healthcare costs are a problem.¹⁶⁰
- 88 Percent of respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt the cost of healthcare was a serious problem.¹⁶¹
- 90 Percentage of Measure E (property transfer tax approved by voters in 2020) redirected to temporary shelters through FY 2026-27.¹⁶²
- 92 Percent of rejected pothole claims with Santa Clara and the 15 cities in the county from 2020-2025.¹⁶³
- 93 Number of meals, in millions, distributed by Second Harvest Food Bank in 2025.¹⁶⁴
- 94 Percentage of Silicon Valley residents who think that homelessness is a serious issue.¹⁶⁵
- 94 Percent of respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt homelessness is a problem.¹⁶⁶
- 95 Percent respondents to the Silicon Valley Poll who felt cost of living was a serious problem.¹⁶⁷
- 96 Percent of Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley clients who indicated they are cutting back on food to cover other expenses including housing.¹⁶⁸
- 96 Percent of Silicon Valley residents who think the cost of housing is a serious problem, with 80% thinking it's a very serious problem.¹⁶⁹
- 103 Increase in number of foster youth enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.¹⁷⁰
- 104 Per-capita water consumption in gallons per person, per day in 2025, an increase of 5 gallons a day from 2024.¹⁷¹
- 110 Percent increase in homelessness in Cupertino from 2023 to 2025.¹⁷²
- 115 Number of data centers in Santa Clara & San José.¹⁷³
- 117 Number of unicorn companies (companies valued over \$1 billion) which is 10% of the total number in the entire world.¹⁷⁴

152	Number of deaths by suicide 6/1/25 to 7/10/26 (decrease from prior 12 months by 19). ¹⁷⁵
160	Number of new HIV diagnoses in Santa Clara County in 2024, majority male (85%), MSM (72%), Latino (68%). ¹⁷⁶
161	Number of public safety officers per 100,000 residents in Silicon Valley in 2025, compared to 219 per 100,000 statewide. ¹⁷⁷
172	Increase in number of migrant students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ¹⁷⁸
183	The amount, in millions, approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in reductions to Santa Clara Valley Healthcare's budget in response to H.R. 1 federal cuts. ¹⁷⁹
184	Number of recorded motor vehicle accident deaths from 6/1/25 o 7/14/26. ¹⁸⁰
186	Number of homeless deaths 6/1/25 to 7/10/26 (decrease of 16 from prior year). ¹⁸¹
208.96	Average annual earnings, for someone in Silicon Valley, which was nearly double the annual average of the state and nearly triple that of the country. ¹⁸²
275	Number of overdose deaths in 2024. ¹⁸³
311	Percent increase over three years in the number of nights hotel vouchers were provided to SJSU students in need of emergency housing assistance. ¹⁸⁴
312	Number of drug related deaths in Santa Clara County from 6/1-5/31. ¹⁸⁵
316	Number of deaths by falls, 65+ Santa Clara County 6/1/25-7/15/26. ¹⁸⁶
365	Number of full-time equivalent positions deleted (305 were unfilled) in the County's mid-year budget revision. ^{187,188}
402	Difference, in thousands, between the average wage of tech workers in Silicon Valley and accommodation and food service workers in Silicon Valley in 2025. ¹⁸⁹
402.42	Difference in average wage between a tech worker (\$442.72) and food service worker (\$40.30). ¹⁹⁰
409	Number of student conduct and ethical development violation reports received during SJSU's 2024-2025 academic year. ¹⁹¹

410	Number of foster youths served by Santa Clara County public schools (an increase from 306 in 2024-2025 school year). ¹⁹²
416	Number of SJSU students who requested financial assistance from SJSU Cares during the 24-25 academic year, a 94% increase over three years. ¹⁹³
425	Increase in number of students with disabilities enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ¹⁹⁴
426	Increase in per capita electricity consumption in Silicon Valley from 2023 to 2024, 81% of the increase was non-residential. ¹⁹⁵
430	Number of entries in foster care system from April 2025 to March 2026 in Santa Clara County. ¹⁹⁶
450	Cost, in millions, projected for the Silicon Valley Power system upgrade to meet consumer and data center demand. ¹⁹⁷
609	Number of hotel rooms made available in Silicon Valley in 2025. ¹⁹⁸
657	Number of unique students who received assistance from SJSU Cares during the 24-25 academic year, a 64% increase over three years. ¹⁹⁹
667	Number or reports made to the SJSU Office of Civil Rights and Title IX during the 2024-2025 academic year. ²⁰⁰
699	Number of Juveniles arrested for a felony in Santa Clara County in 2024 (an increase of 77 from 2023). ²⁰¹
715	Number of homes in Silicon Valley that sold for more than 5 million dollars in 2025, an increase of 126 from 2024. ²⁰²
823	The monthly transportation cost of a family of four in Silicon Valley in 2025. ²⁰³
843	Median listing price per square feet, Santa Clara County June 2026. ²⁰⁴
957	Median listing price per square feet, San Mateo County June 2026. ²⁰⁵
1,003	Number of rapes reported in Santa Clara County in 2024 (an increase of 167 from 2023). ²⁰⁶
1,017	Number of allegations of sexual assault among children in Santa Clara County from Ap 2025 to March 2026, an increase of 176 from previous 12 months. ²⁰⁷

1,260	Increase in number of students from low SES households enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ²⁰⁸
1,535	Number of students who dropped out of school in Santa Clara County in 2024/2025. ²⁰⁹
1,680	Number of residents in rapid rehousing programs in Santa Clara County. ²¹⁰
1,751	Number of Accessory Dwelling Units (units that are built on the same lot as already existing units) approved in Silicon Valley, down from 2024's 1971 units. ²¹¹
1,826	Number of juvenile arrests in 2025. ²¹²
2,825	Decrease in number of Spanish speaking students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ²¹³
2,862	Average amount of rent for an apartment in San José in 2025. ²¹⁴
2,890	The monthly cost of infant childcare in 2025. ²¹⁵
3,406	Average rental rate, in dollars, for an apartment in Silicon Valley in 2025. ²¹⁶
3,454	Number of shelter beds across 38 temporary shelters and programs throughout Santa Clara County, 1 shelter bed per 3 unhoused individuals. ²¹⁷
3,551	Decrease in Covered California enrollment in Silicon Valley from 2025 to 2026. ²¹⁸
3,551	Enrollment decline in Covered CA from 2025 to 2026 in Silicon Valley. ²¹⁹
4,198	Decrease in number of students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ²²⁰
4,220	Number of residents in permanent supportive housing. ²²¹
5,160	Number of Santa Clara County school-aged children who experienced housing instability in the 2023-2024 school year, an increase of 708 from the prior year. ²²²
5,620	Number of households evicted in Silicon Valley in 2024, nearly triple the number in 2021. ²²³
5,751	Number of unhoused students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools (a decrease of 839 from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026). ²²⁴
5,811	Total number of crimes against other people in San José from Jan-May 2026. ²²⁵
6,224	Number of homeless students in Santa Clara County schools. ²²⁶

7,580	Number of tech industry workers affected by WARN-reported layoffs in 2025. ²²⁷
8,139	Number of violent crimes in Santa Clara County in 2024 (an increase of 906 from 2023). ²²⁸
8,500	Number of ED visits with alcohol as a contributing factor. ²²⁹
8,582	Illegally dumped mattresses collected by Beautify SJ. ²³⁰
10,184	Number of people service by the Rapid Response Network, a coalition of 11 organizations. ²³¹
10,711	People experiencing homelessness in January 2025 PIT Count. ²³²
12,649	Number of allegations of child maltreatment in Santa Clara County during 2025, (an increase of 34 from 2024 and an incidence rate of 33.2 per 1000). ²³³
12,858	Number of Silicon Valley residents unhoused in 2025. ²³⁴
13,442	Total number of crimes against property in SJ from Jan-May 2026. ²³⁵
14,828	Number of people who accessed homelessness response system in 2025 in Santa Clara County (8528 adults, 6,685 families, 2589, unaccompanied youth). ²³⁶
20,000	Number of jobs lost in Silicon Valley in 2025. ²³⁷
21,617	Total number of crimes reported by SJPd from Jan-May 2026. ²³⁸
26,000	Number of children (ages 0-17) at risk from Medicaid-related cuts. ²³⁹
27,300	Loss of tech jobs in the Bay Area between 2023 and 2025. ²⁴⁰
28,303	Number of RAPID work orders completed in response to illegal dumping in public spaces. ²⁴¹
29,060	Number of students with disabilities in Santa Clara County public schools in 2025-2026 school year. ²⁴²
34,680	Annual cost of full-time infant care, a cost that has tripled in the past two decades. ²⁴³
38,400	Estimated Number of children and youth who are at risk of losing health care and food assistance because of the H.R. 1 cuts. ²⁴⁴
42,889	Number of children (0-17 years) in Santa Clara County who experienced poverty in 2024. ²⁴⁵
45,000	Number of adults unable to pay for necessities due to medical bills. ²⁴⁶

52,000	Number of adult informal caregivers reporting mental health problems due to caregiving. ²⁴⁷
52,700	Number of hours Silicon Valley commuters spent in traffic each day, an increase of 17% from 2024. ²⁴⁸
55,000	Projected number of people who are expected to lose their food benefits due to the new federal work requirements. ²⁴⁹
59,100	Difference in median annual income of a high school and college graduate in Silicon Valley. ²⁵⁰
59,210	Number of calls to Crisis and Suicide Prevention Lifeline in 2025. ²⁵¹
62,105	Number of Santa Clara County residents 60 years and older who live alone. ²⁵²
68,700	Number of Silicon Valley CalFresh recipients who may be affected by the new workforce requirements (estimated around 55,000 in Santa Clara and 13,700 in San Mateo) that take effect June 1, 2026. ²⁵³
69,882	Difference in per capita income of white Silicon Valley residents compared to Hispanic or Latino Silicon Valley residents. ²⁵⁴
71,000	Adult informal caregivers reporting health problems due to caregiving. ²⁵⁵
88,294	Number of students receiving free and reduced-price meals enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools, an increase of 2,566 from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. ²⁵⁶
121,728	Number of households in Silicon Valley with 0% of investable assets. ²⁵⁷
122,475	Amount, in dollars for recycling reimbursements from mattress collection. ²⁵⁸
130,000	Number of Santa Clara County residents who may experience a reduction in food assistance because of federal budget cuts from H.R. 1. ²⁵⁹
130,000	Number of Santa Clara County residents who rely on CalFresh to help pay for groceries. ²⁶⁰
146,100	Amount, in dollars, considered low income for a family of 4 in Santa Clara County in 2026. ²⁶¹
157,761	Number of Medi-Cal enrollees in Santa Mateo County, April 2026 (a difference of 15541 from July 2025). ²⁶²
162,800	Median household income, which is about 1.6 times the California average nearly double the US median. ²⁶³

167,000	Number of CalFresh participants in Silicon Valley in 2025, up from the 164000 participants in 2024. ²⁶⁴
168,000	Number of Silicon Valley residents who receive CalFresh. ²⁶⁵
171,000	Number of Silicon Valley residents who have firearms in the house in 2024. ²⁶⁶
189,000	Median wage in Silicon Valley, a 45% increase since 2010. ²⁶⁷
195,000	Number of people in Silicon Valley who experienced a hate incident during 2024. ²⁶⁸
200,000	Reduced dollars in funding for San José Works youth jobs initiative. ²⁶⁹
212,000	Number of parents who do not have regular childcare in Silicon Valley. ²⁷⁰
302,000	Number of people in Silicon Valley who witnessed a hate incident during 2024. ²⁷¹
307,000	Number of individuals without a usual source of care. ²⁷²
336,515	Value added in dollars per Silicon Valley employee, compared to \$235,390 statewide and \$192,361 nationwide. ²⁷³
351,300	Minimum qualifying income to purchase a home in San Mateo County. ²⁷⁴
409,470	Number of jobs in Silicon Valley at high risk of automation, driven by AI innovations (56,648, language modeling and 352,822, image generation). ²⁷⁵
436,102	Number of Medi-Cal enrollees in Santa Clara County, April 2026 (a difference of 31698 from July 2025). ²⁷⁶
499,900	Number of syringes distributed during 2025 (a 37% increase from 2024) to 3,480 unduplicated harm reduction program participants (a 40% increase from 2024). ²⁷⁷
501,012	Annual income needed to purchase a home with a 10% down payment and keeping monthly housing costs within the commonly recommended 28% threshold of gross income in the San José, Sunnyvale, or Santa Clara metropolitan area. ^{278,279}
765,000	Number of immigrant residents in Santa Clara County. ²⁸⁰
824,000	Cost to build one affordable housing unit in Silicon Valley in 2025. ²⁸¹
824,482	Cost of building one unit of affordable housing in Silicon Valley in 2025. ²⁸²
868,000	Expected VTA deficit in FY2026, predicted to balloon to \$14.9 million in FY2027. ²⁸³
890,000	Number of adults exposed to wildfire smoke in previous two years in Silicon Valley. ²⁸⁴

1,200,000	Millions of dollars projected in library cuts in San José. ²⁸⁵
1,222,000	Number of adults with 1 or more adverse childhood experiences. ²⁸⁶
1,370,000	Amount, in millions, for the average home price in San José. ²⁸⁷
1,725,500	Median home listing in Santa Clara County in the first quarter of 2026. ²⁸⁸
1,847,309	Average listing price in Santa Clara County July 2, 2026. ²⁸⁹
1,870,000	Median home price listing in San Mateo County in the first quarter of 2026. ²⁹⁰
2,593,367	Average listing price in Santa Clara County July 2, 2026. ²⁹¹
5,519,000	Amount, in millions, in investable assets in 2025, up from \$4.918 million in 2024. ²⁹²
5,540,538	Total BART ridership in 2025, an increase of 1,666,310 from 2024. ²⁹³
10,576,000	Pounds of illegal waste removed from public spaces in FY2024-25. ²⁹⁴
14,305,165	Pounds of trash, related to illegal dumping, removed in blight eradication efforts, an increase of 13.16% from the prior year. ²⁹⁵
52,857,094	Amount in bond measure expenditures without a Citizens Bond Oversight Committee from 2021/2022 school year through the 2024-2025 school year. ²⁹⁶
122,331,068	Projected special education expenses in San José Unified School District for 26-27 school year. ²⁹⁷
376,000,000	Million-dollar deficit for BART for the 2026-2027 FY. ²⁹⁸
470,000,000	Projected budget shortfall in Santa Clara County for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. ²⁹⁹
726,856,546	Projected special education expenses in San José Schools for 26-27 school year. ³⁰⁰
1,000,000,000	Billion in revenue losses projected in the coming years due to Medicaid cuts due to H.R. 1. ³⁰¹
1,020,000,000	Amount in billions of angel investments (investment made in the earliest stages of startups). ³⁰²
27,470,000,000	Amount, in billions, of value of commercial property in Santa Clara County owned by Google, Campus Holdings (an Apple unit), Apple, PG&E, Planetary Ventures (owned by Alphabet), Cisco, Westfield Malls, Applied Materials, Intel, and LinkedIn. ³⁰³

29,030,000,000	Amount, in billions, of value of commercial property in Santa Clara County owned by Google at 9.54, Campus Holdings (an Apple unit) at 5, Apple at 2.88, PG&E at 2.99, Planetary Ventures (owned by Alphabet) at 1.56, Cisco at 1.56, Westfield Malls at 1.53, Applied Materials at 1.41, Intel at 1.32, and LinkedIn at 1.24. ³⁰⁴
35,000,000,000	Billion dollars, in Silicon Valley venture capital investments. ³⁰⁵
1,170,000,000,000	Trillion dollars in liquid wealth in Silicon Valley, with the top 10% controlling 75% and the bottom 50% with less than 1%. ³⁰⁶

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2026 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

1	Ranking of San Jose as the least affordable city to buy a home in the world.
6	Percent of technical roles in Silicon Valley's largest tech companies held by Black or African American employees.
22	Percentage of households in Silicon Valley that do not fall below the Federal Poverty Level, but are below self-sufficiency standard.
30	Percent of respondents to the SV Poll who delayed starting a family to make ends meet.
39.17	Percent of registered voters in Santa Clara County who cast a ballot in the June 2026 primaries.
62	Percent of SV residents who indicated an interest in moving out of the area in the next two years due to high cost of living.
5,620	Number of households evicted in Silicon Valley in 2024, nearly triple the number in 2021.
34,680	Annual cost of full-time infant care, a cost that tripled in the past two decades.
195,000	Number of people in Silicon Valley who experienced a hate incident during 2024.
1.17 Trillion	Dollars in liquid wealth in Silicon Valley, with the top 10% controlling 75% and the bottom 50% with less than 1%

Full report available: www.sjsu.edu/hri

Infographic by: Eileen Tran

X: @SJSUHumanRights

PUBLIC HEALTH INEQUALITY

2026 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

8	Number per 100,000 of youth ages 10-24 who die by suicide, which is higher than the state (6.0), and significantly higher than San Mateo County (3.9).
9.7	Births per 1,000 residents in Silicon Valley, the lowest since 1978, despite a small increase from 2024.
12	Difference in years of life expectancy between Asian & Pacific Islanders (87.7) and American Indians and Alaskan Natives (75.3).
24	Percent of Medi-Cal redeterminations discontinued in SCC.
26	Percent of overdose deaths that occurred in East San Jose from 2022-2024.
39	Percent of child deaths among Latino children (37 of 95) from June 2025 to July 2026.
73	Percentage of those surveyed during the 2025 Santa Clara County Point-in-Time Count who had a disabling condition.
183	The amount, in millions of dollars, in reductions to Santa Clara Valley Healthcare's budget in response to H.R. 1 federal cuts.
52,000	Adult informal caregivers reporting mental health problems due to caregiving.
890,000	Number of adults exposed to wildfire smoke in previous two years in Silicon Valley.

WEALTH INEQUALITY

2026 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

0.001	Percent of Santa Clara County households that control 18% of the county's wealth.
8.6	Percent of Silicon Valley's wealthiest residents' 1.52 billion dollars in philanthropic donations that were directed towards local needs in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.
28	Percent of Silicon Valley households that need outside assistance to survive.
49	Percent of Latinx households in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties living below the self-sufficiency standard.
75	Percent of total liquid wealth held by 10% of the population in Silicon Valley, an increase of 4% from 2024
2,890	Monthly cost of infant childcare in 2025.
20,000	Jobs lost in Silicon Valley in 2025.
130,000	Number of Santa Clara County residents who rely on CalFresh to help pay for groceries.
146,100	Amount, in dollars, considered low income for a family of 4 in Santa Clara County in 2026
470,000,000	Million dollars Santa Clara County's projected budget deficit.

TECH INEQUALITY

2026 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

6	Percent of technical roles at Silicon Valley's largest tech companies held by Black or African American employees.
8	Percent of technical roles at Silicon Valley's largest tech companies held Hispanic or Latino employees.
31	Percentage of technical roles at the largest tech firms held by women.
65	Percent of startup funding that went to AI in 2025.
69	Percent of technical roles filled by men among the largest SV tech companies.
80	Amount, in billions invested in SV AI companies from venture capitalists in 2025, representing 83% of all venture capitalist funding in the region.
115	Number of data centers in Santa Clara & San José
117	Number of unicorn companies (companies valued over \$1 billion) which is 10% of the total number in the entire world.
7,580	Number of tech industry workers affected by WARN-reported layoffs in 2025.
409,470	Number of jobs in SV at high risk of automation, driven by AI innovations (56,648, language modeling and 352,822, image generation).

Full report available: www.sjsu.edu/hri

Infographic by: Jocelyn Torres

X: @SJSUHumanRights

EDUCATION INEQUALITY

2026 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Advocacy, Opportunity, and Potential

4	Number of superintendents in Alum Rock School District since March 2024.
5	Number of elementary schools the San Jose Unified School District Board voted to close (Empire Gardens, Lowell, Gardner, Canoas, Terrell) in the next school year, with one (Hammer Montessori) being relocated to the Gardner Campus. All five are Title 1 schools predominantly serving low income students and families.
36	Percent of Black elementary students in SJUSD who could be displaced by the proposed closures, despite Black students only making up 2.2% of the total elementary population.
84	Percent of students who dropped out of school in SCC who were Hispanic or Latino (1283/1535).
425	Increase in number of students with disabilities enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.
1,260	Increase in number of students from low SES households enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.
4,198	Decrease in number of students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.
6,224	Number of homeless students in SCC schools.
29,060	Number of students with disabilities in SCC public schools in 2025-2026 school year.
88,294	Number of students receiving free and reduced price meals enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools, an increase of 2,566 from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.