



# CITY OF TACOMA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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## Summary Findings

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The City of Tacoma's community-driven Vision of Tacoma 2025 is focused on economic opportunity, education, and quality of life. While the majority of Tacoma residents enjoy these benefits of living in Tacoma, many community members struggle with homelessness, hunger, under- and unemployment, limited educational opportunity, and poor life outcomes.

Tacoma is the third largest city in Washington and has a strong network of social and human service organizations that form a safety net to meet the needs of community members. Aside from the operation of its senior centers, the City is not a direct service provider. The City supports the social and human service network as an active funder, convener, and partner. The social and human service needs of Tacoma's residents surpass the available services and resources.

The City has worked closely with its partners to create a Human Services Strategic Plan (HSSP) for 2015 through 2019 to improve the reach and effectiveness of existing service system. The City is also revising its funding process to proactively and efficiently fund strategies focused on resident needs. The revised funding approach aligns funding to the City's vision articulated in Tacoma 2025, and uses a systems approach to improve the overall effectiveness of city funding.

This Community Needs Assessment will help the City prioritize funding for meeting human and social needs and provide common baseline information shared by the City and community service providers. Many of the greatest social and health challenges impacting community members today are the result of a complex set of factors that diminish health and well-being over time. These include historical patterns of income segregation and racial disparities. In order to help the City identify effective points of intervention and assess gaps in the current service system, the assessment attempts to identify causal factors that lead to the most urgent social and health challenges facing the community today. The assessment identifies community needs related to individual and community safety, education and economic opportunity, geographic and racial equity, and household stability. The broad range of topics investigated are organized into three primary topics:

### **1 Homelessness and Household Stability**

How is homelessness changing, who in our community is at risk of homelessness, and what services are needed to prevent and address homelessness?

### **2 Workforce Development**

What are the barriers community members face to economic advancement and what are the services needed to reduce those barriers?

### **3 Human and Social Wellness**

What are the priority human and social health needs of residents and what are the barriers to meeting those needs?

## Priority Community Needs

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A particular individual may need different social and human service supports over the course of his or her life and many may have unmet needs for social and health services that compound over time. For example, mental health difficulties in adolescence can lead to disengagement in school, thus limiting educational opportunity. A lack of a high school diploma will reduce employability and diminish the opportunity to

develop work-based skills and experiences. The diminished earning potential will compound over time, thus undermining economic security and potentially household stability in the long term. As a result, the individual in this example needs mental health care, job skills training, employment support, and housing assistance. Each of these needs are real, related, and critical to address.

Understanding the interconnected nature of these factors, the Needs Assessment identified the following priority needs that undergird many of the social, economic, and health challenges facing the community today.

## CHILDHOOD POVERTY

**One in four children in Tacoma are living in poverty. Childhood poverty is a significant barrier to social wellbeing and economic opportunity for many.**

Childhood poverty<sup>1</sup> is the greatest single risk factor for children, impacting everything from physical health and environmental quality to economic opportunity and social and emotional health. The link between childhood poverty and its impacts on adolescent and adult outcomes is well founded, and new research is shedding light on the impact of poverty-related stress to children's development and long-term functioning (Ratcliffe & McKernan, 2012). Children living in households with poverty-level incomes are extremely vulnerable to income loss, health episodes, or housing status change. Many low-income families with children are likely still recovering from economic consequences associated with the recent recession.

- One out of every four children in Tacoma lives in poverty (26%). Childhood poverty has trended higher in Tacoma than in Pierce County and Washington State since 2006, and is consistently higher than adult or senior poverty (18% and 17%, respectively).
- A greater portion of Tacoma's children live in poverty compared to Seattle (15%), Fife (17%), and Renton (18%). Neighboring Lakewood has a higher rate of childhood poverty (32%).
- Children of color, including those who identify as American Indian and Alaska Native and Black or African American, as well as children of all races that identify as Hispanic or Latino, are twice as likely to be living in poverty as children who identify as White.
- While recent enrollment in the National School Lunch Program has remained fairly consistent since 2008 for the Tacoma School District, the number of meals served increased significantly during the recession years (2009 – 2011). The number of meals served in 2014 came back down to pre-recession rates of approximately 2.9 million meals served that year.

**The rate of childhood poverty is driven by limited earning potential of adults as opposed to absence from the workforce.**

Workforce participation includes everyone who works for income or is currently looking for work (unemployed). Workforce participation is similar in Tacoma to Pierce County and Washington State, and is relatively consistent across racial categories at between 64% and 73%. The exception is American Indian and Alaska Natives, for which labor force participation is about 10 percentage points less. Lower participation in the labor force is observed for those with less than a high school diploma as well as those older than age 55.

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<sup>1</sup> Data is from U.S. Census 2010 – 2014. A family of four is considered to be living in poverty if their annual household income is less than \$24,230. The estimate for Tacoma children aged 0 – 17 years is 26.3% with 95% confidence range of +/-2.5%.

**Historically higher unemployment and a greater displacement of jobs during the recent recession are likely contributors to the depressed household income.** Median household income in Tacoma trails Pierce County and Washington State by approximately \$10,000 (figure in 2014 dollars). Between 2009 and 2010, Tacoma lost 3,800 jobs, approximately 3.9% of its employment base. This was a more significant employment contraction than Pierce County which lost 2.3% of its employment base and Washington State which lost 3.0%. Tacoma experienced greater annual losses of jobs and took longer to recover from the recession than both Pierce County and the State. In 2014, Tacoma finally reached pre-recession employment. However, while employment has regained its pre-recession levels, employment in higher-paying sectors such as manufacturing and construction has not achieved pre-recession levels.

The unemployment rate for Black or African American residents is significantly higher than for other races, as is the unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school diploma. Unemployment for men has trended 2 to 4 percentage points higher than for women.

**One quarter of Tacoma's homeless population is under the age of 18.**

Youth represent 23% of Tacoma's homeless population according to recent point-in-time counts. Nearly one out of every four homeless individuals counted was younger than 18.

- The number of McKinney-Vento qualified homeless students in Tacoma School District increased an average of 4.9% every year since 2010. For the 2014-15 school year, 1,616 met the definition of homeless. The majority of McKinney-Vento qualified students report living "doubled up," meaning they are sharing housing with friends or family. Homeless students tend to be in younger grades, indicating a larger shadow population of homelessness among parents (likely women) and pre-school aged children.

**Many children are born into households with characteristics that are predictive of more severe and persistent poverty.**

Specific characteristics of households living in poverty are predictive of more severe and persistent poverty. Educational attainment of parents, particularly mothers, and attachment to the workforce are strong predictors of economic stability and long-term outcomes for children. Children born in poverty to mothers with less than a high school diploma are very likely to live in persistent poverty and have poor adult outcomes.

- Between 2005 and 2014, across all income categories, about 5,000 children were born in Tacoma to mothers with less than a high school diploma. This represents approximately 17% of all children born in the ten-year period, a higher rate than both Pierce County and Washington State (12% and 15%, respectively). Services such as early parenting support and low cost child care for those still pursuing their high school diploma are effective at improving outcomes for these parents and their children.
- Tacoma is not homogenous in terms of educational and professional attainment. Tacoma exceeds Pierce County in both low and high ranges of educational attainment. In 2014, 9% of Tacoma adults 25 years and over had a graduate or professional degree, while 15% lacked a high school diploma. This suggests that Tacoma has an asset in its highly educated workforce, as well as the challenge of another segment facing significant barriers to the economic opportunity available in the City.

## Many children are missing timely educational benchmarks that are predictive of academic achievement and future economic independence.

Educational opportunity starts at birth and is significantly shaped by household economic factors and maternal mental and physical well-being. Several studies have demonstrated the link between economic hardship and an increase in children's social behavior development. Household food security in elementary school has been linked to changes in reading and math test performance, adolescent weight for girls, and social skill development for boys (Jyoti, Frongillo, & Jones, 2015). Children's environment in the first years of life has been found to affect brain development. Children who are exposed to quality early-learning environments are more likely to meet developmental milestones, and arrive at kindergarten with the fundamental skills they need to thrive in school. Unfortunately, far too few children in Tacoma are meeting timely academic benchmarks, falling further behind, and thus facing diminished opportunity in the future. Children from low-income households and children of color face even greater gaps in achievement.

- About 50% of Tacoma's children entering school in 2015 met developmental benchmarks for kindergarten. Students of color, low-income students, and students with limited English proficiency were even less likely to meet benchmarks (45%, 40%, and 35%, respectively).
- 62% of third-graders in the Tacoma School District met the Reading Standard in the 2013-2014 school year. This rate is nearly 6 percentage points lower than the statewide rate.
- There is a persistent gap in 8th grade math performance between Tacoma and the statewide average. 44% of eighth-graders met the Math Standard in the 2013-2014 school year as compared to 56% statewide.
- After great efforts by the community and school district, Tacoma's on-time graduation rate (78%) is in alignment with statewide rates for the first time since 2010.
- Students' academic struggles are linked to feelings of discouragement and isolation. Youth Advisory Council members describe their struggle with bridging the racial and cultural divide between themselves and their teachers. Comments such as "the greatest challenge we face is shifting the minds of our teachers about us" speak to the barriers they feel as children of racial and ethnic minorities in the school system.

## Many adolescents are struggling and face diminishing economic advancement opportunities.

Youth who are not actively engaged in school or the workforce face serious challenges as they transition to adulthood. Not graduating high school can limit future economic success and indicate future employment difficulties and poverty as adults.

- Tacoma's on-time graduation rate was below 60% in 2010 and did not align with statewide rates until 2014.
- Since 2010, the portion of 18- to 24-year-olds in Tacoma who have enrolled in college or graduate school (30%) is less than that of the state (35%). Male college enrollment in Tacoma is nine percentage points less than the statewide rate.
- Since 2011, the unemployment rate for residents without a high school degree is higher than the rate of residents with a high school or college degree.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Poor mental health and a lack of access to mental health support undermines household and community resilience and long-term outcomes for children.

On its own, adolescence is associated with increased risk of mental health disorders including depression, social anxiety, disruptive behaviors, and substance abuse. Living in poverty adds to this risk through disrupting parent-adolescent relationships, increasing exposure to stress, and increasing the risk of trauma or violence in childhood. Combined, these experiences negatively affect health and well-being into adulthood.

Children are vulnerable to the mental health of their parents. Nationally speaking, many new mothers suffer from depression, and with unmet physical and emotional needs of the parents, family stress filters down to children. Emotional support and access to quality child care can improve long term outcomes for children living in poverty.

### Tacoma youth report lower rates of mental wellness, less sense of personal safety, and earlier and more consistent drug use than their statewide counterparts.

Youth depression, exposure to violence, and early drug use represent multiple dimensions of risk to youth. Adolescence is also a time when many significant psychological disorders present themselves. Life course studies of chronically homeless individuals frequently report physiological and mental health difficulties, often starting in late childhood. Furthermore, an individual's first experience with the mental health services shape long-term attitudes toward mental health care and psychiatric medication (Patterson, Markey, & Eiboff, 2012).

- Tacoma School District students, especially middle schoolers, are less likely to report feeling safe at school than their peers in Washington State.
- Young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 years earning less than \$50,000 felt the least safe in Tacoma compared to other demographic groups (National Research Center, 2014).
- Adolescent suicide and suicide attempts are significantly higher in Tacoma than in Pierce County or Washington State.

#### *Early Drug Use*

An individual's exposure to alcohol and drugs interferes with memory, positive emotional and social development, and is associated with low school performance and academic disengagement. Early and frequent use of marijuana during adolescence is associated with the development of more psychiatric-related problems than occasional use or nonuse (Lubman, Cheetham, & Yucei, April 2015). Early drug use is also an indicator of vulnerability to gang activity.

- Tacoma students have higher rates of marijuana use than the state wide averages. The disproportionality is highest in 8th grade and 10th grade. Tacoma student use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs other than marijuana largely follow statewide patterns, with slightly higher use patterns in alcohol and prescription drugs.
- Only half (54%) of 8th graders report that marijuana would be "very hard" for them to get, as compared to the statewide rate of 66%.

### Tacoma residents have a higher rate of being a victim of violence or being exposed to violence in the home than state averages.

Interpersonal violence, including child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse, is both a criminal matter and a significant public health, social and developmental

threat. Exposure to violence creates immediate physical wounds as well as risk for long-lasting mental and physical health conditions (Summer, et al., 2015).

**Domestic violence is higher in Tacoma than in Washington State.**

- Since 2005, the rate of domestic violence offenses reported to the Tacoma Police Department is, on average, 2.5 times the statewide rate.
- Many domestic violence victims, especially those with few resources, find themselves homeless. 28% of homeless individuals, including children, in the Pierce County point-in-time count have experienced domestic violence.

**Violent crime rates have decreased since 2009 in Tacoma, yet remain higher than comparable cities.**

- In 2015, Tacoma had 720 violent offenses per 100,000 people known to law enforcement. Rates in Seattle and Spokane were 573 and 505, respectively.
- While overall incidents of violent crime in Tacoma trended down between 2011 and 2012, the rate of youth perpetrated violent crime is increasing (47.5% in 2011 to 48.7% in 2012). Much of this crime may be explained by gang activity.

**Many adults have multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences.**

Adverse childhood experience (ACE) is defined as a traumatic experience in a person's life occurring before the age of 18 that the person recalls as an adult. Communities with higher ACE scores are more likely to experience poor health outcomes. Individuals with more ACE experiences are more likely to experience social and interpersonal challenges and be at a higher risk for homelessness in adulthood.

- Averaged ACE scores are highest in Tacoma's South, Sound End, and Eastside neighborhoods.
- In Pierce County, communities of color and low-income communities experience more ACEs than white, non-Hispanic, or higher income households.

## HOUSEHOLD STABILITY

Stable housing is a foundation to many other important aspects of personal development. Research has demonstrated the benefit of stable housing for children's socio-emotional development and academic achievement (Voight, Shinn, & Nation, 2012). Unstable housing has a direct and profound impact on current and future health.

**Tacoma has a broad range of affordable housing options, however, many residents struggle to secure stable, quality housing in Tacoma.**

**Tacoma has a more affordable housing market than other central Puget Sound cities.**

- Housing in Tacoma is more affordable compared to many neighboring communities. The median sales price in June 2016 was \$230,350, significantly less than the median for Pierce County (\$251,500) and King County (\$450,000).
- Rents in Tacoma are also more affordable than other jurisdictions. Current median rent in Tacoma is \$1,441 per month, much less than Seattle (\$2,474) and Renton (\$2,069).
- In addition to more affordable market conditions, Tacoma has approximately 8,900 subsidized housing units, representing approximately 10% of its housing stock. This is higher than Seattle (8%), Kent (6%) and Renton (6%) (2013 estimates).

**Many households cannot afford housing under Tacoma's current market conditions, and costs are likely to increase.**

- Tacoma has similar labor force participation rates as Pierce County and Washington State, with approximately 80% of the population being engaged in the workforce. However, while most adults work, their income is not enough to maintain stable housing.
  - Tacoma unemployment rate trends have tracked slightly higher than Pierce County and Washington State, and have recouped to pre-recession levels. Tacoma residents with less than a high school degree, Black or African Americans as well as Hispanic or Latino origin experienced significantly higher unemployment during the recession and continue to experience higher rates of unemployment.
- Tacoma median income tracks about \$10,000 behind Pierce County and the State of Washington.
- Tacoma has more than 10,508 households (17% of all households) earning less than 30% of County Median Income (less than \$18,000 in 2014 dollars), 79% of which live in rental housing (about half of all of Tacoma's households live in renter-occupied housing). At this income level, many households are challenged to meet their basic needs.
- Tacoma has a higher rate of cost-burdened households in rental housing than Pierce County or the State. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all rental households in Tacoma are severely cost burdened. Since 2005, the percentage of Tacoma households that are cost-burdened has trended higher than the statewide percentage.
- In Tacoma 6.7 homes are foreclosed (per 1,000). This is greater than the Seattle Metro value of 4.2 and also greater than the national value of 1.8 (Zillow.com estimate).
- Demand for emergency housing is increasing in Pierce County. Total calls received by Access Point 4 Housing has increased an average of 17% per year since 2012. Nearly half of all screenings for emergency housing resulted in a referral.
- Tacoma School district has higher rates of student mobility compared to other school districts. On average, 11% of students enrolled in Tacoma schools on October 1 did not maintain their enrollment in that school for the entire year. This rate of student mobility was higher than Renton School District (9%), Lakewood School District (8%), and Seattle Public Schools (6%). Tacoma's district average was also higher than analogous school years for the two years prior.

**South and East neighborhoods show greater social and economic instability.**

Research has demonstrated the negative impact that residential changes for negative reasons, such as needing to save money, eviction, or divorce, have on the education outcomes for children (Voight, Shinn, & Nation, 2012). Children who move for a negative reason are 7 percentage points more likely to not earn a high school diploma by age 20. The effect grows to 11.2 percent for children who move more than two times for a negative reason (Ratcliffe & McKernan, 2012).

Barriers to social and economic mobility are clustered in Tacoma's South and East neighborhoods. This disproportionately affects people of color in Tacoma.

- Tacoma's South, South End, and Eastside neighborhoods have higher concentrations of families in poverty than other areas of the City.
- Nearly two-thirds of all utility warnings and disconnects issued between June 2015 and May 2016 were for customers in South and East neighborhoods.

## SECTION 1

# Homelessness and Household Stability

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the homelessness and household stability assessment is to identify how homelessness is changing and who in the Tacoma community is at risk of homelessness.

We discuss the annual Pierce County Point-In-Time count and the Tacoma School District's students who qualify for the McKinney-Vento Act to explore how the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Tacoma and Pierce County has changed over time. To examine how homelessness is changing, we consider the demographics of who is experiencing homelessness locally and indicators of increased housing instability.

## GUIDING DOCUMENTS

### TACOMA 2025

Homelessness, housing stability, and poverty are addressed in **Objective 2: Human and Social Needs**.

#### *Community Priorities*

- 2A. Increase housing security.** Tacoma residents want everyone to have shelter and to feel secure in their housing options.
- 2C. Reduce poverty.** Reducing poverty is the best way to ensure that all Tacoma residents have resources to meet their needs.

#### *Accountability Measures*

- Decrease the percent of individuals and families who experience **homelessness**.
- Decrease the unmet need for **mental health services**.
- Decrease the number of days that residents **report their mental health** was not good.
- Reduce the percent of Tacoma population in **poverty**.
- Reduce the percent of households spending more than 45% on **housing and transportation**.

### 2015-19 CITY OF TACOMA HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

Homelessness and household stability is addressed in the Tacoma Human Services Strategic Plan, **Priority 1: Meet Basic Needs of Tacoma Residents**. The 2015-19 Funding Goal, that every Tacoma resident should have access to food, clothing, shelter, and other basics, supports those experiencing homelessness and household instability, food insecurity, and domestic violence.

- **Housing Stabilization:** Prevention of and pathways out of homelessness are available which connect individuals and families with housing and/or supportive services tailored to their unique needs.
- **Food security:** Residents have access to healthy food and optimal nutrition year-round.
- **Safety:** Interpersonal and intimate violence/abuse is reduced.

Chronic Homelessness is addressed in **Priority 4: Enhance Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services.**

**1. Reduce Chronic Homelessness**

- a. Support innovative programming designed to reduce the impacts of chronic homelessness for Tacoma businesses.
- b. Support innovative approaches that reach out to and engage chronically homeless individuals.
- c. Support innovative programming designed to ensure chronically homeless individuals, once housed, remain housed.

## Findings

The Tacoma/Lakewood/Pierce County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts the Point-In-Time (PIT) count annually as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT offers a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, those sleeping outside, and in other places not meant for human habitation. Homeless individuals and families are included in annual PIT count if they are willing to complete a survey and sign their name. Those who do not agree are not counted. For these reasons, the PIT counts likely undercount the number of homeless individuals.

- The 2016 PIT indicated a 37% growth in the homeless population from 2015.
- The chronically homeless PIT count doubled from 2015 to 2016.
- Community service providers report a portion of the growth in number of homeless individuals may be attributable to homeless individuals coming into Tacoma to access services not available in other jurisdictions.

Chronically homeless individuals are more likely to not stay in shelters. In 2016, approximately half of the chronically homeless were unsheltered, compared to 39% of the total homeless population. Based on conversations with Tacoma Police Department Community Liaison Officers, chronically homeless individuals cite several reasons for not staying in shelters, including the cleanliness of the facilities, the lack of privacy, and the inability to stay with partners or friends of the opposite sex. More flexible shelter policies may better serve some homeless individuals.

### HUD Homelessness Definitions

HUD defines four categories of **homelessness**:

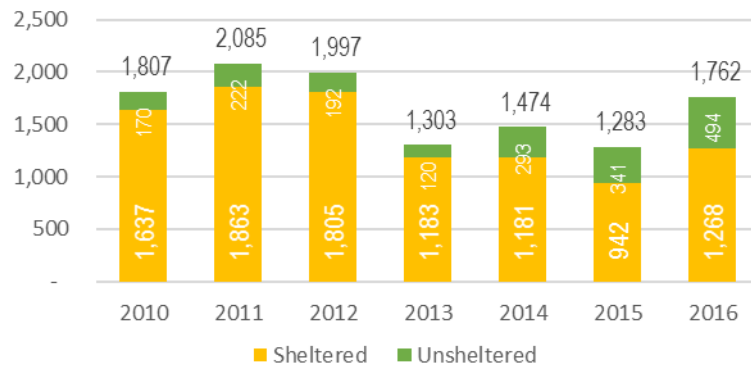
1. Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
2. Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; or
4. Individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

A person is considered **chronically homeless** if they have slept in a place not meant for habitation, emergency shelter, or transitional housing project for more than a year continuously or have experienced four episodes within the last three years and has a disability.

## Homelessness is growing in Tacoma and Pierce County.

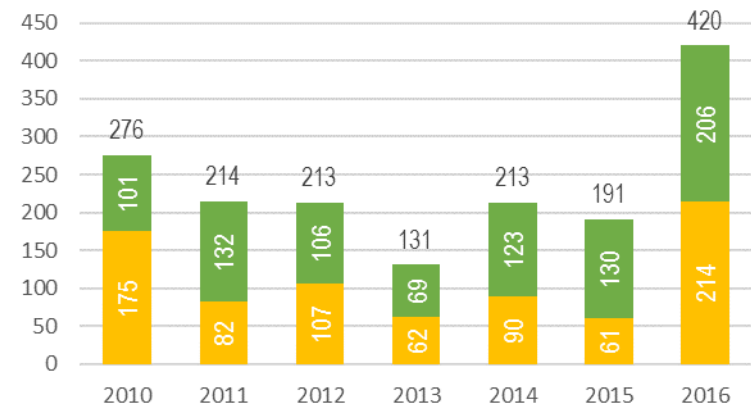
**Exhibit 1 Homeless individuals, Pierce County**

Source: Washington State Department of Commerce & Continuum of Care, 2010-2016. BERK, 2016.



**Exhibit 2 Chronically homeless individuals, Pierce County**

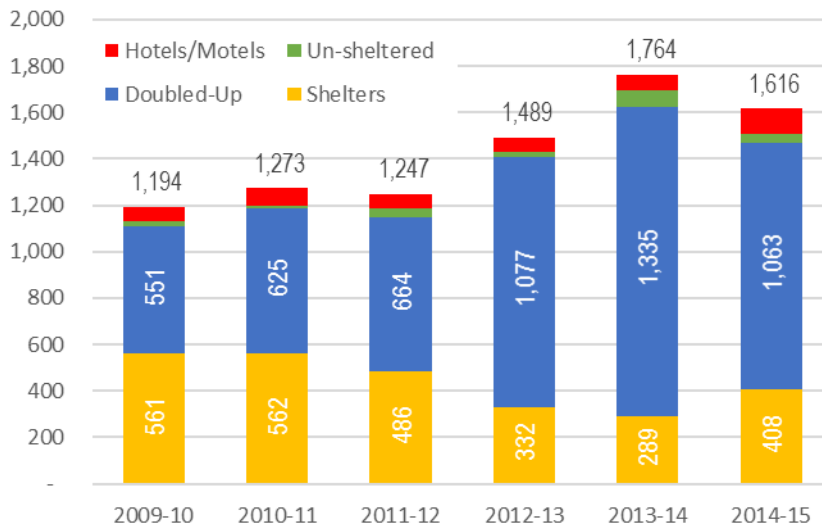
Source: Washington State Department of Commerce & Continuum of Care, 2010-2016. BERK, 2016



The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento enrollment data provides a broader measure of people experiencing homelessness or a disruption in their usual place of sleeping, referred to as household stability. Similar to PIT counts, the MV-qualified student rate had a slight downturn between 2014 and 2015. However, the general trend shows an increase in students experiencing homelessness.

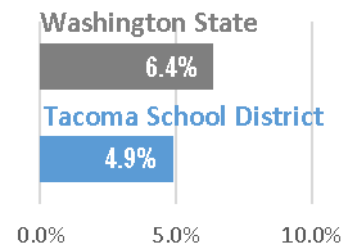
- In the 2014-15 school year, 1,616 students met the definition of McKinney-Vento qualified. This is a reduction from a recent high in the prior school year of 1,764.
- Tacoma's overall rate of McKinney-Vento qualified students (5.5%) is similar to Seattle Public Schools (5.6%) and higher than neighboring school districts (Lakewood, 3.1%; Puyallup, 2.3%, Federal Way, 1.0%).
- Tacoma School District has seen an average annual increase in MV-qualified students of 4.9% since 2010. The average annual increase for the state has been greater at 6.4%.
- The majority of MV-qualified students report living "doubled up", that is staying with friends or family.

**Exhibit 3 McKinney-Vento qualified homeless students, Tacoma School District**



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2009-10 – 2014-15. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 4 McKinney-Vento qualified homeless students average annual change**



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2014-15. BERK, 2016.

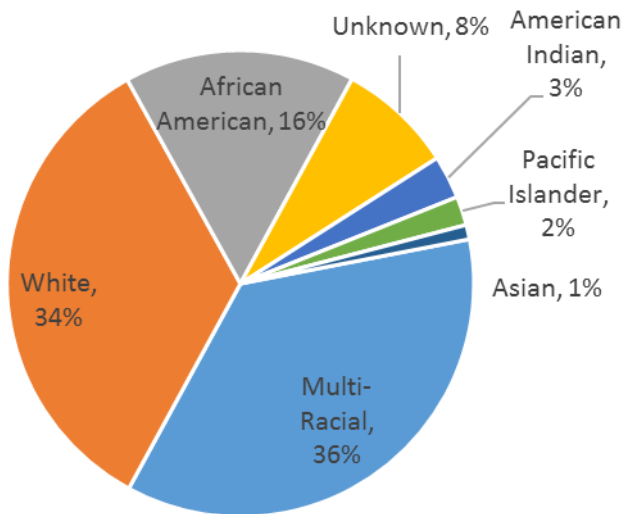
**The McKinney-Vento Act** requires schools to register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence. The Act ensures homeless children transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless) regardless of what district the family resides in. The Act uses a broader definition of homeless children as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence,” for example,

- Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing
- Children living in “motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations”
- Children living in “emergency or transitional shelters”
- Children “awaiting foster care placement”
- Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.)
- Children living in “cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations”

## DEMOGRAPHICS

People across racial categories experience homelessness, though members of minority races and multiple races are disproportionately represented in the homeless population.

**Exhibit 5** Self-reported data on race, percent of total homeless persons, Pierce County



Source: Continuum of Care, 2016. BERK, 2016.

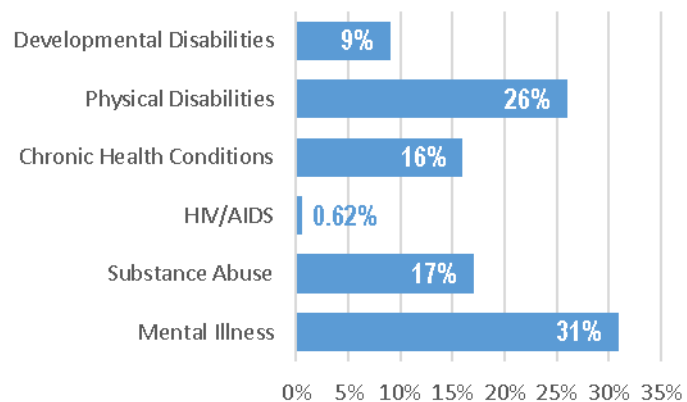
- African Americans make up 11% of Tacoma's population, but 16% of the homeless population. Similarly, census data reports 8% of Tacoma's population as being of two or more races, but 36% of the homeless population self-reported themselves to be multi-racial. American Indians and Alaska Natives make up 3% of the homeless population, but only 1.3% of the total population.
- Whites and Asians are less likely to appear proportionately in the homeless population.

A large proportion of the homeless population are living with a disability, and in many cases multiple, compounding health concerns.

Mental illness, in particular, is associated with homelessness.

- One out of three individuals reported experiencing a mental illness, in addition to 9% reporting developmental disabilities.
- Physical disabilities are also common among the homeless, in many cases limiting the ability of the individual to work and also causing significant disruptions to housing stability due to health crises.

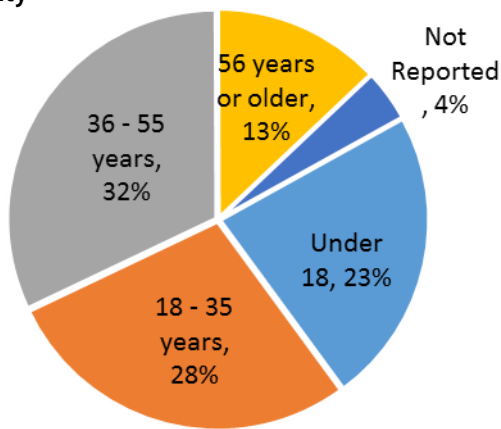
**Exhibit 6** Self-reported data on disabilities, percent of total homeless persons, Pierce County



Source: Continuum of Care, 2016. BERK, 2016.

Children in particular are impacted by homelessness.

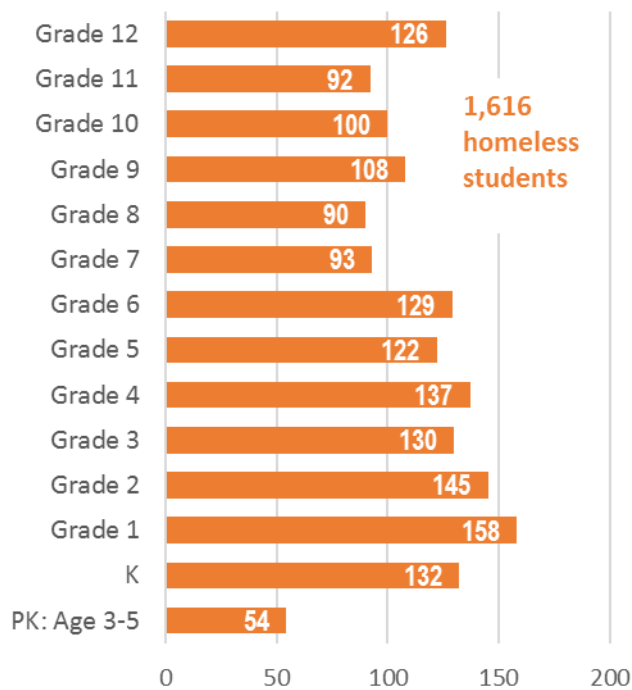
**Exhibit 7** Proportion of homeless population by age, Pierce County



- About 1 in 4 individuals in the homelessness response system is under 18.

Source: Continuum of Care, 2016; BERK, 2016

**Exhibit 8** Grade of McKinney-Vento qualified students, Tacoma School District



- Data on the grade of McKinney-Vento qualified students shows a greater frequency of children in elementary schools than middle and high schools. Homeless rates are highest for those in the lower grades, suggesting a significant shadow population of homelessness of women with children and pre-school aged children.

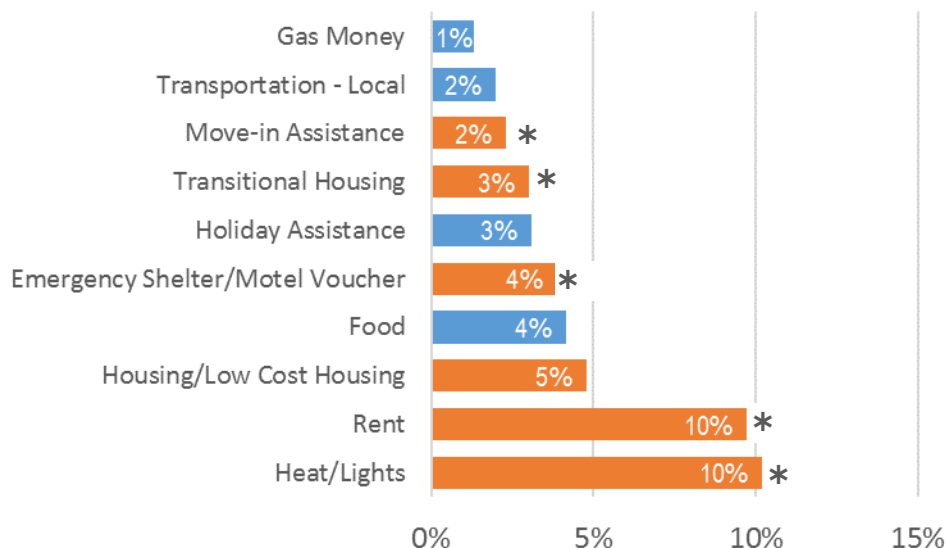
Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2014-15. BERK, 2016.

## REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Before becoming homeless, individuals will generally seek services to maintain housing. Stabilizing housing is a more cost effective intervention than rehousing a household that has already become homeless.

The United Way operates 2-1-1, a phone number to connect community members with local health and human services information, referrals, and other assistance to meet their needs. Between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015, South Sound 2-1-1 responded to 12,530 people in Tacoma. Six of the top ten problems or needs reported by 2-1-1 callers in Tacoma relate to housing insecurity (indicated in by an asterisk\*).

**Exhibit 9** Top 10 problem or needs reported during South Sound 2-1-1 Calls, Tacoma



Source: United Way of Pierce County, October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 10** Top needs problem or needs reported during South Sound 2-1-1 Calls, top 3 Tacoma zip codes

|                                  | 98404  | 98405 | 98409  |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Heat/Lights                      | 12.27% | 6.65% | 11.17% |
| Rent                             | 8.36%  | 8.03% | 11.56% |
| Food                             | 4.61%  |       | 5.06%  |
| Emergency Shelter/Motel Vouchers | 3.38%  | 5.88% | 3.72%  |
| Transitional Housing             | 2.73%  | 3.95% |        |
| Housing/Low Cost Housing         |        | 5.69% | 4.45%  |

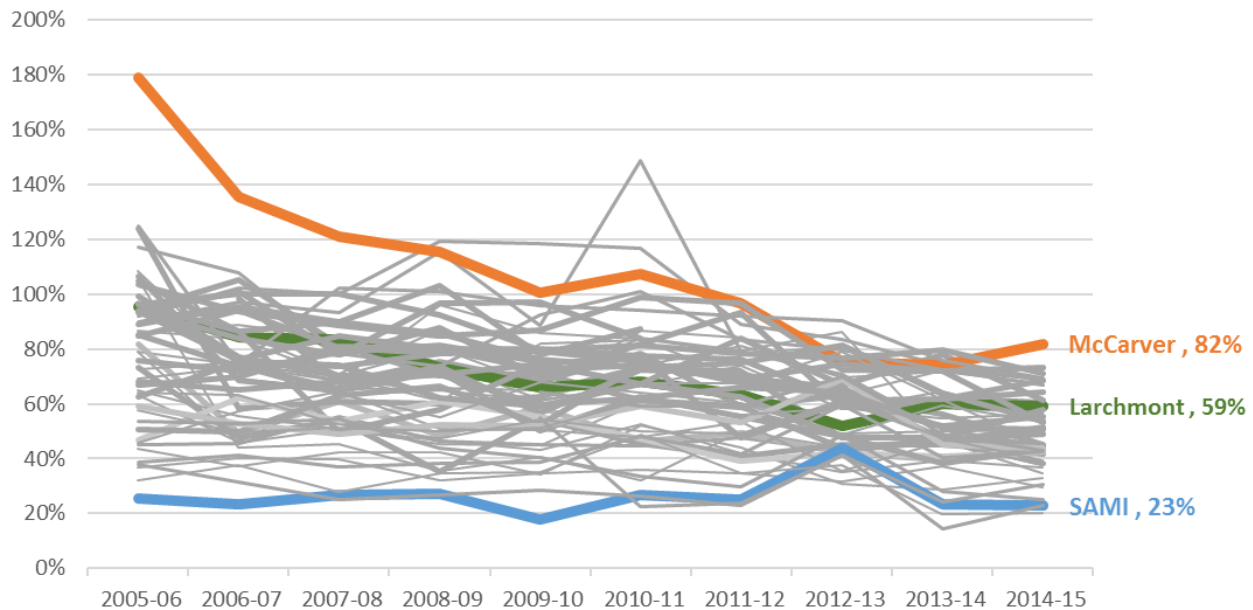
Source: United Way of Pierce County, October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015. BERK, 2016.

## SCHOOL MOBILITY

School mobility is an indicator of housing instability. When housing prices increase quickly, many families are forced to relocate. A break in employment can also trigger a school change.

**Exhibit 11** shows the rate of school moves to number of students. The numbers represent total student moves, not students that moved, thus some students are represented by more than one move in the school year. In general, student mobility has trended downward since 2006 for most schools.

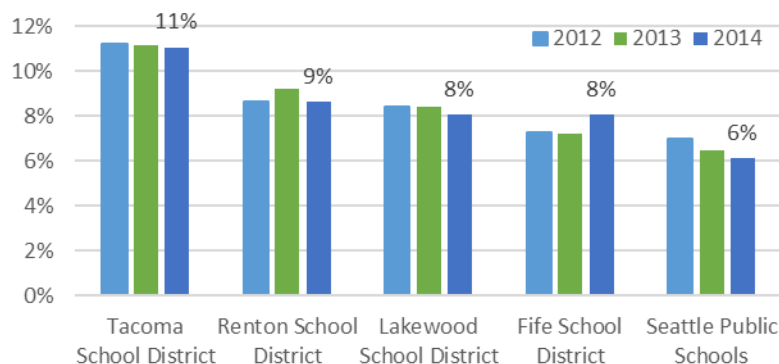
**Exhibit 11** Rate of School Moves, Tacoma School District



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2005-06 – 2014-15. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 12** provides the number of students who changed schools during a school year, meaning the student did not complete the school year in the class in which they were enrolled as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Tacoma School District's average mobility has been consistently higher than analogous school districts in recent years.

**Exhibit 12** District Mobility, Selected School Districts



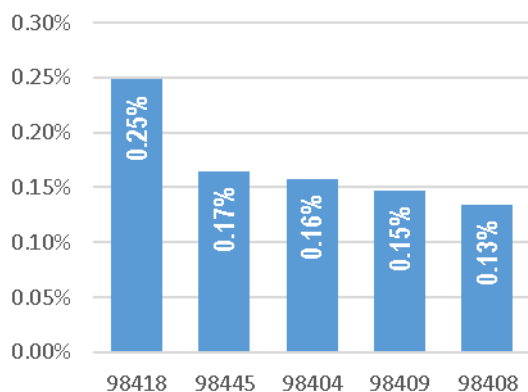
Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2011-12 - 2014-15. BERK, 2016.

## FORECLOSURES

As of April 2016, the Tacoma foreclosure rate was 0.1%. 1 in every 945 homes was in foreclosure.

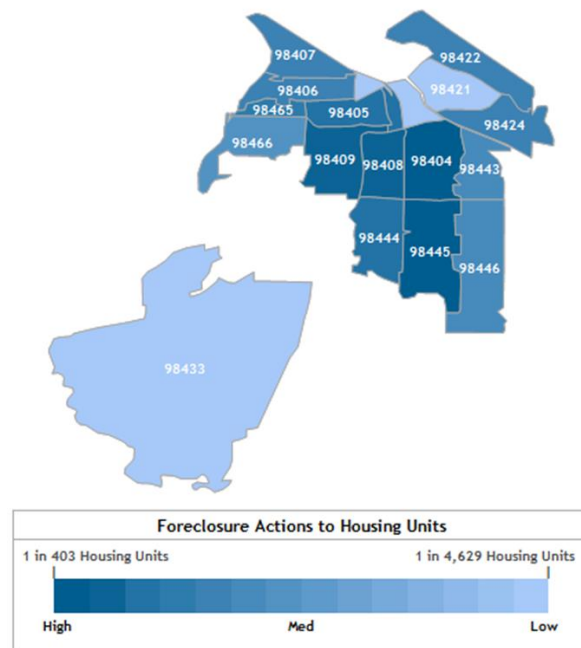
- Tacoma's foreclosure rate is:
  - Slightly lower than the Pierce County foreclosure rate (Pierce County: 0.11%)
  - Higher than the Washington and national rates (WA: 0.06%, National: 0.08%)
- Tacoma's foreclosure rates have decreased over the last few years. In May 2012 was 0.18%, 1 in every 542 Tacoma homes was in foreclosure.

**Exhibit 13** Foreclosure rates, Tacoma zip codes with highest foreclosure rates



Source: RealtyTrac, April 2016

**Exhibit 14** Foreclosure rates, by zip code, Tacoma



## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSTABILITY

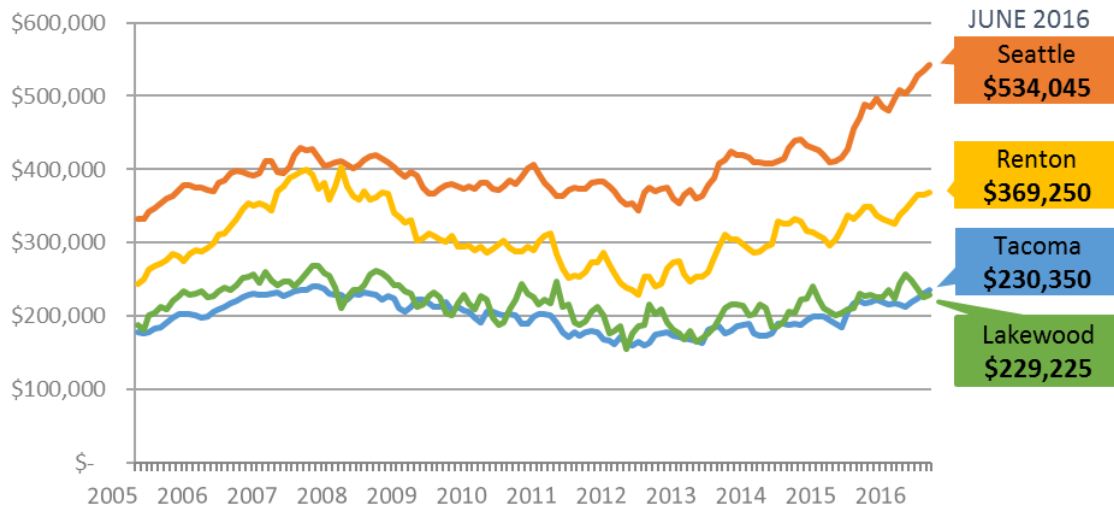
Structural factors determine why homelessness exists while individual factors explain who is most susceptible to experiencing homelessness. Affordable housing supply and adequate wages are necessary to support housing stability. Individual risk factors to homelessness include poverty, food insecurity, mental illness, domestic violence, and substance use disorder.

### STRUCTURAL FACTORS

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY

Housing in Tacoma is more affordable than in other Central Puget Sound cities, though prices have been increasing at rates comparable to other communities. **Exhibit 15** presents the median household sales price in Tacoma and comparable cities since 2005.

**Exhibit 15 Median Sales Price Jan 2005 - June 2016**



Source: Zillow, 2016; BERK, 2016.

Zillow.com also tracks current rental prices and provides annual midpoint estimates, presented in [Exhibit 16](#). For June 2016, Zillow estimates the midpoint rent in Tacoma to be \$1,441, substantially lower than the King County cities of Seattle (\$2,474), Renton (\$2,069), and Bellevue (\$2,660). While Tacoma's rental prices are lower, Tacoma experienced comparable growth in rental prices from last year (9%).

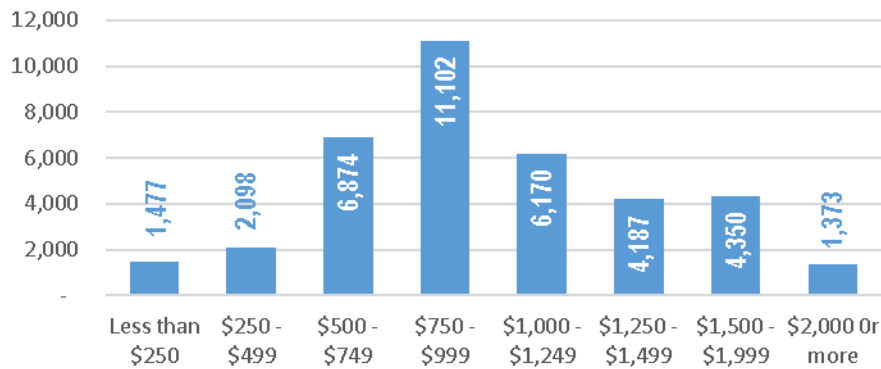
**Exhibit 16 Estimated Midpoint Rents, Selected Cities**

|          | June 2016 |             | Annual Change |             |
|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Seattle  | \$2,474   | <div></div> | 10.4%         | <div></div> |
| Tacoma   | \$1,441   | <div></div> | 9.0%          | <div></div> |
| Renton   | \$2,069   | <div></div> | 10.2%         | <div></div> |
| Bellevue | \$2,660   | <div></div> | 10.2%         | <div></div> |
| Everett  | \$1,629   | <div></div> | 5.4%          | <div></div> |

Source: Zillow, 2016. BERK, 2016.

The American Community Survey (ACS) collects self-reported housing costs from households. Self-reported gross rents are based on what people pay, and therefore represent all of the housing subsidies and other affordable housing available in the City. [Exhibit 17](#) presents the distribution of monthly gross rent in Tacoma including units of all sizes.

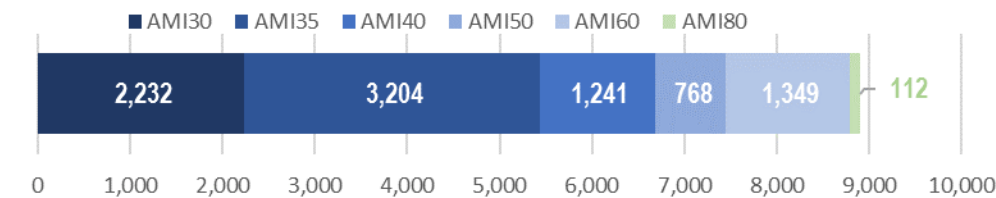
**Exhibit 17 Self-reported Gross Rent by Household, Tacoma**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

The bulk of rental units are in the \$500 - \$1,249 per month range. This data is the estimate for 2014 using 2014 dollars, the most recent estimate available from the ACS. Part of the difference in rental price estimates is due to different reporting approaches. Zillow tracks advertised prices for rental units and does not include any post market subsidies or discounts. The ACS tracks self-reported housing costs, that is what people pay for housing, and thus reflects all discounts and housing subsidies currently utilized in the market. A summary of units of subsidized housing made possible with federal, state, and local funding sources, incentives, and subsidies is presented in [Exhibit 18](#).

**Exhibit 18 Tacoma Subsidized Housing Stock, 2013**

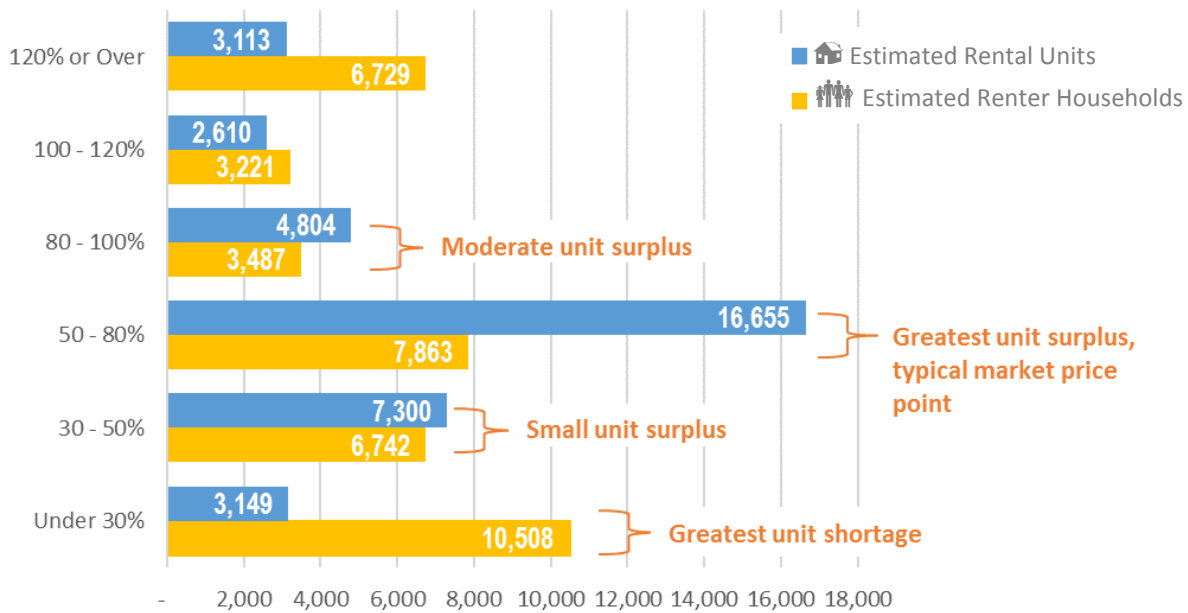


Source: PSRC, 2015; BERK, 2016

- In 2013, approximately 10% of Tacoma's housing stock, roughly **8,900** units, has a unit-based housing subsidy attached to it. This is higher than Seattle (8%), Kent (6%), and Renton (6%).
- Tenant-based housing choice vouchers add to the affordable housing stock.

[Exhibit 19](#) compares the current rental prices with household income distribution (2014 estimates based on self-reported income and self-reported housing costs). This analysis is intended to illustrate the relative gap in housing options in specific income ranges. Given data limitations numbers should be interpreted with caution. Based on these estimates, Tacoma has a gap of approximately 7,300 units affordable to households earning less than 30% of AMI. Surpluses in units affordable to those earning between 30% and 100% of AMI likely represent households that are paying more than 30% of their income on rent. Likewise, some higher earning households are likely occupying housing that costs less than 30% of their monthly income.

**Exhibit 19** Gap Analysis of Rental Households by Income and Rental Housing by Gross Rent, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

#### Income by Tenure

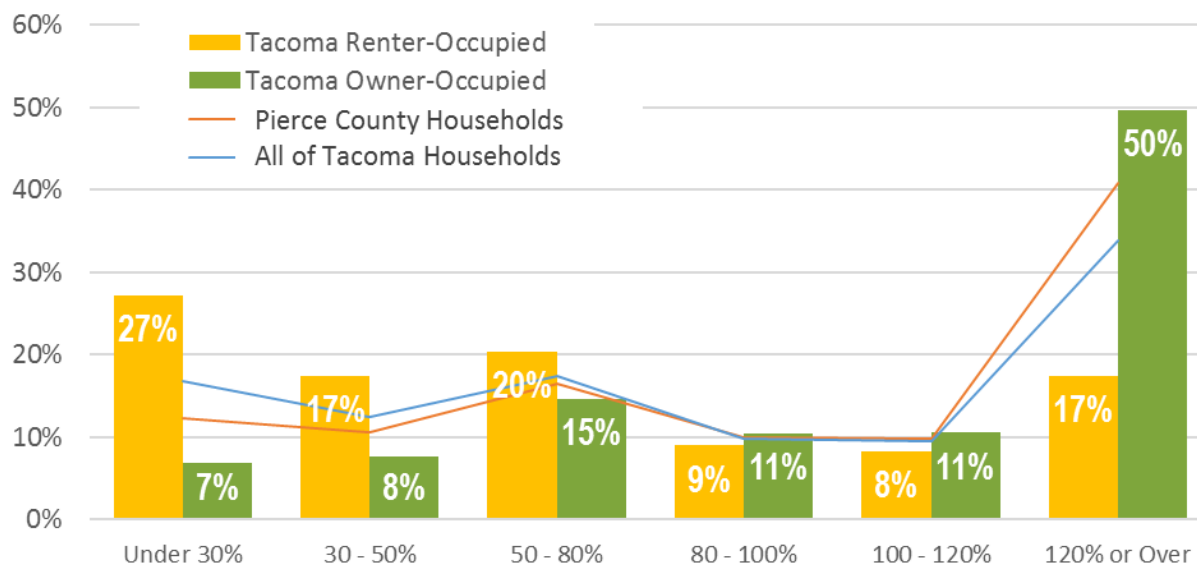
This section compares Tacoma's household income patterns to Pierce County's Area Median Income (AMI). AMI is typically used to understand the fit of a jurisdiction's housing supply to the workforce. AMI thresholds are also used to determine eligibility to income-restricted housing units.

Tacoma has both renter and owner households in every income category, though it has a greater proportion of households in the lower income categories and a smaller proportion of households in the higher income categories than Pierce County.

80% - 120% of AMI includes households' incomes ranging from \$48,000 to \$72,000 per year and is typically considered to be "middle class". The distribution of Tacoma's households is higher at both ends of the spectrum than these middle categories.

Tacoma has more than 13,000 households earning less than 30% of AMI, 79% of which live in rental housing. At this income level, many households will be challenged to meet their basic needs.

**Exhibit 20** Percent of Households by Housing Tenure and Income Ratio Area Median Income, Tacoma and Pierce County



| Ratio to<br>Pierce County AMI<br>59,711 | Rounded (1,000s)<br>Income Ranges |          | Tacoma Owner-<br>Occupied |             | Tacoma Renter-<br>Occupied |             |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
|   | Low                               | High     | Estimated<br>HHs          | Percent     | Estimated HHs              | Percent     |
| Under 30%                               | \$0                               | \$18,000 | 2,775                     | 7%          | 10,508                     | 27%         |
| 30 - 50%                                | \$18,000                          | \$30,000 | 3,114                     | 8%          | 6,742                      | 17%         |
| 50 - 80%                                | \$30,000                          | \$48,000 | 5,893                     | 15%         | 7,863                      | 20%         |
| 80 - 100%                               | \$48,000                          | \$60,000 | 4,224                     | 11%         | 3,487                      | 9%          |
| 100 - 120%                              | \$60,000                          | \$72,000 | 4,238                     | 11%         | 3,221                      | 8%          |
| 120% or Over                            | \$72,000                          |          | 19,967                    | 50%         | 6,729                      | 17%         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                                   |          | <b>40,211</b>             | <b>100%</b> | <b>38,550</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

\* Percentages for occupancy type may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

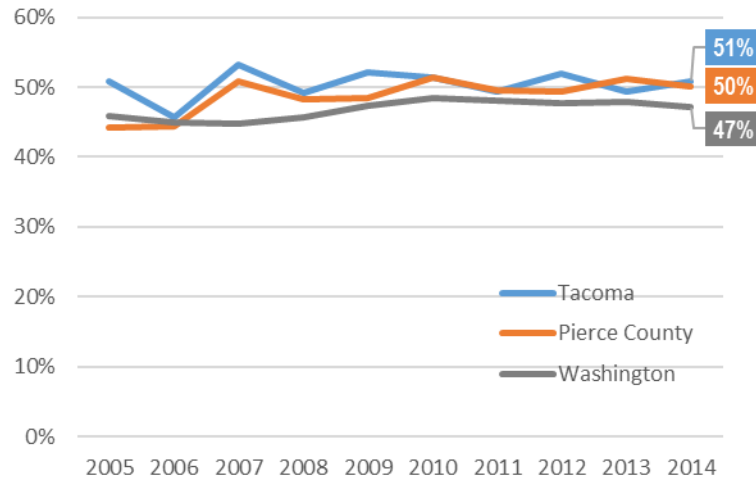
Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

## HOUSING COST BURDEN

Tacoma has a higher rate of cost-burdened households in rental housing that the County and State.

HUD defines cost-burdened families as those who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Severe rent burden is defined as paying more than 50 percent of one's income on housing. Individuals experiencing cost burden may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

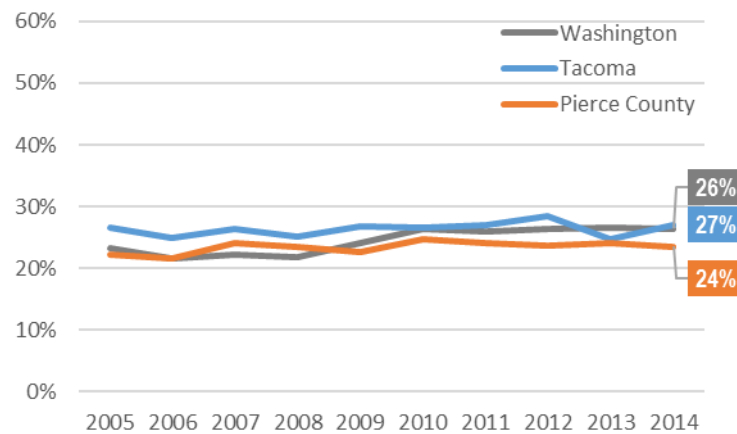
**Exhibit 21 Cost-Burdened Rental Households, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014.  
BERK, 2016.

- In 2014, 51% of all rental households in the City were cost-burdened.
- Since 2005, the percentage of Tacoma rental households that are cost-burdened has trended higher than the statewide percentage.

**Exhibit 22 Severely Cost-Burdened Rental Households, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington**

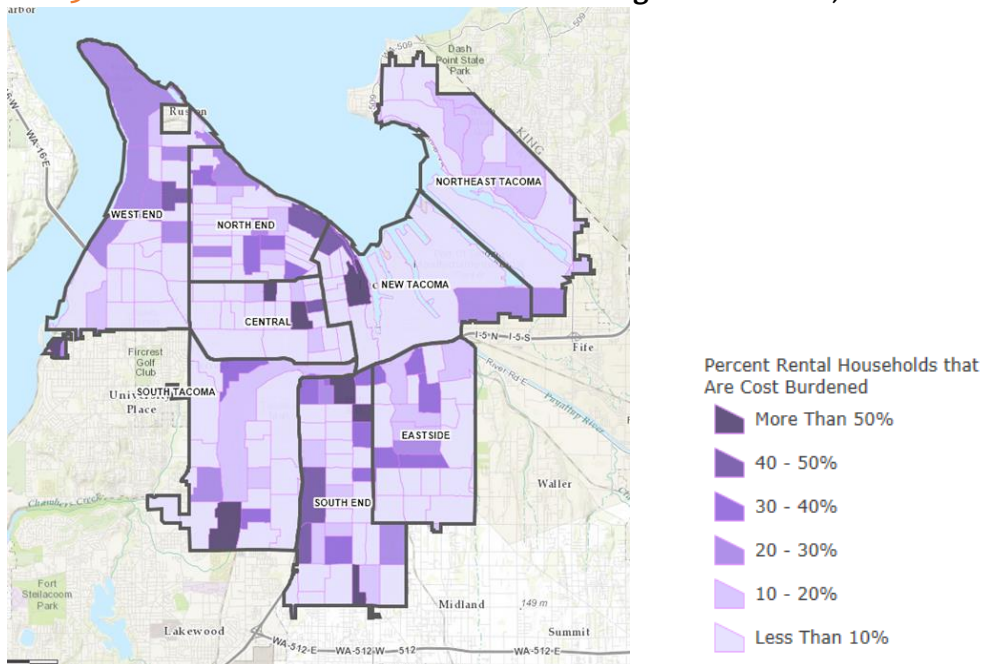


Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014.  
BERK, 2016.

- In 2015, 27% of all rental households in the City were severely cost-burdened.
- Since 2005, City patterns in rental households that are severely cost-burdened have tracked with the Pierce County and Washington State

**Exhibit 23** shows the distribution of cost-burdened households across the City. Further consideration of income and assets is needed to understand cost-burden's role in housing instability.

**Exhibit 23 Percent of Rental Households that are Housing Cost Burdened, Tacoma**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2015. BERK, 2016.

## INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

### INCOME AND POVERTY

Household income in Tacoma is consistently lower than the County and the State.

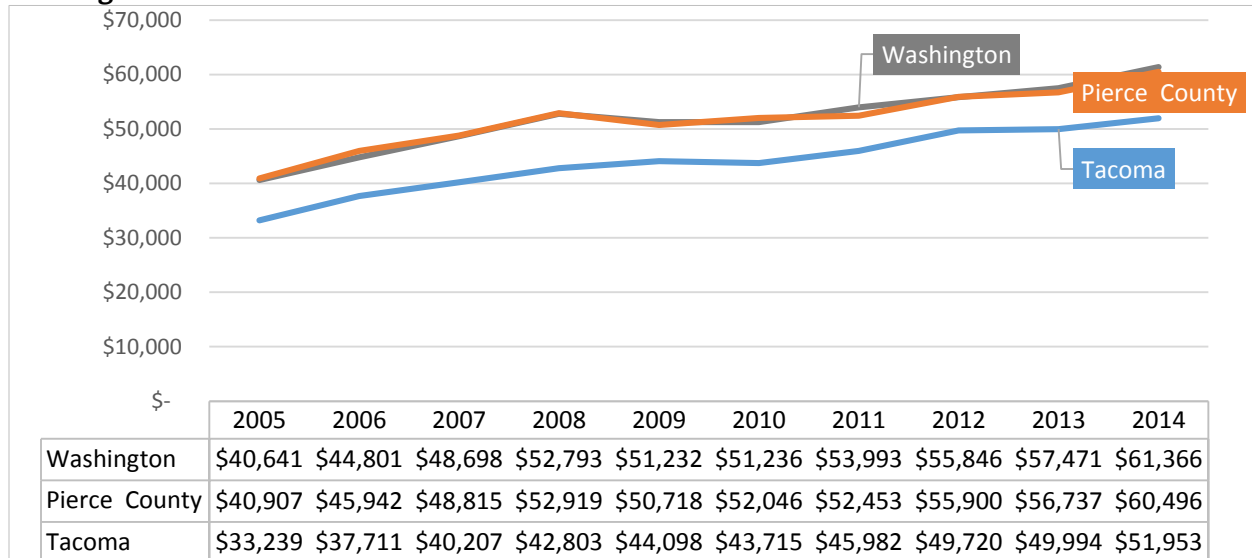
In 2014, the median household income in Tacoma was \$51,953, 15% lower than the state median income, \$61,366 (2014 dollars). The median household income in the City of Tacoma has been an average of 15% lower than the State and Pierce County average since 2005.

#### POVERTY THRESHOLDS – 2014

The poverty threshold is established by the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes. It is calculated based on a family's income and a standard threshold of income according to the number of people in the household. It is updated annually. It does not count noncash benefits such as food stamps and housing subsidies. Many assistance programs use other guidelines for determining eligibility for benefits or services.

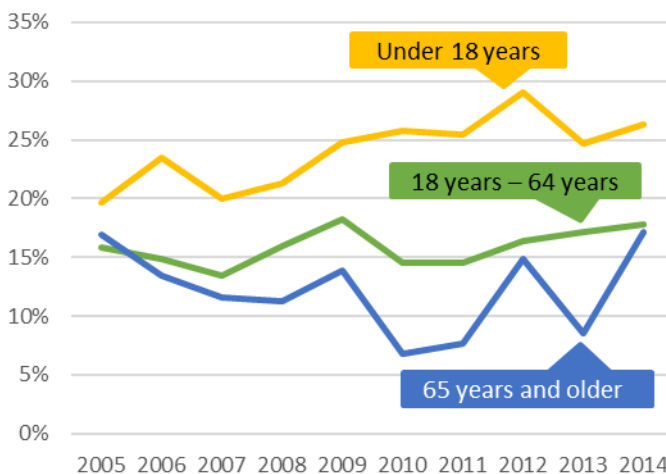
|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>One person (unrelated individual)</b> |        |
| Under 65 years.....                      | 12,316 |
| 65 years and over.....                   | 11,354 |
| <b>Two people.....</b>                   |        |
| Householder under 65 years.....          | 15,853 |
| Householder 65 years and over.....       | 14,309 |

**Exhibit 24 Median Household Income, in 2014 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars. Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington**



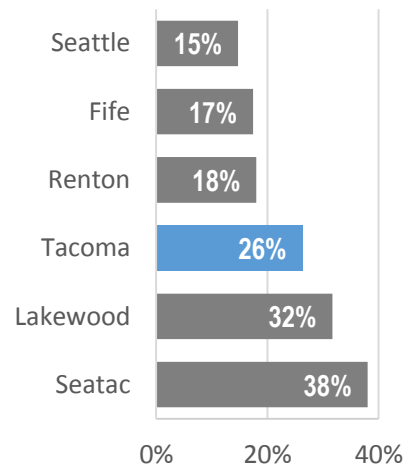
Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016

**Exhibit 25 Population Living in Poverty, by Age Group, Tacoma**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016

**Exhibit 26 Population Under 18 years Living in Poverty, Selected Cities**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016.

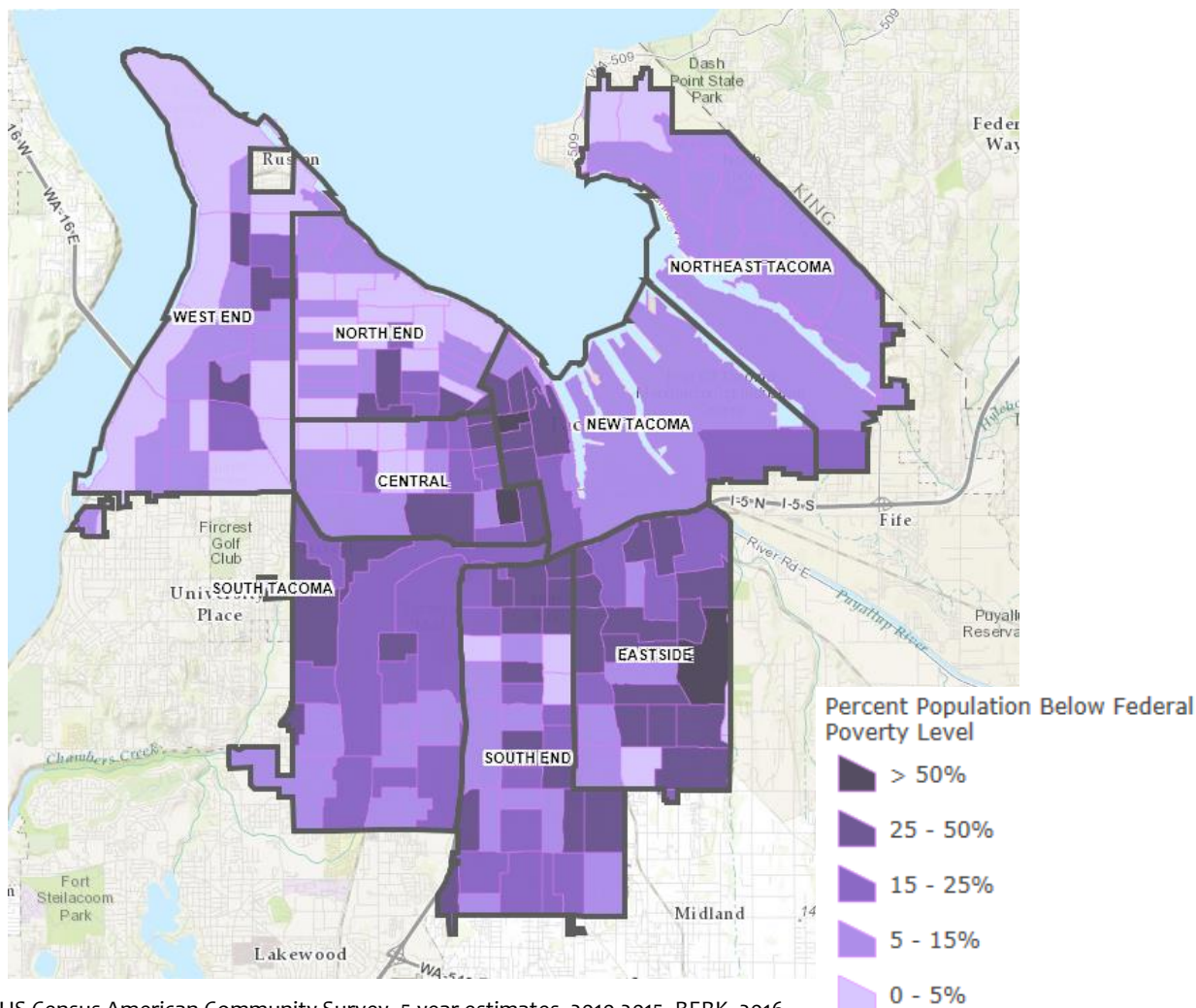
Since 2005, poverty among Tacoma residents:

- Under 18 years old has trended upward;
- 18 to 64 years old has remained fairly constant, ranged between 14-18%; and
- 65 years and over has fluctuated between 7-17%. Poverty increased from 9% in 2013 to 17% in 2014.

Exhibit 27 shows the percent of population below the federal poverty level across the City. Dark shades indicate higher percentages of individuals living under the federal poverty line.

In 2014, the federal poverty level for a household of 4 was \$23,850.

**Exhibit 27** Percent of the Population Below the Federal Poverty Level, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2015. BERK, 2016.

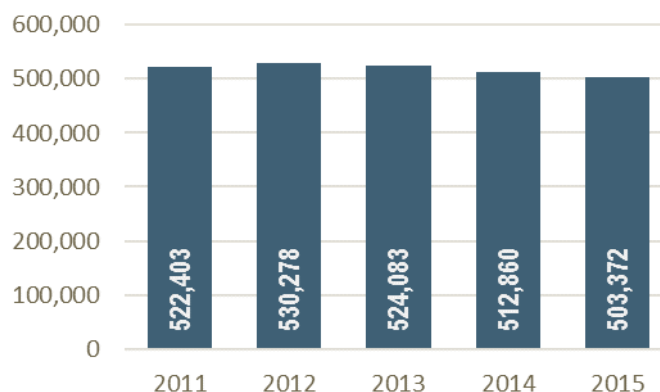
## FOOD INSECURITY

**Food insecurity** is a limited or uncertain availability of or inability to acquire nutritionally adequate, safe and acceptable foods due to financial resource constraints. Factors that contribute to food insecurity include unemployment, poverty, and lack of access to food stamps. Research shows food insecurity is associated with poor academic performance, mental health issues, difficulty interacting socially, and obesity.

The Emergency Food Network (EFoodNet) provides 16 million pounds of food to 70 food banks, hot meal sites, and shelters to low-income families and individuals throughout Pierce County. In 2015, EFoodNet was affiliated with 22 food banks and meal sites across Tacoma. Total client visits to EFoodNet food sites in Tacoma has remained fairly consistent since 2011, decreasing by 4% between 2011 and 2015.

Visits to Tacoma food banks and meal sites by residents 55 years and older has increased since 2011, while visits among younger clients has slightly declined or remained fairly consistent during the same time period. For more information about senior food insecurity, please see the discussion of senior wellness in **Section 3**.

**Exhibit 28** Total visits to EFoodNet Affiliated food banks and meal sites, Tacoma



Source: Emergency Food Network, 2011-2015. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 29** Total EFoodNet affiliated Food Banks, Meal Sites, and Client Visits, Tacoma

| Zip code     | Total Food Sites<br>as of 2011 | Total Food Sites<br>as of 2015 | Total Client Visits<br>2011 | Total Client Visits<br>2015 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 98402        | 3                              | 2                              | 91,219                      | 14,719                      |
| 98404        | 4                              | 6                              | 157,910                     | 182,579                     |
| 98405        | 4                              | 5                              | 212,800                     | 243,481                     |
| 98408        | 3                              | 3                              | 21,212                      | 16,536                      |
| 98409        | 0                              | 2                              | -                           | 7,870                       |
| 98465        | 1                              | 1                              | 2,972                       | 3,474                       |
| 98466        | 1                              | 2                              | 20,506                      | 31,072                      |
| 98498        | 1                              | 1                              | 15,154                      | 3,641                       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17</b>                      | <b>22</b>                      | <b>521,773</b>              | <b>503,372</b>              |

Source: Emergency Food Network, 2011 & 2015. BERK, 2016.

### National School Lunch Program

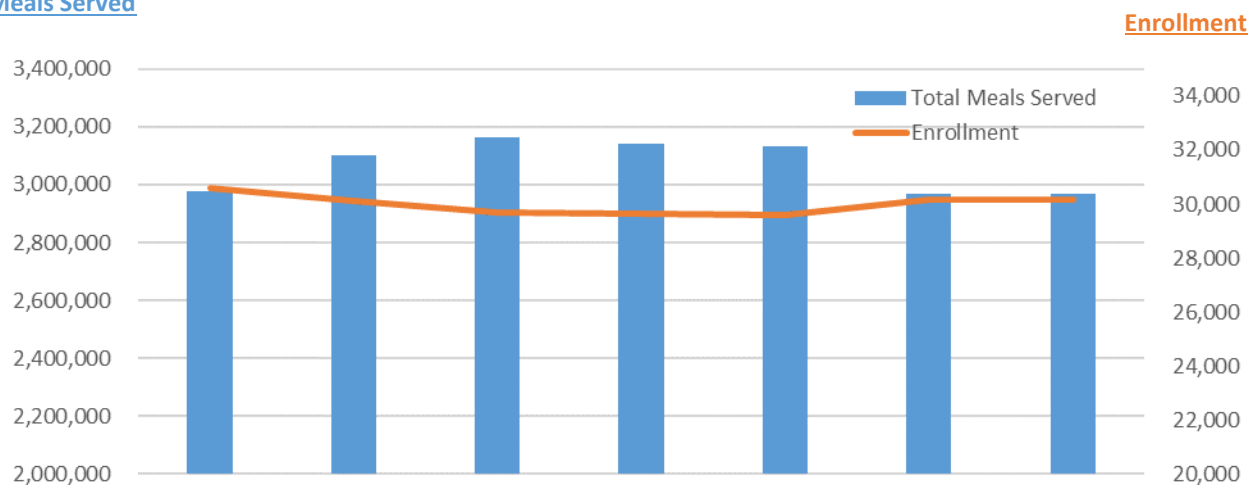
The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low cost, or free lunches to children each school day.

Any child at a participating school may obtain a meal through the program. Children from families with incomes:

- At or below 130% of the poverty line are eligible for free meals;
- Between 130-185% are eligible for reduced price meals (costing no more than \$.40); and
- Over 185% may purchase meals at full price, though their meals are subsidized to some extent.

Since 2008, Tacoma School District participation in the Program has remained fairly consistent. Total meals served increased during the recent recession (2008 – 2010), and has since returned to pre-recession levels.

**Exhibit 30 National School Lunch Program, Total Meals Served and Enrollment, Tacoma School District**  
**Meals Served**



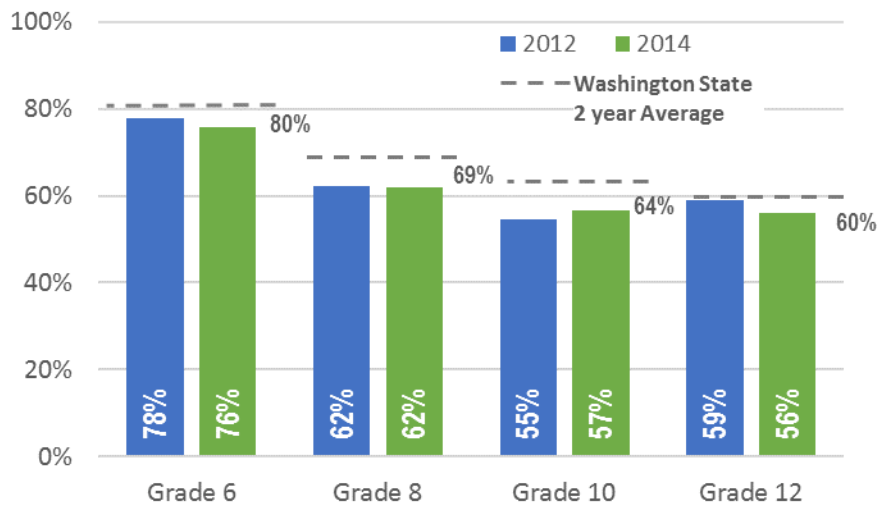
|              | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Enrollment   | 30,588    | 30,113    | 29,677    | 29,624    | 29,585    | 30,158    | 30,158    |
| Meals Served | 2,977,171 | 3,103,407 | 3,163,166 | 3,139,628 | 3,133,809 | 2,970,077 | 2,970,077 |

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2008-2014. BERK, 2016.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) administers the Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board. Students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 answer questions about safety and violence, physical activity and diet, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and related risk and protective factors.

Respondents in each grade level were asked "Did you eat breakfast today?", results are listed in [Exhibit 31](#).

**Exhibit 31** Percent of Students That Have Eaten Breakfast This Morning, Tacoma Public Schools and Washington



- A smaller percentage of Tacoma Public School District students reported eating breakfast the day they completed the HYS than the Statewide rate, in both 2012 and 2014 and across every sampled grade level.

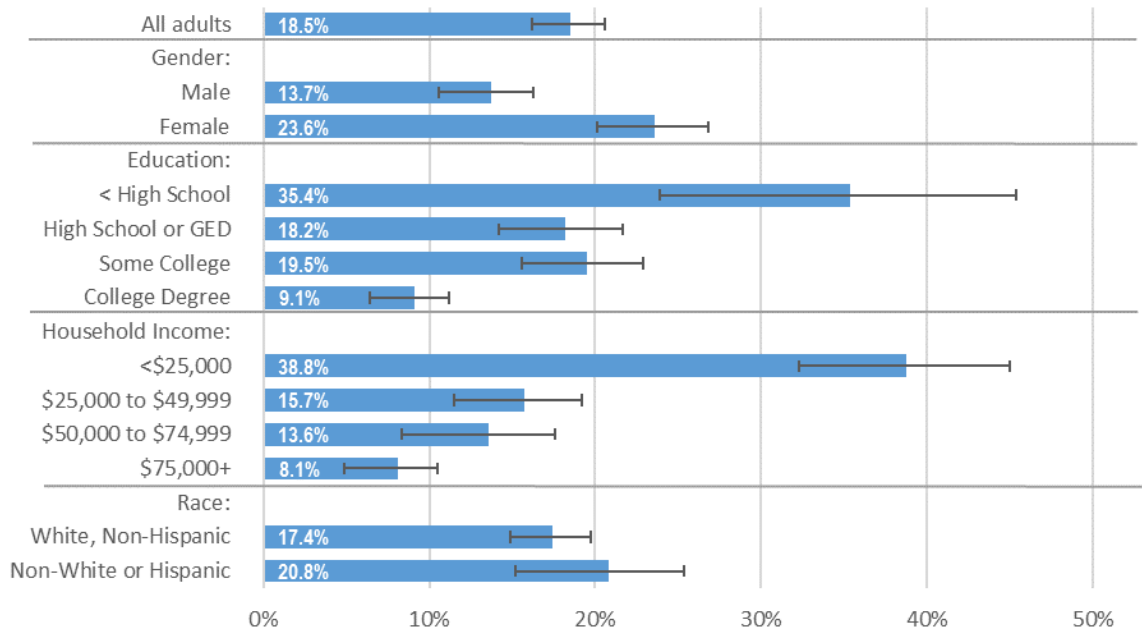
Source: Healthy Youth Survey, Available from OSPI, 2012 & 2014. BERK, 2016

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with stress, can work productively, and is able to make contributions to his or her community (World Health Organization, 2016). Mental illness and poor mental health is thought to be caused by a variety of genetic and environmental factors including inherited traits, environmental exposures before birth, and brain chemistry (Mayo Clinic, 2015). Trauma and environmental stressors can also cause the onset of poor mental health including unemployment (Goldsmith & Diette, 2012) and poverty (Mani, Mullainathan, Shafir, & Zhao, 2013).

The Department of Health and CDC administer an annual survey, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), to measure how the health of Washingtonians changes over time. The following 2013 BRFSS survey results were provided for Pierce County residents. Between 2011-13, approximately one out of five adults in Pierce County reported more than 14 days of poor mental health in the past month.

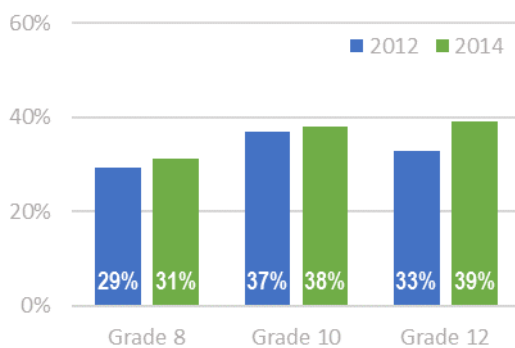
**Exhibit 32 Adults Reporting more than 14 days of Poor Mental Health in the Last Month, Pierce County**



Source: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department – Health Equity Assessment, 2011-2013

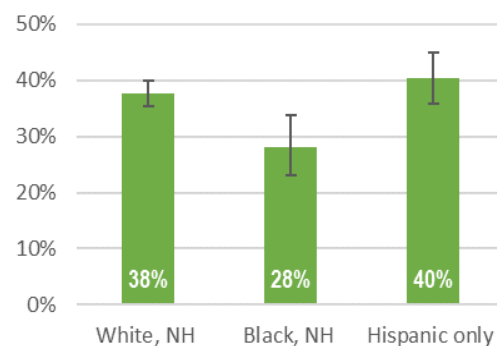
- Females report higher rates of poor mental health in the preceding month than males (24% and 14%, respectively)
- Adults with less than a High School or GED education report significantly higher rates of poor mental health than those with higher levels of education.
- Adults from households with household income less than \$25,000 report significantly higher rates of poor mental health than those in households with higher household income.

**Exhibit 33 Percent of students reporting poor mental health, Tacoma Public Schools**



Source: Healthy Youth Survey, Available from OSPI, 2012 & 2014.

**Exhibit 34 Youth Depression, Pierce County**



Source: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department – Health Equity Assessment, based on Healthy Youth Survey, Grade 10, 2014.

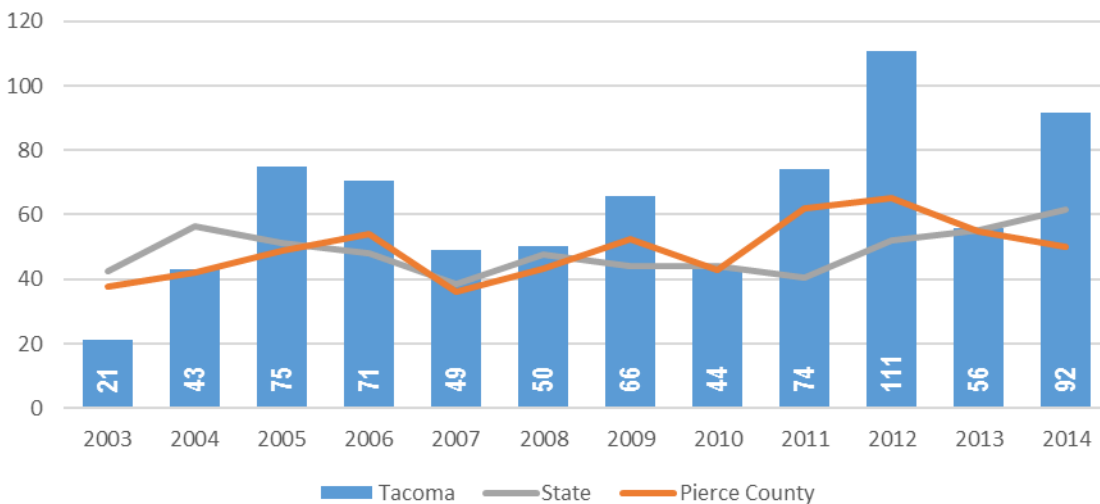
Analysis by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department shows that approximately two out of five Hispanic and white, non-Hispanic, and ten out of ten black, non-Hispanic, 10<sup>th</sup> graders felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more that they stopped doing their usual activities.

Suicide and suicide attempts among adolescents are significantly higher in Tacoma than County- and State-wide.

**Exhibit 35** provides information regarding adolescents (age 10-17) who committed suicide or were admitted to the hospital for suicide attempts, per 100,000 adolescents. Suicides are based on death certificate information. Suicide attempts are based on hospital admissions, but do not include admissions to federal hospital.

In 2014, the Tacoma rate was 83% higher than the County rate and 49% higher than the State rate. The Tacoma adolescent suicide rate has generally been trending upward since 2010.

**Exhibit 35 Suicide and Suicide Attempts, Adolescents 10-17 years old. Rate per 100,000. Tacoma**



Source: Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis, 2003-2014. BERK, 2016.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner, often involving tactics such as physical assault, stalking, and sexual abuse.

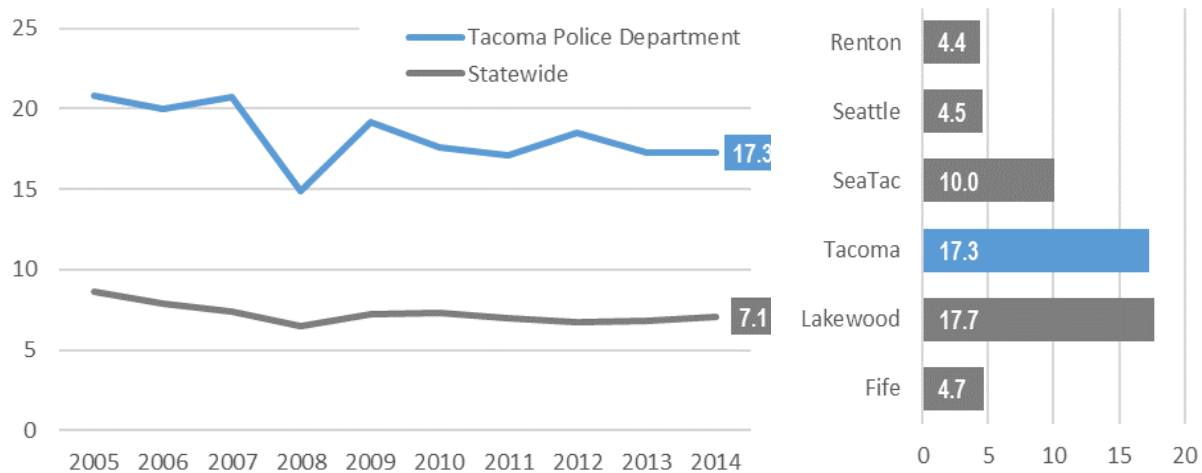
Due to the direct relationship between domestic violence and housing, many domestic violence victims, especially those with few resources, find themselves homeless. In 2015, 20% of cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors cited domestic violence as a primary cause of family homelessness (The United State Conference of Mayors, 2015). Twenty-eight percent (28%) of homeless individuals included in the Pierce County PIT experienced domestic violence.

The rate of domestic violence offences reported to the Tacoma Police Department is higher than the rate reported statewide and to police departments of analogous cities.

Since 2005, the rate of domestic violence offenses reported to the Tacoma Police Department has been an average of 250% higher than the Statewide rate.

The rate of domestic violence offenses reported in Tacoma was four times higher in 2014 than the rate reported in multiple analogous cities: Renton, Seattle, and Fife. Lakewood experienced a similar rate of domestic violence offenses to Tacoma in 2014.

**Exhibit 36 Domestic Violence Offenses. Rate per 1,000. Tacoma Police Department and selected police departments**



Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016.

Note: Prior to 2012, all data was calculated using the Summary UCR (SRS) reporting method. Beginning with 2012 data is calculated using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Due to the significant differences in the reporting methods, SRS data cannot be compared to NIBRS data.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Early drug use represents multiple dimensions of risk to youth. Exposure to alcohol and drugs interferes with memory, positive emotional and social development, and is associated with low school performance and academic disengagement.

Early drug use is also an indicator of vulnerability to gang activity.

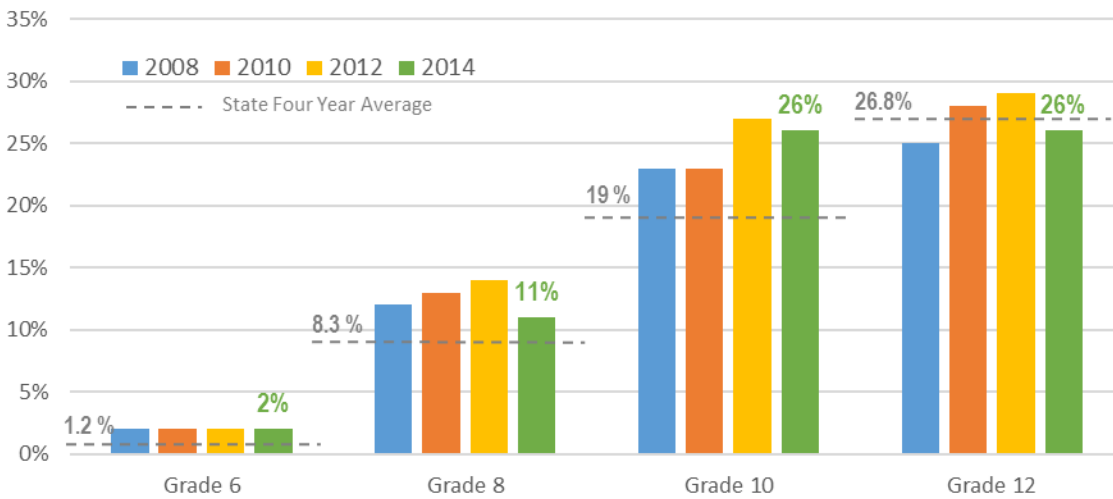
Tacoma youth report higher rates of marijuana use than similar aged children across Washington. Statewide, 6<sup>th</sup> graders who use marijuana are more likely to report lower grades in school compared to those who don't use. Lower grades in middle school are highly correlated with failure to complete high school. About 2% of Tacoma's sixth graders report having used marijuana in the last 30 days, twice as many report having ever used marijuana.

Incidence of use rises considerably from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade and again from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. No increase in rate of use is demonstrated between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but this is likely explained by students leaving school prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Tacoma students have much higher rates of marijuana use than the state wide averages. The disproportionality is highest in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Tacoma student use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs other than Marijuana largely follow statewide-patterns, with slightly higher use patterns in alcohol and prescription drugs.

A smaller percentage of Tacoma students report that adults in their neighborhood think youth marijuana use is "very wrong" compared to statewide norms. Only 54% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders report that marijuana would be "very hard" for them to get (the statewide rate is 66%). These factors speak to the commonplace nature of marijuana in some students' lives.

**Exhibit 37** Percent of Tacoma Students Who Report using Marijuana in the past 30 days, Tacoma School District



Source: Department of Health & Tacoma School District, 2008 - 2014. BERK, 2016.

Washington has experienced an increase in trends in rates of maternal opiate, marijuana, and amphetamine use (Campo, 2016).

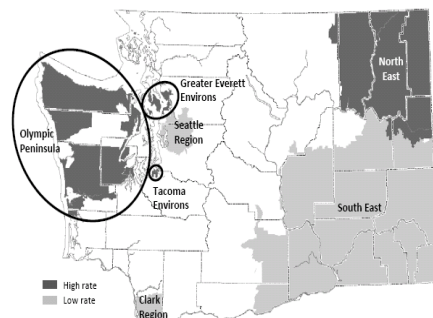
The Office of Financial Management investigated rates of maternal use diagnosis for Washington state from 2006 to 2016 (Campo, 2016). Nationally, there was a 33% increase in the rate of maternal stays that included a substance use diagnoses and a 71% increase in the rate of newborn stays with a diagnosis related to substance use. Rates in Washington have been higher than those seen nationally. Between 1990 and 2014, Washington State experienced a three-fold increase in the rate of maternal hospital stays and a three-fold increase in the rate of newborn hospital stays that included a substance use diagnosis. Of the eight drug-related diagnoses that are recorded, opiate use is the most common diagnosis and markedly trending upwards in Washington (1,524 cases).

Tacoma has a higher-than-expected rate of maternal stays with an opiate-related diagnosis at 31.8 per 1,000 (though not as high as the Olympic Peninsula and Everett environs). The rate for Western Washington is 16.9.

Data to reveal racial disparities are not available. Additional qualitative information may provide more insight into spatial patterns and which racial community groups are overly impacted.

**Exhibit 38** Maternal Stays with an Opiate-Related Diagnosis, Washington

Graphic excerpted from (Campo, 2016).



Source: Office of Financial Management, Stays from 2012 – 2014.

## SECTION 2

# Workforce Development

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### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the workforce development assessment is to advance the understanding of barriers community members face to economic advancement. We examine Tacoma's workforce participation and unemployment rates demographically, to better understand who in the community is facing the greatest barriers to workforce participation. We then discuss what the job opportunities looks like in Tacoma, reviewing the job market, educational opportunities, and resources and attributes that enable job retention.

### GUIDING DOCUMENTS

#### TACOMA 2025

Workforce development is addressed in two objectives:

#### Objective 3: Economic Vibrancy and Employment.

##### *Community Priorities*

- 3A. Increase the number and quality of jobs throughout Tacoma.** Tacomans will have more economic opportunities – partners will strive to recruit, retain, and expand job opportunities throughout the community.
- 3B. Diversify Tacoma's living wage business base.** Providing jobs at living wages is a top priority; well-paying jobs help the community meet multiple goals.
- 3C. Improve neighborhood business districts.** A diversity of neighborhoods with vital business activity and housing options is essential to Tacoma.
- 3D. Strengthen downtown Tacoma as a business core and residential option.** A successful downtown Tacoma is a driver of Tacoma's economic health and quality of life.

##### *Accountability Measures*

- Increase the number of jobs in Tacoma.
- Increase the percentage of households that meet or exceed living wage standards or are economically self-sufficient.
- Increase business sector diversity.
- Increase the percentage of residents positively rating the quality of neighborhood business districts.
- Increase the number of downtown workers and residents.

#### Objective 4: Education and Learning

##### *Community Priorities*

- 4A. Close the education achievement gaps.** Helping all of Tacoma's youth succeed through quality education is key for the community's future.
- 4B. Prepare people to succeed in Tacoma's workforce.** All residents should be prepared to succeed at jobs that are located in Tacoma or anywhere.

## 2015-19 CITY OF TACOMA HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

Workforce Development is addressed in the Tacoma Human Services Strategic Plan, **Priority 3: Increase Employability, Self-Determination, and Empowerment of Adults**. The objective to ensure access and supports are available to allow residents to enter or progress in the job market, or when appropriate, to have other positive and meaningful involvement in the community supports Tacoma's labor force.

- **Workforce Development:** Education, training, and individualized employment support services are available that enable all residents, especially historically marginalized populations, to enter and/or progress in the job market.
- **Self-determination and Empowerment:** Opportunities for individuals to build upon their strengths are available so that they can live as independently as possible and have options for positive and meaningful involvement in the community.

## Findings

### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

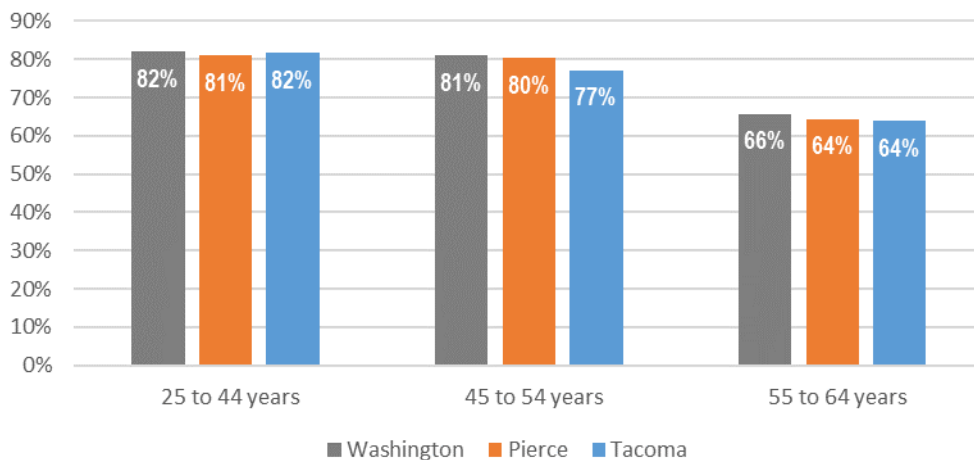
The labor force is defined by the Census as all people classified in the civilian labor force plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces. High labor force participation suggests a healthy and active local economy, where citizens are earning wages to pay for goods, services, and shelter.

One in four Pierce County adults (16 years and over) reside in Tacoma. The Pierce County labor force participation rates include the work status of Tacoma residents.

#### By Age

Tacoma 25- to 44- years olds are equally active in the labor force as those in their age cohort across the state and slightly more active than those in Pierce County. Labor force participation is slightly lower for Tacoma adults older than 45 compared to the county and state.

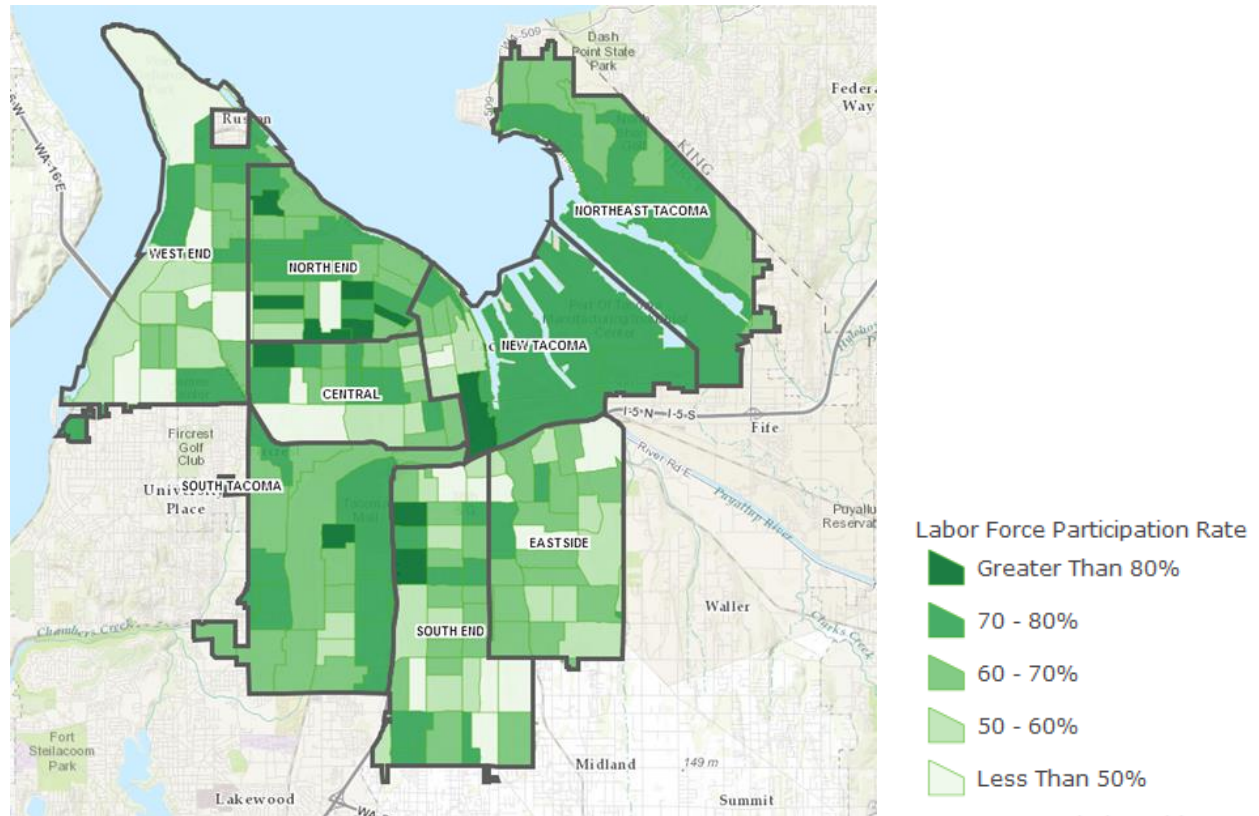
#### Exhibit 39 Labor Force Participation, 25 to 64 years old, by age group, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

Exhibit 40 provides the labor force participation of adults in the City in 2014. Darker shades represent higher levels of participation. In the lightest areas, such as the areas neighboring Lincoln High School, labor force participation is lower than 50%, meaning that 1 out of 2 persons over the age of 16 are working or looking for work.

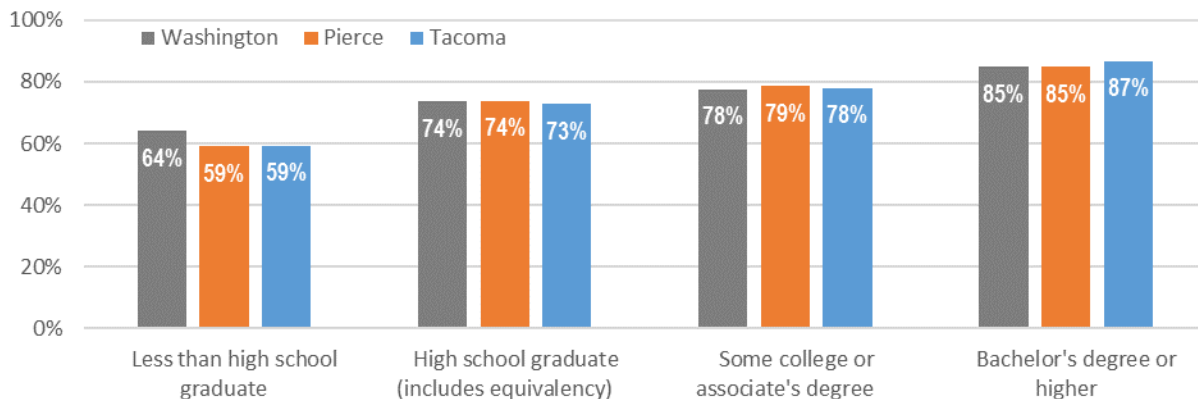
**Exhibit 40 Labor Force Participation of Adults, Tacoma**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

## By Educational Attainment

**Exhibit 41 Labor Force Participation, 25 to 64 years old, by educational attainment, Tacoma**



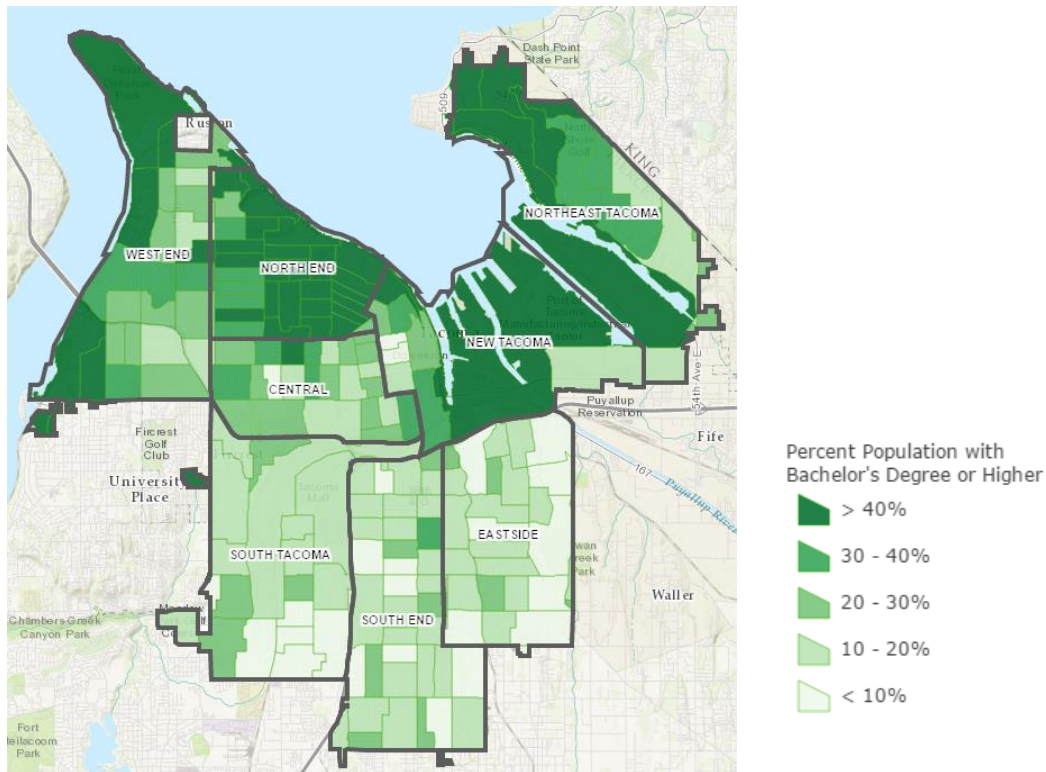
Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

- Pierce County and Tacoma individuals who did not graduate high school in are less active in the labor force than others with the same level of educational attainment. Tacoma residents who at least graduated high school are equally, or slightly more, active in the labor force as those with comparable education across the county and state.

Exhibit 42 displays the proportion of the population age 25 years or older with a bachelor's degree or higher within the City. Darker shades represent higher densities of adults with at least a bachelor's degree. The populations in census tracts in the north portion of Tacoma have the highest proportion of individuals with a bachelor's degree, which contrasts significantly with the census tracts in the south end of Tacoma.

- 25.5% of Tacoma's population age 25 years or older has a bachelor's degree or higher, similar to Pierce County (24.2%) but lower than the statewide rate (32.3%).
- The median earnings of Tacoma residents with a bachelor's degree is approximately \$20,000 higher than for Tacoma residents with only a high school diploma (including equivalency).

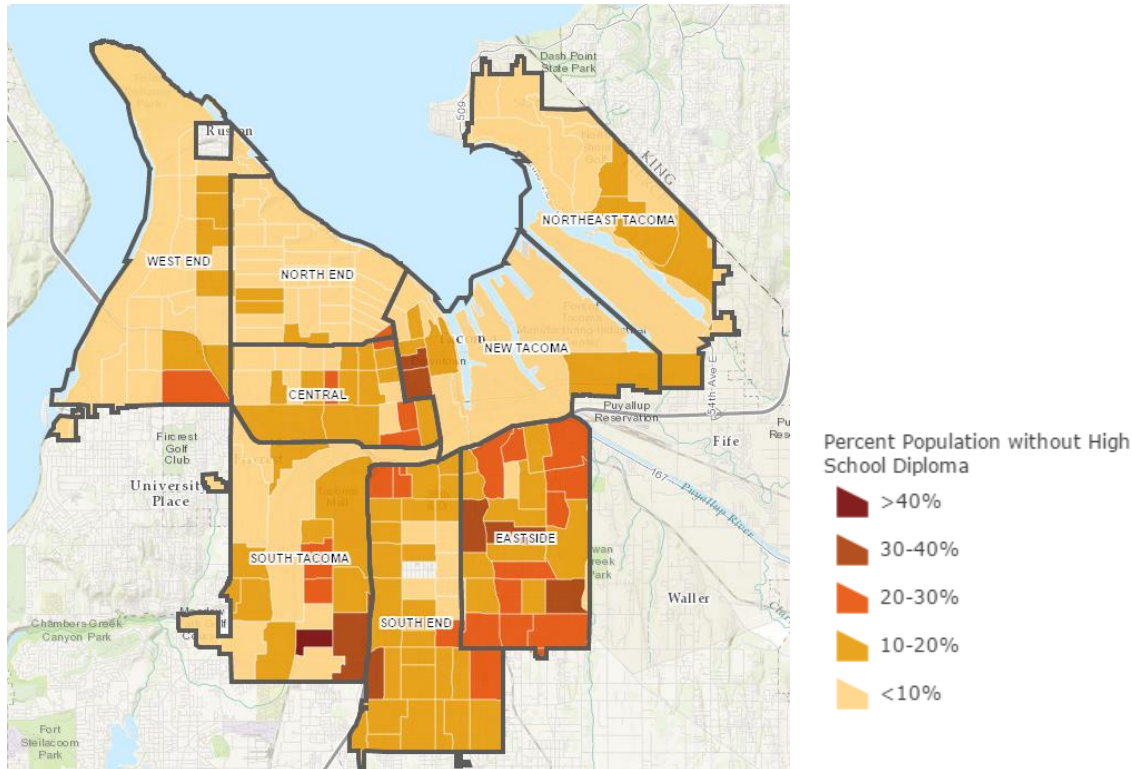
**Exhibit 42** Proportion of the Population age 25 Years or Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 43** displays the proportion of the population age 25 years or older without a high school diploma within the City. Darker shades represent higher densities of adults without a high school diploma. The populations in census tracts in the southeast portion of Tacoma have the highest proportion of citizens without a high school diploma.

**Exhibit 43** Proportion of the Population age 25 Years or Older without a High School Diploma, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

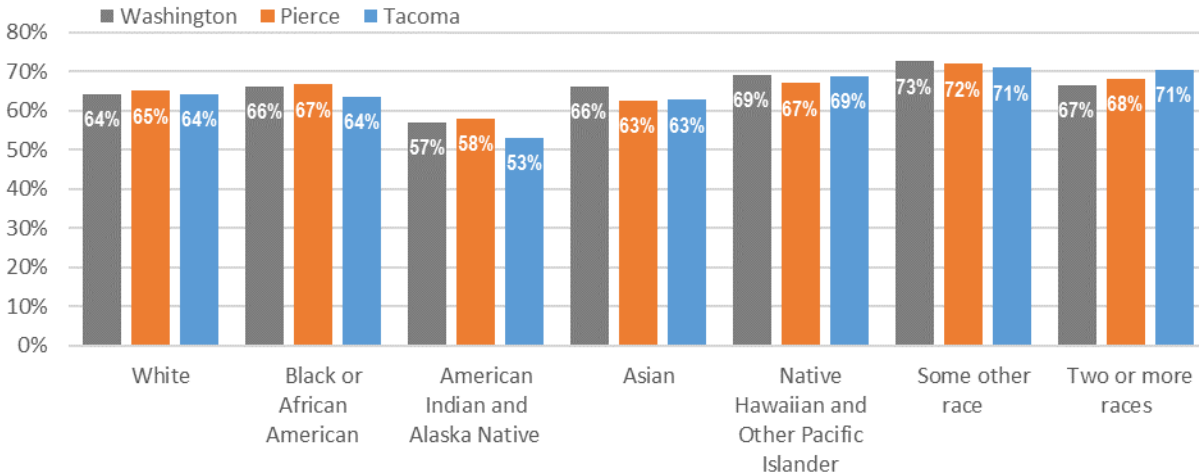
**By Race and Hispanic Origin**

The Tacoma labor force participation rates for American Indian and Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders reflect the relatively low population living in Tacoma.

Comparing Tacoma participation rates to reference geographies:

- White: Pierce County: -1%. State: 0%.
- Black or African American: Pierce County: -3%. State: -2%.
- American Indian and Alaska Native: Pierce County: -5%. State: -4%. The margin of error for the Tacoma rate is +/- 8.4%.
- Asian: Pierce County: 0%. State: -3%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: Pierce County: +2%. State: 0%. The margin of error for the Tacoma rate is +/- 9.7%.
- Some other race: Pierce County: -1%. State: -2%.
- Two or more races: Pierce County: +3%. State: +4%.

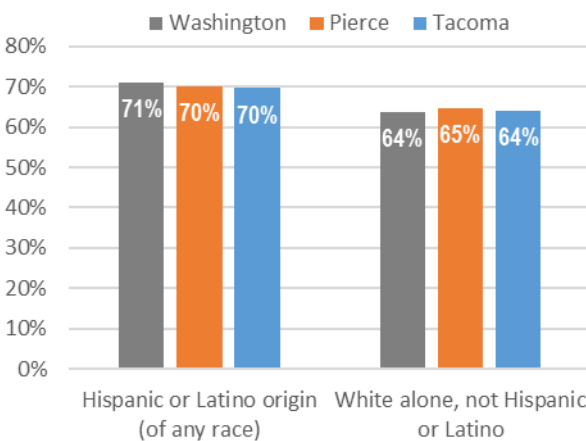
**Exhibit 44 Labor Force Participation of Adults, 16 years and over, by race, Tacoma**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

Labor force participation is slightly lower for individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin in Tacoma and Pierce County than statewide. Tacoma residents who are white alone, not Hispanic or Latino, are as active in the labor force as their cohort statewide. Pierce County residents are slightly more active than Tacoma or Washington as a whole.

**Exhibit 45 Labor Force Participation of Adults, 16 years and over, by Hispanic origin, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington**



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The ACS unemployment rate is based on the work status of individuals age 16-years and over. A person must report looking for work to be considered unemployed. While many individuals between 16 and 24 years old are enrolled in school and individuals 66 and over may be retired, youth and older adults tend to have higher unemployment rates and be unemployed longer. Many become discouraged and drop out of the labor force. The unemployment rate of the state, county, and city is lower among 25-65 year olds.

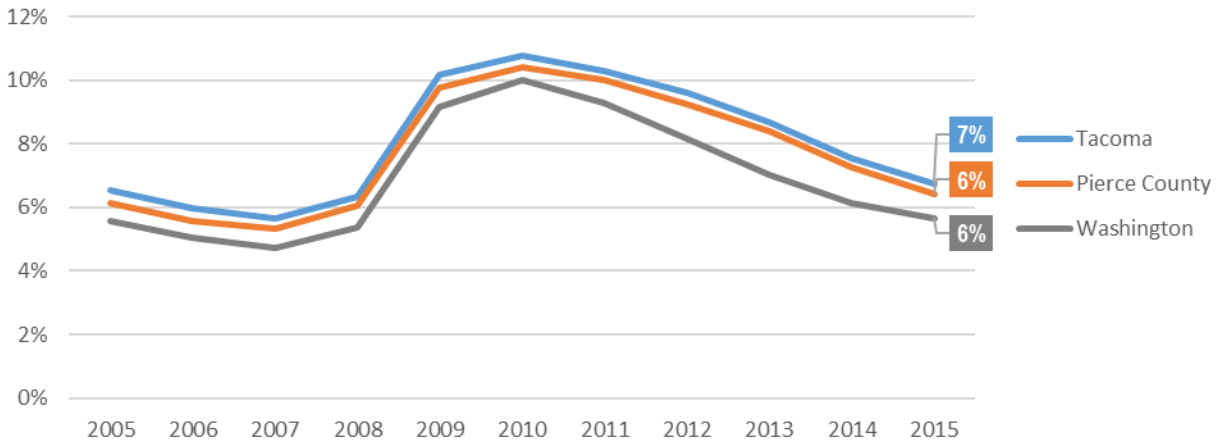
Between 2007 and 2010, the North American economy experienced a historically significant recession. The economy has been in recovery since 2010, with unemployment trending downward toward pre-recession levels.

The unemployment rates in Washington, Pierce County, and the City have been declining the past five years, but are still higher than the pre-recession rates. The City's unemployment rate has tracked closely with the

County's rate. Yet, the City's unemployment rate is consistently higher than the County's by an average of 0.3%. The City's unemployment rate over the past five years has been an average of 2 percentage points than the State's rate.

#### Exhibit 46 Unemployment rate, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005-2015. BERK, 2016.

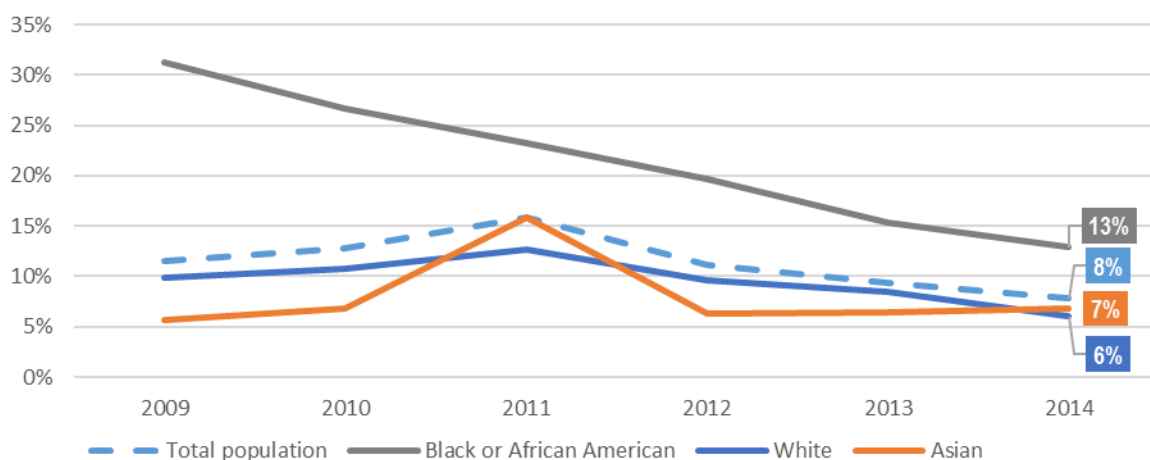


The Bureau of Labor Statistics is widely considered the official source of unemployment rate information for jurisdictions across the county. However, the Bureau does not report unemployment rates by demographic classification for cities. The Census asks survey respondents about their employment status on the American Community Survey and provides estimates of unemployment rates based on demographics. To explore how unemployment is experienced differently for Tacoma residents by race, origin, educational level, and gender, we examine ACS data in the following sections.

#### By Race

From 2010-2015, unemployment in Tacoma among Black or African American individuals has been on average of 65% higher than the city-wide unemployment rate. ACS does not calculate the Tacoma unemployment rate for the following race classifications: American Indian and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian and Other, One race, Some other race, and Two or more races.

#### Exhibit 47 Unemployment rate, Total population, Black or African American, Asian, and White, Tacoma

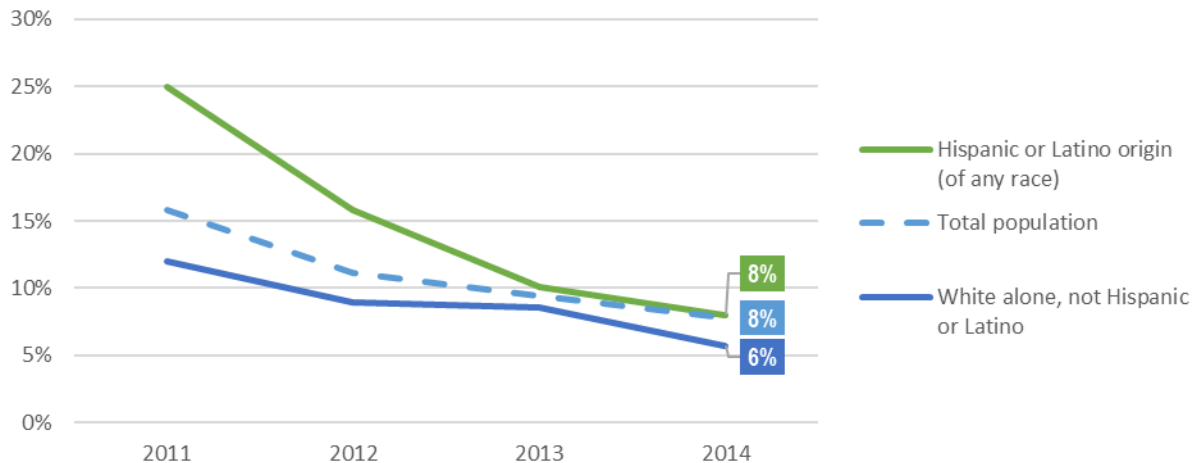


Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2009-2014. BERK, 2016.

\*The Census reported a 31.2% unemployment rate for Black or African American individuals in Tacoma in 2009. The margin of error is +/- 9.8%. The lowest estimate (21.4%) is 9.9 percentage points higher than the 2009 citywide unemployment rate.

Tacoma unemployment rate for individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin is available from 2011-2014. The disparity in Tacoma unemployment among Hispanic or Latino and white alone, non-Hispanic or Latino individuals has decreased over time.

**Exhibit 48** Unemployment rate, Total population, Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race), and White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, Tacoma

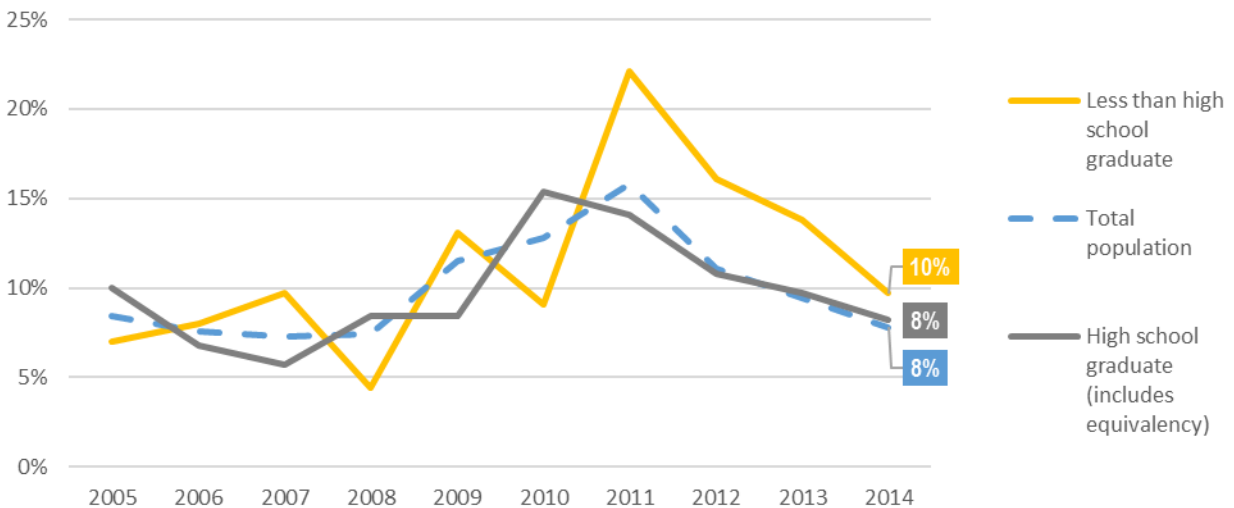


Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2011-2014. BERK, 2016.

#### By Educational Attainment

Since 2011, the unemployment rate for Tacoma residents with some college or associate's degree has been lower than the citywide rate.

**Exhibit 49** Unemployment Rate, Total population, Less than high school graduate, & High school graduate, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016.

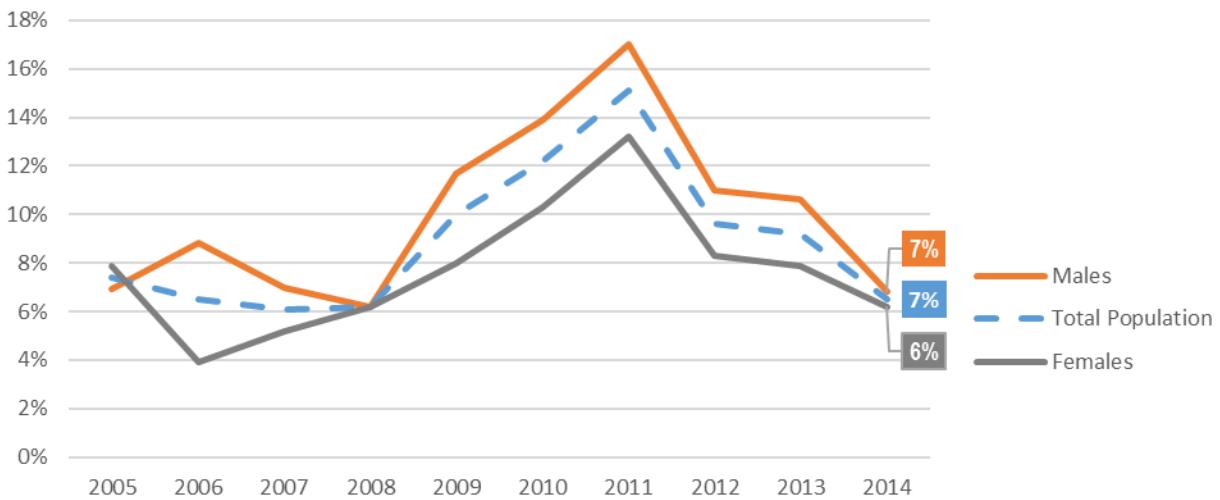
The job market in Tacoma has recovered from the recession more rapidly for individuals who have graduated high school than those who have not. In 2014, the unemployment rate for Tacoma residents that did not graduate high school was 1.9% higher than the citywide rate.

#### By Gender

Since 2006, the unemployment rate for female Tacoma residents has been lower than the citywide rate. Unemployment for male Tacoma residents increased more rapidly between 2008 and 2010 than

unemployment among female residents. Since 2009, female unemployment has been an average of 3.2% lower than male unemployment in Tacoma.

**Exhibit 50** Unemployment Rate, Total population, Male and Female, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016.

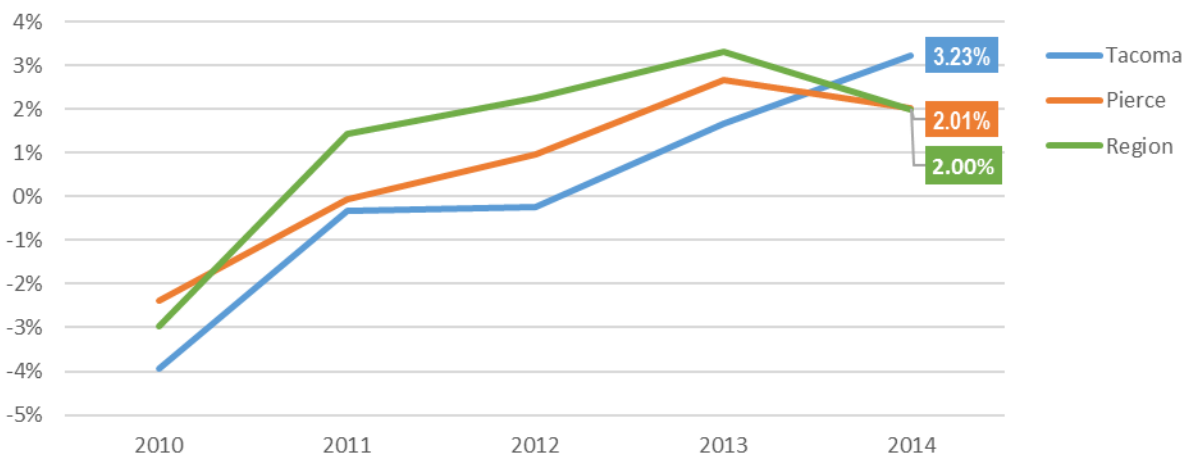
## JOBS

Covered employment includes all employees for the State's unemployment insurance program. The data accounts for 90- 95% of all jobs, which includes part-time and seasonal employment.

Like all communities, Tacoma experienced a decrease in employment during the recent recession. Between 2009 and 2010, Tacoma lost 3,800 jobs, approximately 3.9% of its employment base. This was a more significant employment contraction than Pierce County which lost 2.27% of its employment base and Washington state which lost 2.98%.

Tacoma experienced more losses annually, and took longer to recover from the recession than both Pierce County and the State. In 2014, Tacoma showed stronger growth than both the County and State, finally reaching pre-recession employment numbers.

**Exhibit 51** Annual Change in Covered Employment, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Puget Sound Region

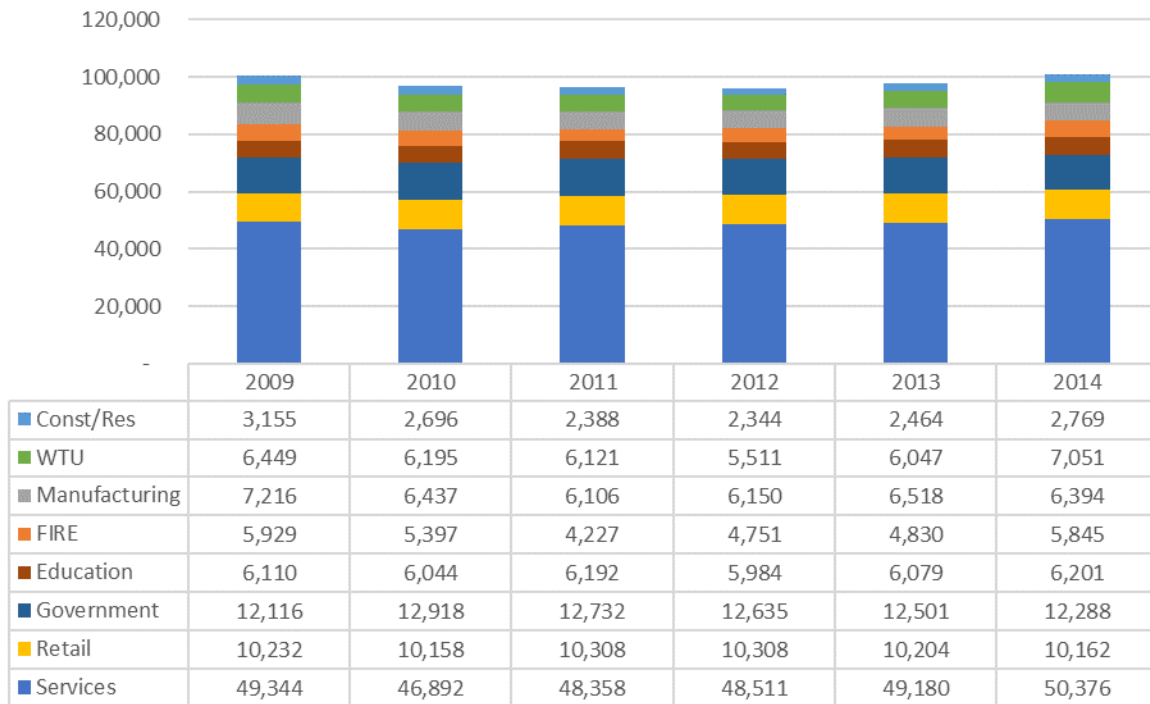


Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

Tacoma's employment is dominated by jobs in the service sector, followed by retail and government employment. These three sectors represented more than 72,000 jobs in 2014.

Between 2009 and 2014, Tacoma lost jobs in the Manufacturing and Private Education fields, while recovering in Construction and Resources employment and Retail. By 2014, Tacoma's employment had surpassed pre-recession levels. However, the rebound has been slower for Tacoma than Pierce County and the Puget Sound Region. Tacoma annual job growth since 2009 has averaged .11% compared to .66% for Pierce County and 1.24% for the Region.

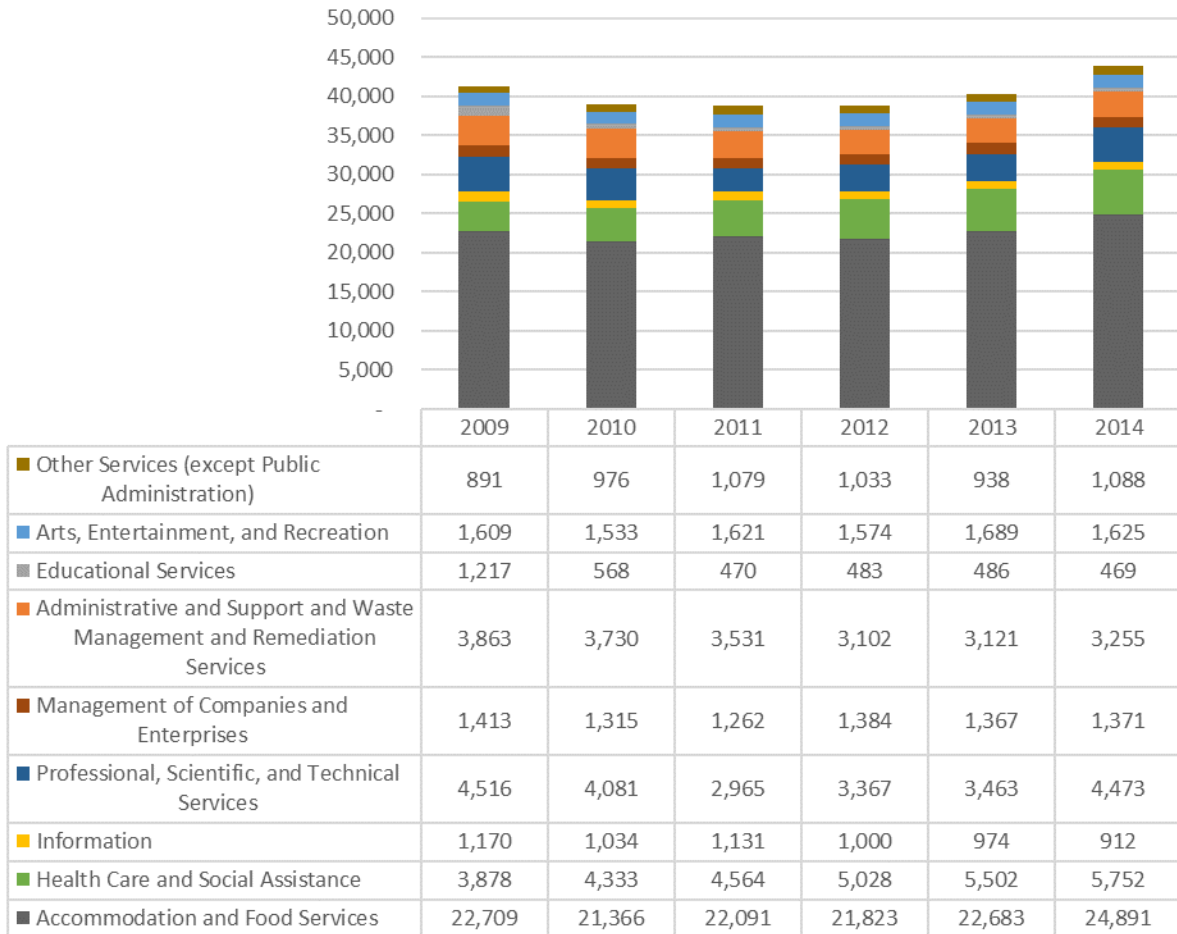
**Exhibit 52 Covered Employment by Major Sector, Tacoma**



Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2009-2014. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 53** presents a breakdown of the services sector. Since 2010, the largest area of growth has been in Accommodation and Food Services (3,525 job), followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (1,419 jobs).

**Exhibit 53** Composition of Service Sector Jobs by Major Sector, Tacoma



Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2009-2014; BERK, 2016.

## EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

Research shows that ability to speak English and access to reliable means of transportation to work are important factors for obtaining and retaining employment.

### *Language*

In 2014, 81% of Tacoma's workers only spoke English and 8.5% spoke English "less than very well." About 7% of the population spoke Spanish, and another 12.1% spoke languages other than English or Spanish. In addition to language barriers, speakers of languages other than English may face barriers to work due to immigration status and cultural barriers to finding work.

**Exhibit 54 Ability to Speak English, Tacoma**

| Ability to Speak English            | Percent of workers<br>16 years and over |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Speak only English                  | 81.0%                                   |
| Speak Spanish:                      | 7.0%                                    |
| Speak English "very well"           | 3.8%                                    |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 3.1%                                    |
| Speak other languages:              | 12.1%                                   |
| Speak English "very well"           | 6.6%                                    |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 5.4%                                    |

Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

**Means of Transportation**

In 2014, the majority of Tacoma residents (86%) traveled to work in a car, truck, or van, either driving alone or in a carpool. This high rate of reliance on personal vehicles indicates a barrier for those who do not have access to a reliable personal vehicle or lacks a driver's license.

**Exhibit 55 Means of Transportation to Work, Tacoma**

| Means of transportation to work               | Percent of workers<br>16 years and over |
|---|---|
| Car, truck, or van - drove alone:             | 76%                                     |
| Car, truck, or van - carpooled:               | 10%                                     |
| Public transportation (excluding taxicab):    | 5%                                      |
| Walked:                                       | 4%                                      |
| Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means: | 2%                                      |
| Worked at home:                               | 3%                                      |

Source: US Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2010-2014. BERK, 2016.

Youth in particular face transportation challenges for work. In recruiting for Tacoma's Trade Occupations Opportunity Learning (TOOL program), initial assessments indicate as many as two out of three eligible applicants lacked a driver's license. Others had a suspended driver's license due to an inability to pay fines. Lack of access to a reliable car suitable for taking the driver's license exam, as well as a lack of support from adults to teach and coach driving skills, are barriers for earning a driver's license for youth. In addition to ability to drive, other youth report difficulty in using public transportation for work. While cost is a factor, the availability of service when and where youth need access may be a greater barrier. Many jobs available to youth are in the evening or at odd hours. Youth report difficulty in using the bus for work that is outside of the corporate work day of 9am to 5pm.

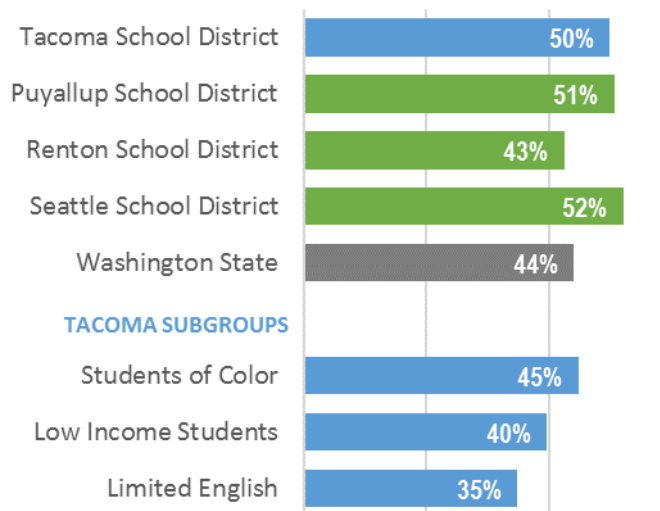
Other barriers to work include homelessness, lack of educational credentials, poverty, mental health issues, and personal factors such as early parenthood and lack of affordable childhood. These factors are covered in **Section 1**.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### Early Environments

Educational opportunity starts at birth. Children who are exposed to quality early-learning environments are more likely to meet developmental milestones, and arrive at kindergarten with appropriate foundation skills to help them thrive in school. WaKids is Washington’s whole-child assessment focused on social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy and mathematics skills.

**Exhibit 56 Percent Children Meeting Developmental Benchmarks for Kindergarten, Tacoma School District and selected school districts**

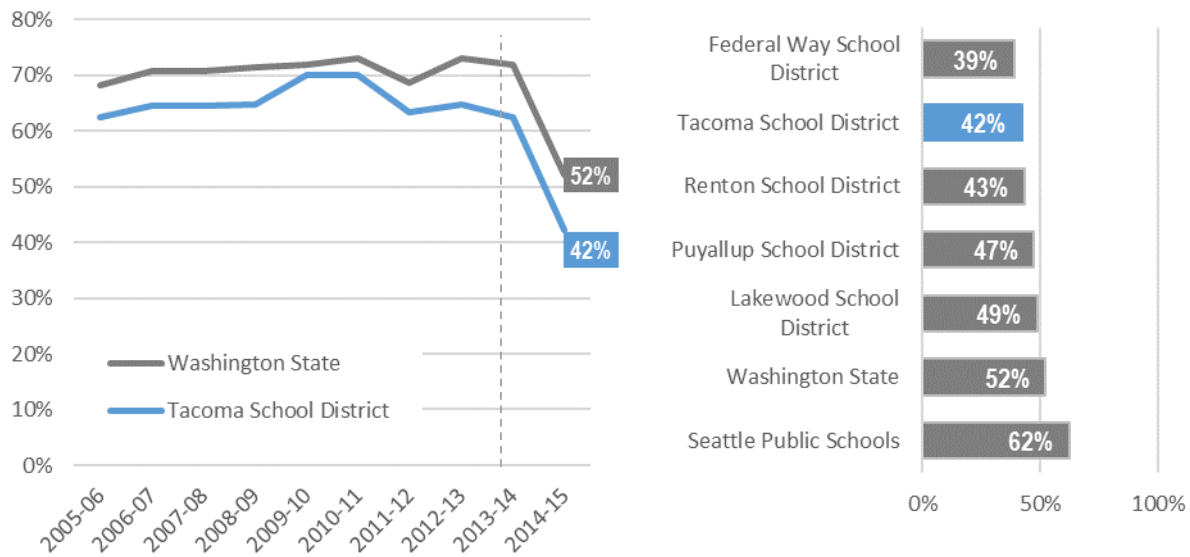


Source: OSPI, 2016; BERK, 2016

- In the fall of 2015, about 50% of Tacoma’s students met benchmarks in all 6 domains. This rate is comparable to neighboring school districts.
- Students of Color, Low Income Students, and students with Limited English proficiency were less likely to meet benchmarks in all six domains.

## K-12 Education

### Exhibit 57 3rd Graders Meeting Reading Standard

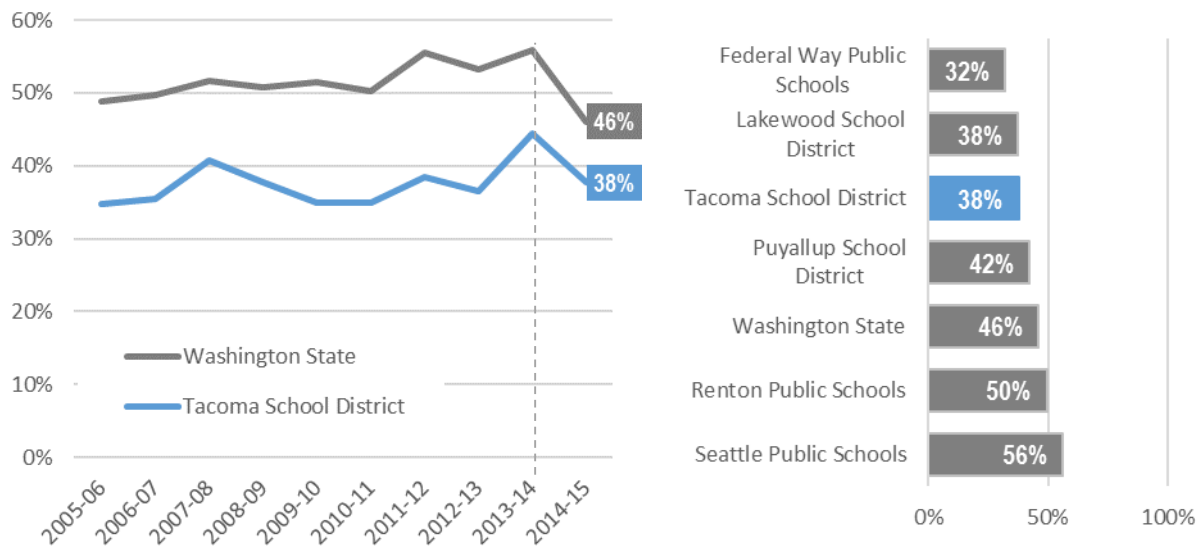


Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2005-06 – 2015-16. BERK, 2016

Note: The calculation of the percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders meeting the reading standard changed during the 2014-15 school year. The data prior to that school year cannot be compared to the 2014-15 value.

- Since the 2005-06 school year, the percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders meeting reading standards has trailed the State rate by an average of 6%, annually. In the 2014-15 school year, the percent of Tacoma students meeting standards was 10% lower than the State average.
- During the 2014-15 school year, a lesser proportion of Tacoma School District students met the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading standard than four analogous school districts: Renton School District, Puyallup School District, Lakewood School District, and Seattle School District.

**Exhibit 58 8th Graders Meeting Math Standard**



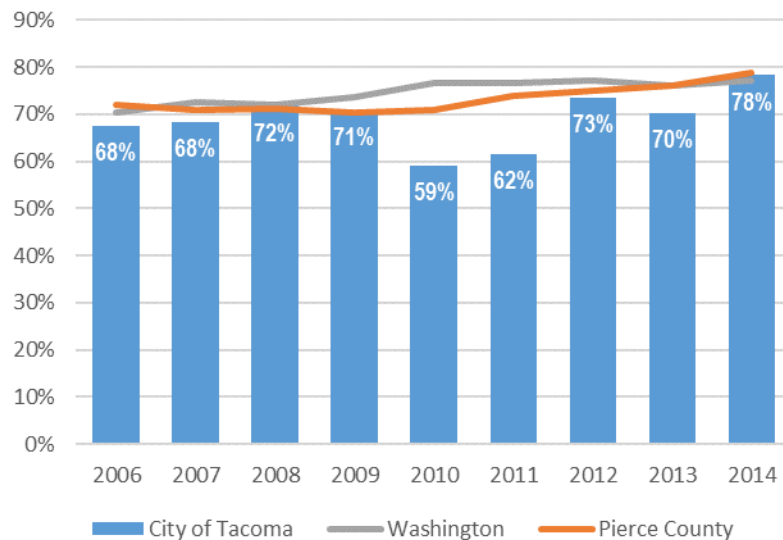
Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SY 2005-06 – 2015-16. BERK, 2016

Note: The calculation of the percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders meeting the math standard changed during the 2014-15 school year. The data prior to that school year cannot be compared to the 2014-15 value.

- A smaller percent of Tacoma 8th graders meet the 8th grade math standard than the State as a whole.
- In the 2013-14 school year, 44% of Tacoma 8th graders met the 8th grade math standards. This trails the statewide rate by 11 percentage points. This gap has been relatively persistent over time.
- In pre-employment testing for the TOOL program, as much as half the applicants do not have sufficient math skills for the pre-apprenticeship program. Recruitment specialists report that applicants have feelings of discouragement and insecurity around their ability in math. However, most program participants gain the necessary skills through applied math training and report improved confidence with math in post-program assessments.

## High School Graduation

### Exhibit 59 On-Time Graduation, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington



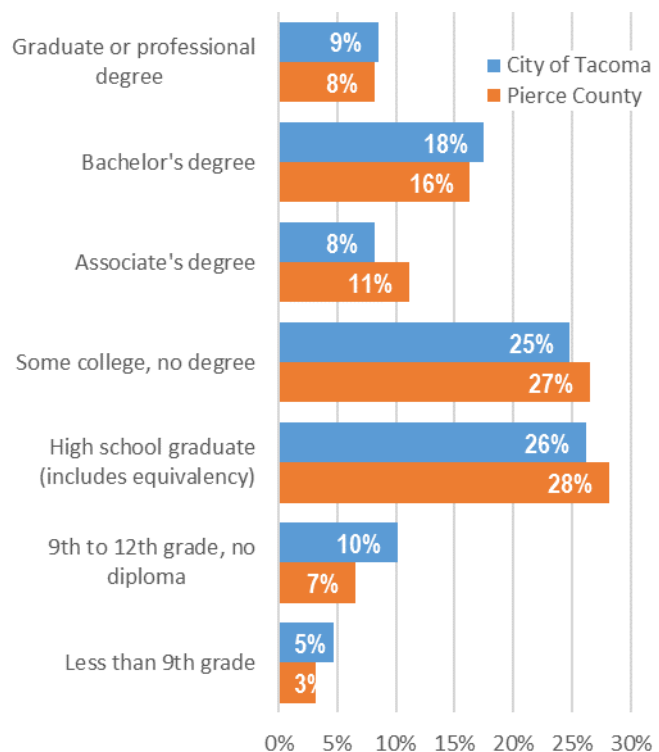
- Tacoma's on-time graduation rate was below 60% in 2010. The district and community has made great efforts in bring the graduation rates in alignment with Statewide rates in 2014.

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2006-2014. BERK, 2016

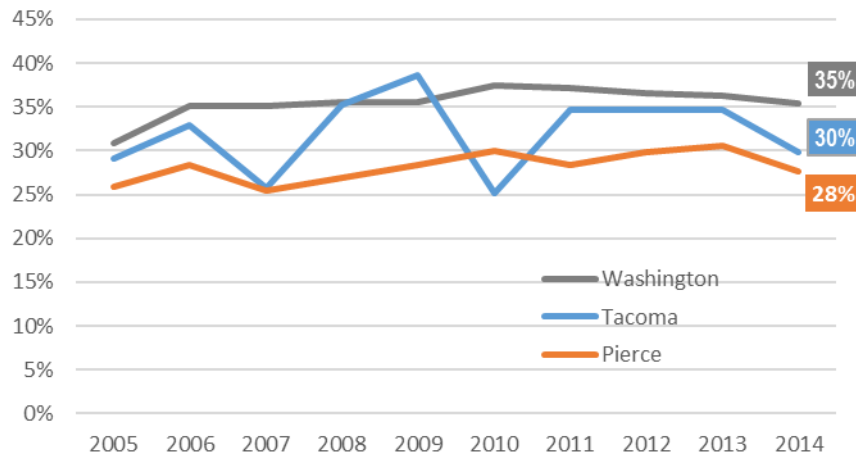
- Tacoma exceeds the County in both the low and high ranges of the educational attainment spectrum.
- The percent of Tacoma with post-secondary education (Bachelor's, Graduate, or Professional degree) is consistent with the Pierce County rate.
- In 2014, approximately 6,500 Tacoma residents had less than a 9th grade education and 14,000 residents had a 9th to 12th grade education and no diploma.

Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2014. BERK, 2016.

### Exhibit 60 Educational Attainment of Adult 25 Years and Over, Tacoma and Pierce County

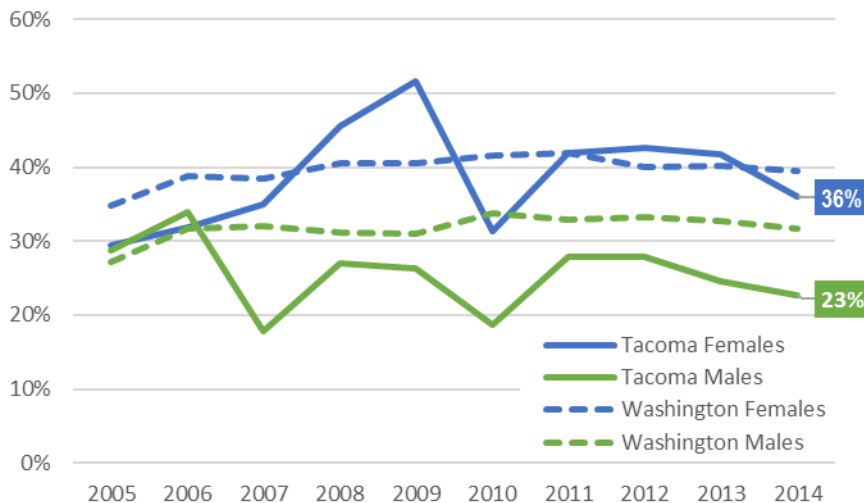


**Exhibit 61** Enrolled in college or graduate school, Population 18 to 24 years old, Tacoma, Pierce County, and Washington



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-2014. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 62** Enrolled in college or graduate school, by gender, 18 to 24 years old, Tacoma, and Washington



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2005-14; BERK, 2016.

- Since 2010, a smaller portion of Tacoma 18- to 24- year olds have enrolled in college or graduate school than across the State as a whole.
- Male college enrollment in Tacoma has been lower than the State rate since 2007. In 2014, male enrollment in Tacoma trailed the State rate by 9 percentage points
- Female college enrollment in Tacoma lagged behind the State rate from 2005 through 2007. Since 2007, female college enrollment in Tacoma has been a median of 1.5% higher than the State rate.

## SECTION 3

# Human and Social Wellness

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### INTRODUCTION

The objective of the human and social wellness assessment is to identify priority social and health needs and opportunities to reduce barriers to services. We first discuss social determinants of health and the populations most susceptible to poor health in Tacoma. Then, we discuss the unique wellness and health challenges faced by the two most vulnerable populations in Tacoma, senior citizens and children.

### GUIDING DOCUMENTS

#### TACOMA 2025

Human and social wellness is addressed in two objectives:

##### Objective 1: Health and Safety

###### *Community Priorities*

- 1A. Improve neighborhood safety.** Tacoma residents want to feel safe. This means that the rate of crime falls and people feel secure in their neighborhoods.
- 1C. Improve overall health.** Tacoma residents value an integrated system of wellness programs and health care as a means of supporting community health and wellbeing.

###### *Accountability Measures*

- Increase residents' feeling of safety.
- Improve self-reported health status among residents.

##### Objective 2: Human and Social Needs

###### *Community Priorities*

- 2B. Improve services to youth and vulnerable populations.** Tacoma cherishes its youth and other vulnerable residents; providing services to them is a priority.

###### *Accountability Measures*

- Decrease unmet need for mental health services.

#### 2015-19 CITY OF TACOMA HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

Childhood Risk and Crime is addressed in the Tacoma Human Services Strategic Plan, **Priority 2: Prepare Children and Youth for Success**. The objective to ensure children and youth receive the support they need to be successful in school and to be prepared for self-sufficiency and success in life, is supported by goals that address individuals who experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (Childhood Risk) and those susceptible to gang involvement (Gang Prevention and Intervention).

- **Children, Youth, and Family Development:** Parents/caregivers have the skills to provide quality environments for children and/or have the skills to recognize, intervene in, and reduce the effects of negative childhood experiences and trauma.
- **Gang Prevention and Intervention:** Gang prevention, intervention and/or suppression services are available in Tacoma neighborhoods that are disproportionately impacted by gang crime.

Early drug use is addressed in the Tacoma Human Services Strategic Plan, **Priority 4: Enhance Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Services.**

- **Programs Targeted to Help Youth**
  - Increase support for Tacoma Public Schools’ elementary students struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
  - Expand prevention and early intervention for youth struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
  - Support innovative programming designed to strengthen the family unit where youth are identified to have a mental health and/or substance use disorder.
- **Community-based Care**
  - Programs focus on addressing the unmet needs of at risk/vulnerable populations struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
  - Meet the needs of Tacoma citizens struggling with co-occurring disorders (mental illness and substance use) and/or dually diagnosed (co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and a mental illness).

## Findings

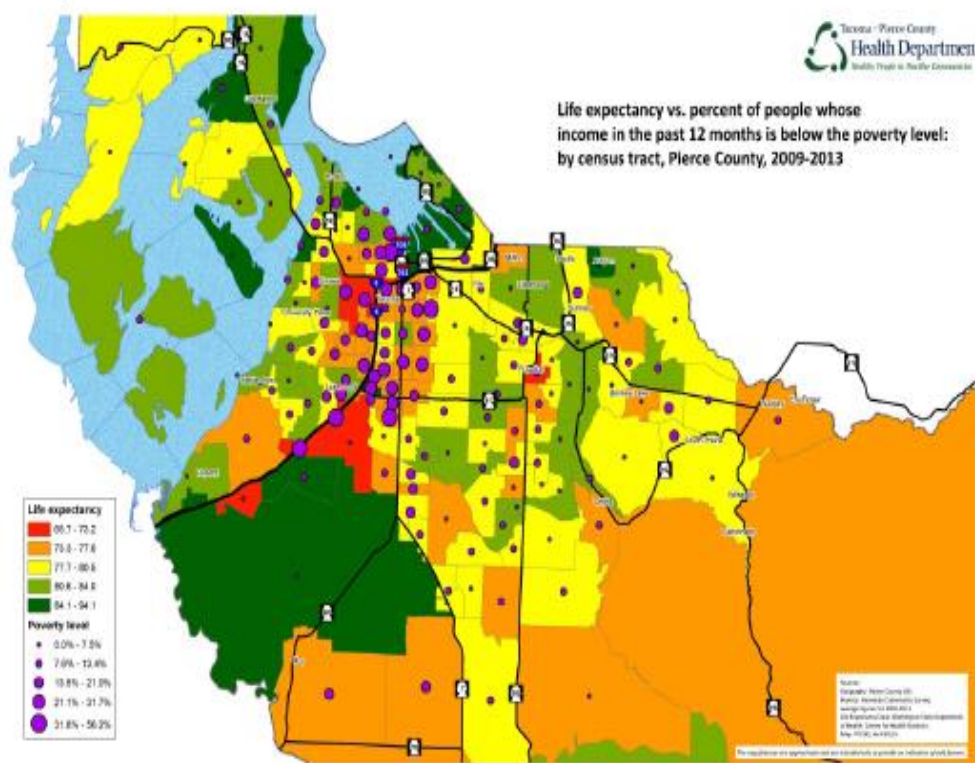
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### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The Tacoma – Pierce County Health Department recently published a health-equity assessment to determine whether there are racial and neighborhood disparities in health (Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department, February 2016). The analysis supports other studies that demonstrate social, economic, and environmental factors make the largest contributions to whether or not a person is likely to be healthy.

- In Pierce County, people living in communities with more than 20% poverty are 16 times as likely to die before the age 75 compared to people living in communities with less than 10% poverty.
- Access to economic means and self-sufficiency is a primary concern among community health partners.
- Access to health care is a concern for many Pierce County residents. In 2011, 20.1% of Pierce County adults reported there was a time in the past year when they could not afford to see a doctor.
- Access to health insurance is one limiting factor, though many with health insurance still face cost barriers to quality health care due to co-pays, deductibles, and lack of coverage for certain services.
- Long-term disparities in opportunity and structural racism create significant disparities in health outcomes for communities of color. In Pierce County, communities with a higher percentage of people of color (20% or more) are significantly less likely to live to 77 years than communities with a lower percentage of people of color (10% or less nonwhite).

**Exhibit 63** Life expectancy vs. Percent of People Whose income in the past 12 months is below the Poverty Level, by Census Tract, Pierce County



Source: Tacoma – Pierce County Health Department, 2009-2013. Graphic reproduced from (Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department, February 2016).

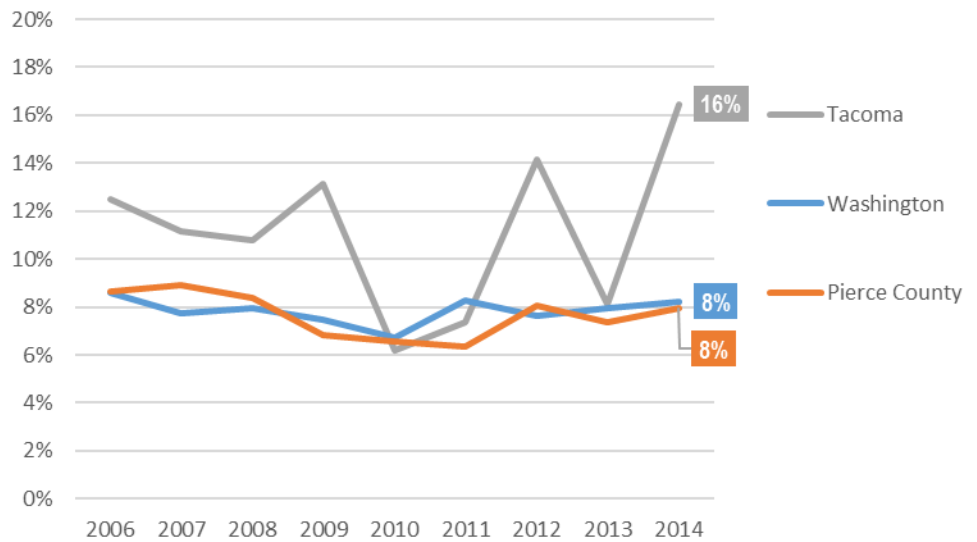
### Seniors

While Tacoma’s children are more likely to be living in poverty than Tacoma’s seniors, seniors in Tacoma are twice as likely to live under the poverty line than their peers across the County and State.

Tacoma has more than 25,000 older adults aged 65 and older, of which about 16.5 % live in poverty (more than 4,000 individuals). Older adults living poverty are at a higher risk for homelessness, poor access to health care, and poor mental health. National trends in the aging population indicate future growth in seniors living in poverty with poor health. Food bank utilization among seniors has been increasing over the past 5 years in Tacoma, indicating increased economic hardship for some seniors.

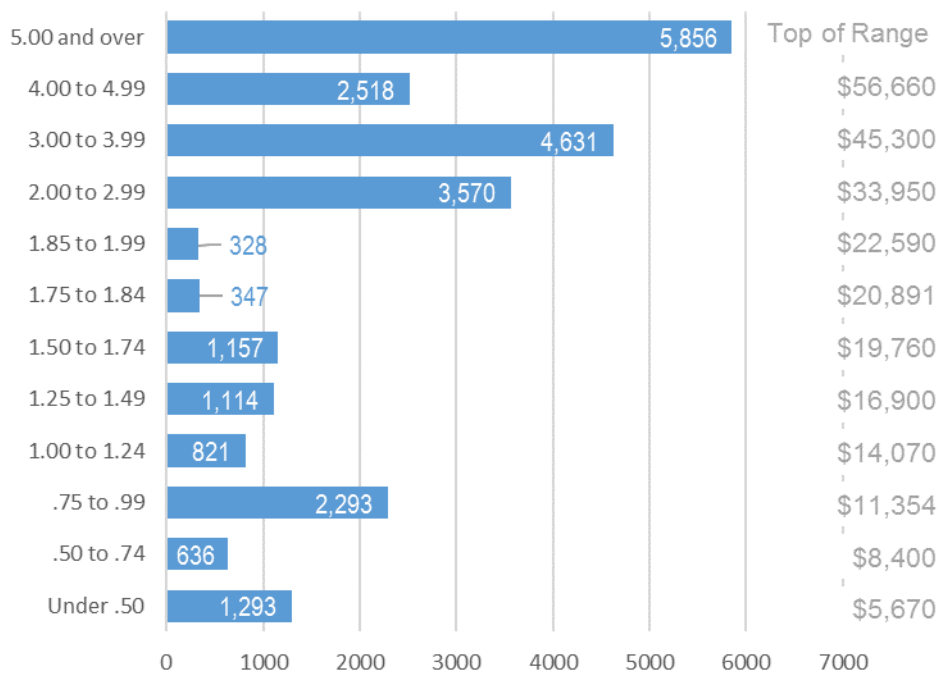
- A greater percentage of seniors live under the poverty line in Tacoma than the State and County rate.
- An increase in older adults living in poverty is expected through 2031 due to the aging boomer generation coupled with less financial security.

**Exhibit 64** Ratio to Federal Poverty Threshold, Less than 1, Ages 65 and older, Washington, Pierce County, and Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 2006-14; BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 65** Ratio to Federal Poverty Threshold, Ages 65 and older not living in group quarters, Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 2014; BERK, 2016.

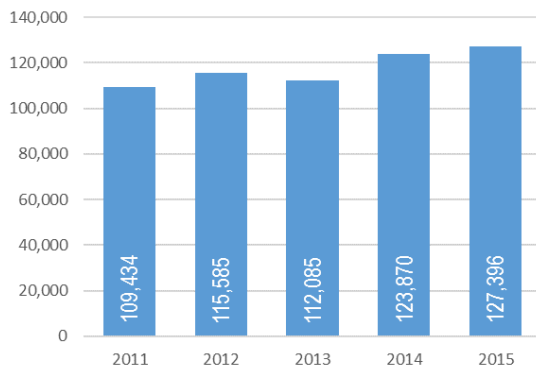
**Exhibit 65** presents the number of individuals ages 65 and older by the ratio of income to the federal poverty line. The federal poverty line is equivalent to 1.00, or approximately \$14,070 for a single person over the age of 65. Approximately 2,000 seniors have below 75% of the poverty line, approximately \$8,400. These seniors are likely challenged to meet their basic needs.

## FOOD SECURITY

Access to nutrition is a challenge to older adults living in poverty. A first indicator of difficulty in meeting one's basic needs is use of emergency food services such as foodbanks.

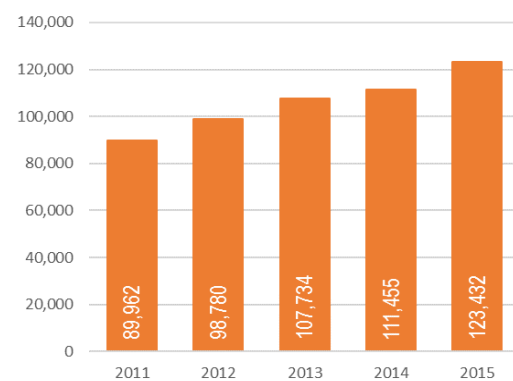
- Visits to Tacoma food banks and meal sites by residents 55 years and older has increased by 16% since 2011 (EFoodNet, 2016), while visits among younger clients have slightly declined or remained fairly consistent during the same time period.
- More seniors have been visiting sites located in the greater Pierce County as well, with a large year over year increase in senior use of foodbanks.

**Exhibit 66** Visits to Tacoma food banks/meal sites, Clients 55 years and older



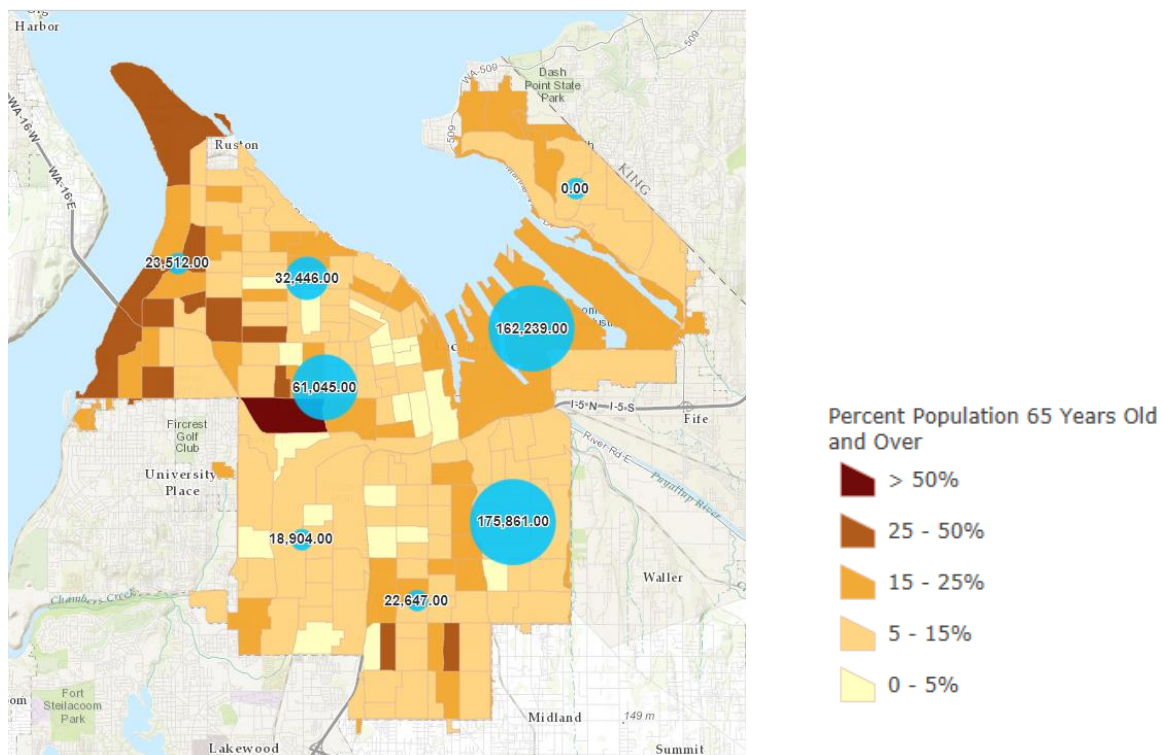
Source: EfoodNet, 2011-15. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 67** Visits to Pierce County food banks/meal sites, Clients 55 years and older



Source: EfoodNet, 2011-15. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 68** Concentration of Seniors and Visits to food banks/meal sites by Clients 55 years and older



Source: EFoodNet, 2016. BERK, 2016.

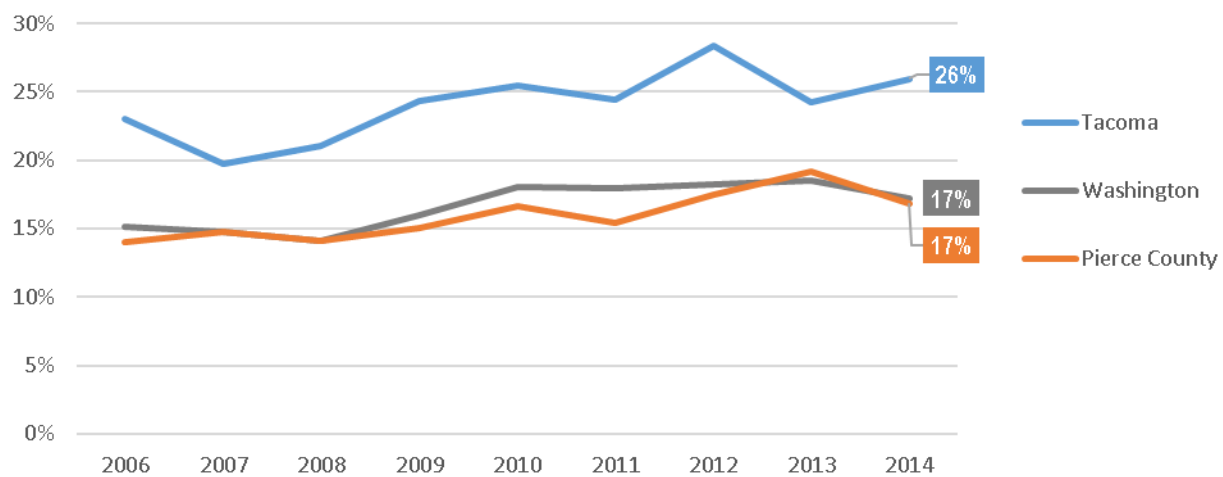
## CHILDHOOD POVERTY

Children in Tacoma are more impoverished than older age groups within Tacoma as well as their peers across the County and State. A greater portion of Tacoma students report drug use than their peers statewide in the Health Youth Survey. Safety risks that are unique to children include experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), being victim to commercial sexual exploitation, and security at school.

Childhood poverty is the greatest single risk factor to children, impacting everything from physical health, environmental quality, economic opportunity, and emotional and social health.

Childhood poverty has trended higher in Tacoma than Pierce County and Washington State since 2006.

**Exhibit 69** Ratio to Federal Poverty Threshold, Less than 1, Under 17 years old, Washington, Pierce County, and Tacoma



Source: US Census American Community Survey, 2006-14; BERK, 2016.

Approximately 11,491 children in Tacoma are living in poverty, representing 1 in 4 children (ages 0 -17). Childhood poverty increased from 24% in 2013 to 26% in 2014. Childhood poverty is consistently higher than adult or senior poverty (see [Exhibit 25](#)). See [Section 1](#) for discussion of childhood poverty in Tacoma.

### Early Drug Use

Early drug use represents multiple dimensions of risk to youth. Exposure to alcohol and drugs interferes with memory, positive emotional and social development, and is associated with low school performance and academic disengagement. Early drug use is also an indicator of vulnerability to gang activity.

Tacoma youth report higher rates of marijuana use than similar aged children across Washington.

See discussion in [Section 1](#) for patterns of early drug use.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

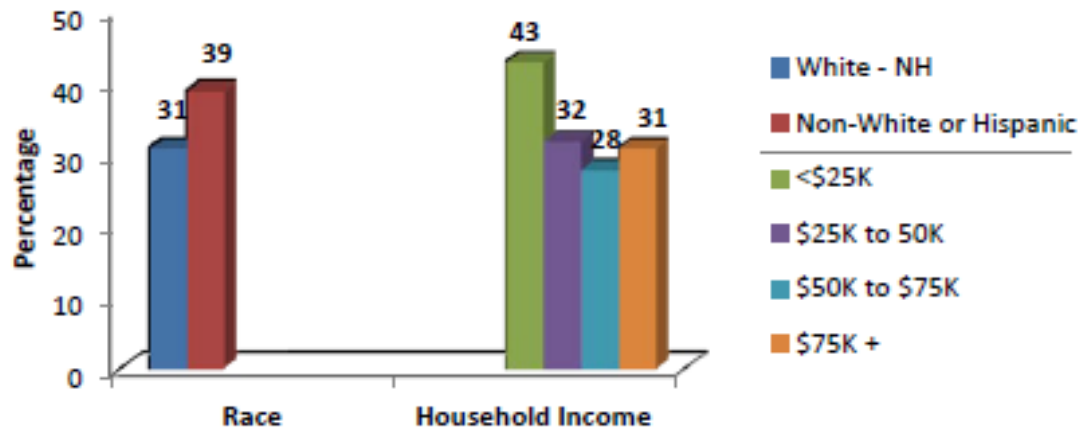
Traumatic experiences in childhood negatively impact health and well-being into adulthood. Communities with higher ACE scores are more likely to experience poor health outcomes. Communities of color and low-income communities suffer from more ACEs.

Living in poverty is a risk factor for increased exposure to trauma in childhood. A greater percentage of youth 17 years and under live under the poverty line in Tacoma than the State and County rate.

#### Exhibit 70 Prevalence of ACEs, Pierce County Adults

Chart excerpted from *Youth Health in Pierce County Equity Health Assessment*

Percentage of people with ACE score of at least 3



Source: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, 2011-2013. Graphic excerpted from (Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department, February 2016)

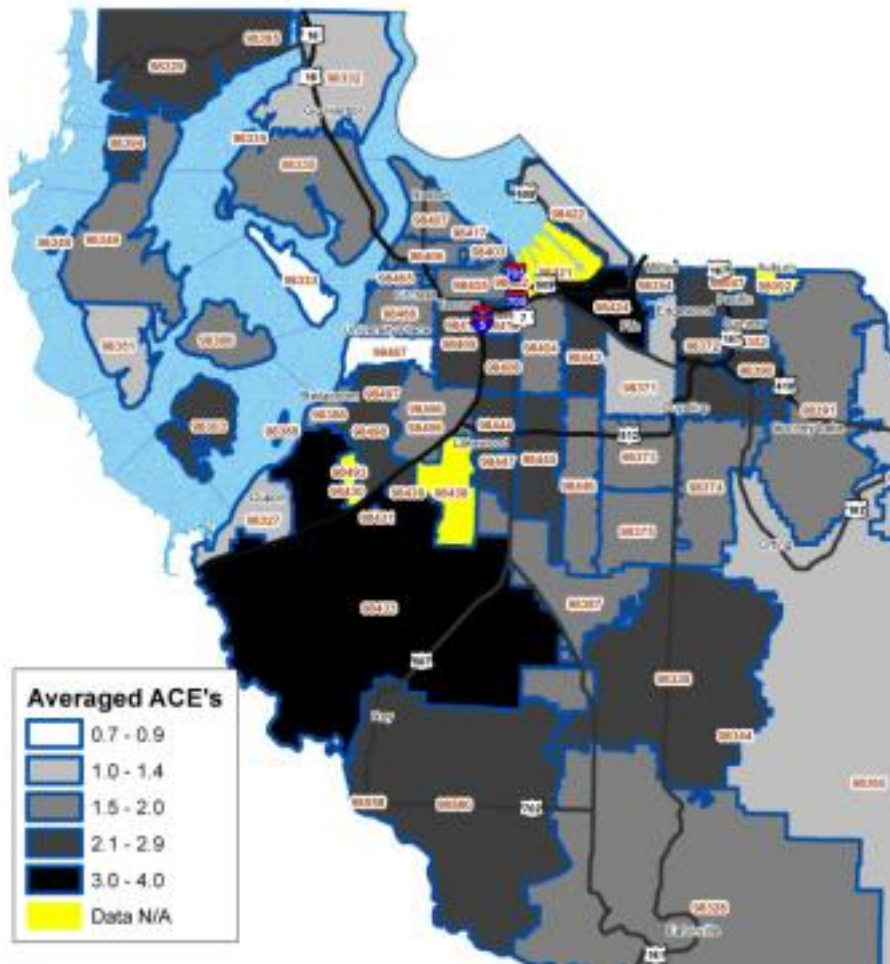
#### Excerpted from “Fairness Across Places? Your Health in Pierce County, 2015 Health Equity Assessment” by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) interviewed more than 17,000 people between 1995 and 1997 to study the effects of childhood trauma on long-term health outcome. They defined an adverse childhood experience (ACE) as a traumatic experience in a person’s life occurring before the age of 18 that the person recalls as an adult.

- Physical abuse.
- Witnessing a mother being abused.
- A family member addicted to alcohol or another substance.
- Losing a parent to separation, divorce, or other reason.
- Verbal abuse.
- Sexual abuse.
- A family member who is in prison.
- Physical neglect.
- A family member who is depressed or diagnosed with mental illness.
- Emotional neglect.

The Kaiser Permanente study found that adults with higher ACE scores have an increase in risk taking behavior and health problems. People who have an ACE score of four are seven times more likely to be alcoholic, and 12 times more likely to commit suicide. In addition to these issues, studies have shown that exposure to multiple risk factors is associated with higher rates of tobacco use, illicit drug use, sexually transmitted diseases, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, gastrointestinal disorders, and cancer. People with an ACE score of six or more are at risk of their lifespan shortened by 20 years.

**Exhibit 71** Average ACE score, by zip code, Tacoma Area



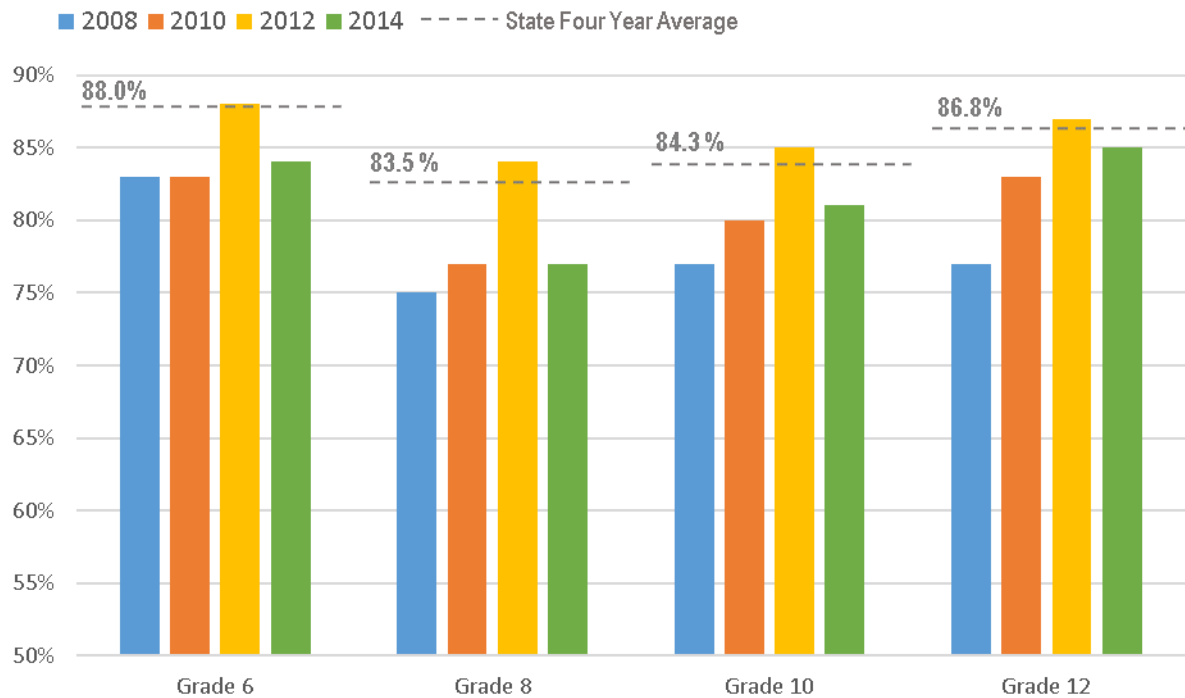
Source: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, 2016.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Tacoma students are less likely to report feeling safe at school than their peers in Washington State. When students do not feel safe, it compromises learning, teaching, and healthy development.

- 34% of sixth grade students report they were bullied at school in the past month, higher than the statewide rate of 30.9%. The rate decreases with advancement to upper grades, which is consistent with state patterns.
- Students who report they do not feel safe at school peaks in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 23%. Lower rates in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be explained by attrition from school rather than a change in student experience.
  - Not feeling safe at school hinders academic engagement and school participation. In both 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, 11% of students report missing school because they did not feel safe. The state wide rate is 8.5%.

## Exhibit 72 Percent of Tacoma Students who Report they Feel Safe at School



Source: Department of Health, Tacoma School District, 2008-2014. BERK, 2016.

### Commercially Exploited Children

Commercial sexual exploitation occurs when individuals buy, trade, or sell sexual acts with children. According to a report published in 2012 by the Center for Children and Youth Justice, the greatest number of commercially sexually exploited children in the State are concentrated in large metropolitan areas, including Tacoma, Seattle and Everett.

Risk factors for sexual exploitation of children are:

- A history of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse
- Parental alcohol and substance abuse
- Exposure to domestic violence
- **School-related problems**, such as truancy and learning disabilities
- **History of exploitation** in the community or family
- Lack of supervision, care, and basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter
- **Sexual abuse** is a particularly common characteristic among female victims
- **History of welfare agency involvement**, including child protective services (CPS) investigation and foster care placement

Youth who experience sexual abuse are 28x more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point in their life than children who did not.

## CRIME

Between 2014-2016, the majority of crimes committed in the City of Tacoma were property related, including burglary, breaking and entering, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, theft from a motor vehicle, or shoplifting.

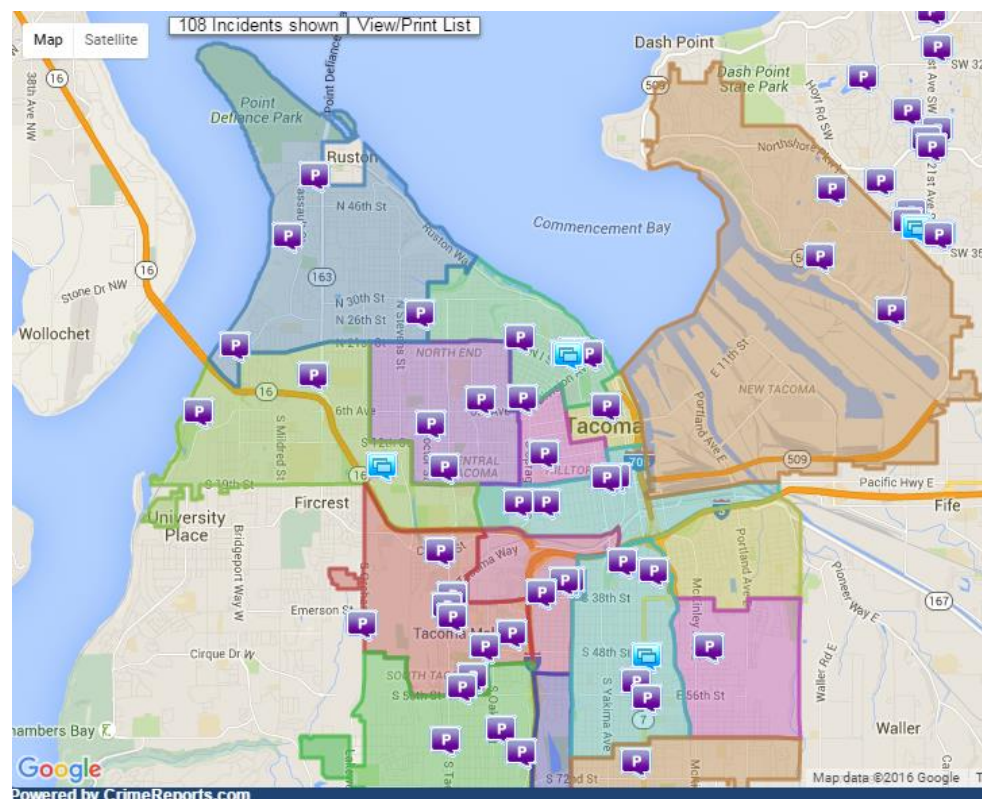
Since 2014, the monthly average of property crime has increased by 13% and incidents of personal crime, fraud, and violations (including weapon law violations and violations of no contact/protection order) have decreased.

**Exhibit 73 Monthly average of crime incidents in the City of Tacoma, By type of crime**

| Type of crime | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Property      | 1088 | 1170 | 1238 |
| Personal      | 173  | 161  | 152  |
| Fraud         | 85   | 80   | 62   |
| Violation     | 19   | 19   | 16   |
| Drug          | 11   | 9    | 12   |

Source: City of Tacoma, 2014-2016. BERK, 2016.

**Exhibit 74 Property crimes in Tacoma, June 1-14, 2016**



Source: City of Tacoma, Crime Reports, 2016.

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- World Health Organization. (2016). *Mental health: strengthening our response*.

## Appendix A

# Needs Assessment Approach and Methods

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## APPROACH

Based on the Tacoma's human services budgeting process, we structured the needs assessment by focusing on three research topic areas.

- **Homelessness and Household Stability.** We sought to understand how homelessness is changing, who in our community is at risk of homelessness, and what services are needed to address and/or prevent homelessness. To gain insight, BERK analyzed local homelessness, household instability, food security, and mental health data. EnviroIssues interviewed and gathered data with Positive Interactions and Healthy Homes.
- **Human and Social Wellness.** We sought to identify barriers to health services and opportunities to reduce those barriers. BERK analyzed the wellness of Tacoma's senior citizens, risk factors facing the community's children and youth, domestic violence, and mental health trends.
- **Workforce Development.** We sought to understand the barriers community members face to economic advancement and the scale and location of those barriers in the community. BERK analyzed the demographic barriers local residence are facing to economic advancement, education, employment, and mental health trends within the City.

## METHODS

### POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW

- City of Tacoma. **2011 Gang Assessment.**
- City of Tacoma. **2015-2019 City of Tacoma Human Services Strategic Plan.** June 2014
- City of Tacoma. **A Community Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Assessment.** December 2012
- City of Tacoma. **Equity & Empowerment Framework.**
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- Pierce County. **The 2015 Homeless Point-In-Time Report.** July 2015
- Washington State Department of Social & Health Services. **Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Pierce County.** July, 2015.

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- Washington State Office of Financial Management. **Washington State Data Book: Human Services.** 2015

## SECONDARY DATA SOURCES

The report relies on the most current data available; however, there is frequently a lag between the time the data is collected and processed and the time of the analysis for this report.

Specific sources include:

- **Poverty and Income:** U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- **Homelessness and Household Instability:** Department of Commerce, Continuum of Care, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Access Point 4 Housing, United Way of Pierce County, RealtyTrac
- **Education and Employment:** Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, Puget Sound Regional Council
- **Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Wellness:** Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, DSHS Research and Data Analysis, Healthy Youth Survey, Tacoma School District
- **Crime and Domestic Violence:** Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, City of Tacoma
- **Food Insecurity:** Emergency Food Network, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To inform the content of the report, BERK and EnviroIssues conducted a series of interviews or attended meetings with City of Tacoma staff and key stakeholders. In some instances, those interviews identified data sources that could be analyzed further to provide a more complete assessment of community needs.

Specific interviewees for the report include:

- **Homelessness and Household Stability**
  - Colin DeForrest, City of Tacoma
  - Jaime Jackson, City of Tacoma
  - Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma
  - ChiQuata Elder, City of Tacoma
  - Healthy Homes
  - Positive Interactions
  - Tacoma Avenue business district meeting
  - Tacoma Police Department Community Liaison Officer focus group
- **Human and Social Wellness**
  - Melissa Cordiero, City of Tacoma
  - Kim Dodds, City of Tacoma

- Gang Reduction Task Force meeting
- City of Tacoma Youth Advisory Council
- Jacques Colon, Health Equity Coordinator, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- **Workforce Development.**
- Christopher Wright, City of Tacoma
- Bruce Cunningham, Evaluator for TOOL, PSESD
- Tashiko Hardy, SureHouse Open Bible Church
- Julia Brooks, RESCARE

## Appendix B

# Demographic Profile by Council District

| Council District                                   | Central       | East Side     | New Tacoma    | North East    | North End     | South End     | South Tacoma  | West End      |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>POPULATION</b>                                  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Population</b>                                  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 2000 Total Population                              | 20,436        | 27,375        | 11,299        | 15,693        | 25,620        | 38,904        | 23,209        | 30,462        |
| 2010 Total Population                              | 20,212        | 28,853        | 13,692        | 16,847        | 24,811        | 39,725        | 24,699        | 29,531        |
| 2015 Total Population                              | 21,034        | 29,972        | 14,252        | 17,007        | 25,112        | 40,008        | 25,768        | 30,378        |
| 2015 Group Quarters                                | 407           | 231           | 3,156         | 62            | 1,005         | 448           | 277           | 592           |
| <b>2015 Median Age</b>                             | 36            | 32            | 36            | 40            | 38            | 35            | 31            | 45            |
| <b>By Age - 2015</b>                               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>21,031</b> | <b>29,975</b> | <b>14,251</b> | <b>17,007</b> | <b>25,113</b> | <b>40,006</b> | <b>25,768</b> | <b>30,378</b> |
| 0 - 4  | 6.9%          | 8.7%          | 3.7%          | 5.7%          | 5.2%          | 7.5%          | 8.2%          | 5.0%          |
| 5 - 9  | 6.4%          | 8.6%          | 2.9%          | 6.5%          | 5.3%          | 7.2%          | 7.4%          | 5.0%          |
| 10 - 14  | 5.7%          | 7.5%          | 2.3%          | 7.0%          | 5.1%          | 6.3%          | 6.3%          | 4.8%          |
| 15 - 24  | 13.4%         | 14.2%         | 15.4%         | 13.2%         | 16.2%         | 16.3%         | 16.3%         | 11.1%         |
| 25 - 34  | 16.7%         | 14.9%         | 24.9%         | 11.8%         | 14.2%         | 16.1%         | 18.9%         | 13.2%         |
| 35 - 44  | 14.1%         | 13.1%         | 14.7%         | 13.7%         | 12.5%         | 13.4%         | 12.7%         | 11.2%         |
| 45 - 54  | 13.1%         | 12.0%         | 13.7%         | 15.6%         | 14.3%         | 12.6%         | 11.6%         | 12.8%         |
| 55 - 64  | 11.1%         | 10.5%         | 11.1%         | 14.5%         | 14.1%         | 12.0%         | 9.9%          | 14.4%         |
| 65 - 74  | 6.5%          | 6.1%          | 6.7%          | 8.2%          | 8.9%          | 7.0%          | 5.1%          | 10.3%         |
| 75 - 84  | 3.6%          | 2.8%          | 3.3%          | 2.9%          | 3.1%          | 3.3%          | 2.4%          | 6.8%          |
| 85 +   | 2.5%          | 1.4%          | 1.2%          | 1.0%          | 1.4%          | 1.4%          | 1.2%          | 5.5%          |
| 18 +   | 77.5%         | 71.0%         | 89.7%         | 76.7%         | 81.7%         | 75.4%         | 74.5%         | 82.2%         |
| <b>By Sex - 2015</b>                               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Males  | 10,188        | 14,804        | 8,280         | 8,386         | 12,065        | 19,856        | 12,661        | 14,321        |
| Females  | 10,846        | 15,169        | 5,973         | 8,621         | 13,047        | 20,152        | 13,106        | 16,057        |
| <b>By Race/Ethnicity - 2015</b>                    |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>21,035</b> | <b>29,973</b> | <b>14,252</b> | <b>17,007</b> | <b>25,111</b> | <b>40,008</b> | <b>25,768</b> | <b>30,377</b> |
| White Alone  | 60.4%         | 46.7%         | 64.9%         | 67.5%         | 85.5%         | 53.6%         | 52.3%         | 77.0%         |
| Black Alone  | 18.4%         | 13.1%         | 16.1%         | 7.3%          | 3.1%          | 12.3%         | 18.4%         | 7.5%          |
| American Indian Alone                              | 1.5%          | 3.8%          | 2.5%          | 1.3%          | 0.8%          | 2.1%          | 1.6%          | 0.9%          |
| Asian Alone  | 5.5%          | 13.7%         | 6.4%          | 12.7%         | 3.0%          | 12.1%         | 7.7%          | 5.6%          |
| Pacific Islander Alone                             | 1.0%          | 1.7%          | 0.8%          | 1.0%          | 0.3%          | 2.3%          | 2.0%          | 0.5%          |
| Some Other Race Alone                              | 2.8%          | 10.6%         | 2.7%          | 3.2%          | 1.4%          | 7.8%          | 7.1%          | 1.7%          |
| Two or More Races                                  | 10.4%         | 10.4%         | 6.6%          | 6.9%          | 6.0%          | 9.8%          | 11.0%         | 6.8%          |
| Hispanic Origin                                    | 9.7%          | 21.4%         | 12.8%         | 8.5%          | 5.4%          | 16.1%         | 16.2%         | 6.5%          |
| Diversity Index                                    | 66.8          | 83            | 64.9          | 59.6          | 34.2          | 76.8          | 77.2          | 47.2          |
| <b>By Relationship &amp; Household Type - 2010</b> |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>20,212</b> | <b>28,853</b> | <b>13,692</b> | <b>16,847</b> | <b>24,811</b> | <b>39,725</b> | <b>24,699</b> | <b>29,531</b> |
| In Households                                      | 98.0%         | 99.2%         | 75.2%         | 99.6%         | 95.8%         | 98.8%         | 98.9%         | 98.0%         |
| In Family Households                               | 73.9%         | 84.8%         | 32.6%         | 87.6%         | 69.1%         | 81.2%         | 77.6%         | 72.7%         |
| Householder  | 22.5%         | 22.5%         | 11.9%         | 27.2%         | 23.6%         | 23.7%         | 23.6%         | 25.2%         |
| Spouse   | 12.9%         | 13.2%         | 6.7%          | 21.8%         | 18.1%         | 14.7%         | 12.6%         | 18.2%         |
| Child  | 29.4%         | 37.2%         | 10.8%         | 32.5%         | 23.4%         | 31.9%         | 32.0%         | 24.2%         |
| Other relative                                     | 4.5%          | 7.0%          | 1.5%          | 4.0%          | 1.8%          | 6.4%          | 5.0%          | 3.0%          |
| Nonrelative  | 4.6%          | 4.9%          | 1.7%          | 2.1%          | 2.2%          | 4.5%          | 4.3%          | 2.2%          |
| In Nonfamily Households                            | 24.1%         | 14.4%         | 42.6%         | 12.0%         | 26.7%         | 17.7%         | 21.3%         | 25.3%         |
| In Group Quarters                                  | 2.0%          | 0.8%          | 24.8%         | 0.4%          | 4.2%          | 1.2%          | 1.1%          | 2.0%          |
| Institutionalized Population                       | 1.5%          | 0.5%          | 17.2%         | 0.4%          | 0.0%          | 0.7%          | 0.8%          | 1.7%          |
| Noninstitutionalized Population                    | 0.5%          | 0.3%          | 7.6%          | 0.0%          | 4.2%          | 0.4%          | 0.3%          | 0.3%          |
| <b>25+ By Educational Attainment - 2015</b>        |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>14,214</b> | <b>18,281</b> | <b>10,784</b> | <b>11,507</b> | <b>17,161</b> | <b>26,360</b> | <b>15,913</b> | <b>22,536</b> |
| Less than 9th Grade                                | 3.9%          | 9.7%          | 5.0%          | 2.3%          | 1.0%          | 6.6%          | 6.1%          | 2.0%          |
| 9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma                       | 7.2%          | 11.3%         | 10.0%         | 4.9%          | 3.5%          | 9.6%          | 9.1%          | 4.4%          |
| High School Graduate                               | 23.4%         | 27.2%         | 14.0%         | 19.0%         | 13.2%         | 28.9%         | 23.7%         | 21.7%         |
| GED/Alternative Credential                         | 5.1%          | 5.2%          | 6.5%          | 3.1%          | 3.4%          | 7.4%          | 7.2%          | 3.9%          |
| Some College, No Degree                            | 26.2%         | 24.1%         | 24.8%         | 22.5%         | 18.2%         | 25.1%         | 28.8%         | 25.4%         |
| Associate Degree                                   | 10.1%         | 9.5%          | 9.7%          | 10.9%         | 7.7%          | 8.1%          | 9.3%          | 9.6%          |
| Bachelor's Degree                                  | 15.0%         | 9.6%          | 16.9%         | 24.2%         | 29.4%         | 11.1%         | 11.0%         | 20.0%         |
| Graduate/Professional Degree                       | 9.2%          | 3.3%          | 13.1%         | 13.2%         | 23.6%         | 3.3%          | 4.7%          | 12.9%         |

Data Note: Household population includes persons not residing in group quarters. Average Household Size is the household population divided by total households. Persons in families include the householder and persons related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Per Capita Income represents the income received by all persons aged 15 years and over divided by the total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2015 and 2020. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography. Compiled by BERK, 2016

TACOMA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
APPENDIX B – COUNCIL DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

| Council District                         | Central       | East Side     | New Tacoma    | North East    | North End     | South End     | South Tacoma  | West End      |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>15+ By Marital Status - 2015</b>      |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>17,040</b> | <b>22,545</b> | <b>12,983</b> | <b>13,748</b> | <b>21,219</b> | <b>31,632</b> | <b>20,117</b> | <b>25,897</b> |
| Never Married                            | 34.5%         | 35.7%         | 50.5%         | 27.8%         | 38.3%         | 35.1%         | 41.5%         | 29.9%         |
| Married                                  | 40.2%         | 44.9%         | 26.2%         | 57.3%         | 45.9%         | 43.7%         | 38.0%         | 48.3%         |
| Widowed                                  | 6.8%          | 5.2%          | 4.7%          | 3.0%          | 2.7%          | 5.2%          | 3.9%          | 9.1%          |
| Divorced                                 | 18.5%         | 14.1%         | 18.5%         | 11.9%         | 13.1%         | 15.9%         | 16.6%         | 12.7%         |
| <b>Civilian 16+ In Labor Force</b>       |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Civilian Employed                        | 87.3%         | 87.3%         | 87.6%         | 93.4%         | 92.3%         | 88.7%         | 86.0%         | 91.4%         |
| Civilian Unemployed                      | 12.7%         | 12.7%         | 12.4%         | 6.6%          | 7.7%          | 11.3%         | 14.0%         | 8.6%          |
| <b>Employed 16+ By Industry - 2015</b>   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>8,279</b>  | <b>10,687</b> | <b>4,893</b>  | <b>8,289</b>  | <b>12,429</b> | <b>15,913</b> | <b>10,133</b> | <b>12,607</b> |
| Agriculture/Mining                       | 0.8%          | 0.6%          | 0.8%          | 0.4%          | 0.3%          | 0.8%          | 1.3%          | 0.4%          |
| Construction                             | 4.5%          | 7.4%          | 3.4%          | 5.5%          | 5.7%          | 6.9%          | 8.9%          | 5.6%          |
| Manufacturing                            | 9.8%          | 10.9%         | 5.2%          | 12.9%         | 6.3%          | 9.6%          | 9.6%          | 8.0%          |
| Wholesale Trade                          | 3.5%          | 2.3%          | 1.6%          | 3.8%          | 1.8%          | 3.0%          | 2.5%          | 3.3%          |
| Retail Trade                             | 11.1%         | 12.1%         | 13.1%         | 11.5%         | 8.8%          | 11.8%         | 12.8%         | 11.9%         |
| Transportation/Utilities                 | 5.8%          | 6.2%          | 5.3%          | 8.0%          | 5.3%          | 6.6%          | 4.6%          | 6.3%          |
| Information                              | 1.0%          | 0.8%          | 1.5%          | 1.3%          | 1.4%          | 1.4%          | 1.9%          | 1.5%          |
| Finance/Insurance/Real Estate            | 5.0%          | 4.2%          | 6.4%          | 6.8%          | 6.8%          | 5.4%          | 4.6%          | 7.0%          |
| Services                                 | 53.8%         | 50.1%         | 55.9%         | 43.8%         | 57.7%         | 49.0%         | 49.0%         | 50.3%         |
| Public Administration                    | 4.6%          | 5.3%          | 6.7%          | 6.0%          | 5.8%          | 5.6%          | 4.9%          | 5.7%          |
| <b>Employed 16+ By Occupation - 2015</b> |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>8,279</b>  | <b>10,689</b> | <b>4,893</b>  | <b>8,288</b>  | <b>12,429</b> | <b>15,913</b> | <b>10,132</b> | <b>12,605</b> |
| White Collar                             | 52.7%         | 46.2%         | 62.8%         | 67.5%         | 69.3%         | 48.5%         | 46.5%         | 64.8%         |
| Management/Business/Financial            | 8.7%          | 8.2%          | 16.9%         | 19.2%         | 16.4%         | 9.0%          | 8.2%          | 14.8%         |
| Professional                             | 23.1%         | 14.8%         | 24.3%         | 22.4%         | 30.2%         | 13.6%         | 14.0%         | 21.8%         |
| Sales                                    | 9.7%          | 11.8%         | 10.6%         | 11.1%         | 8.1%          | 11.7%         | 10.4%         | 11.2%         |
| Administrative Support                   | 11.2%         | 11.4%         | 10.9%         | 14.9%         | 14.7%         | 14.2%         | 13.8%         | 16.9%         |
| Services                                 | 24.8%         | 25.7%         | 22.5%         | 14.9%         | 17.2%         | 25.4%         | 25.0%         | 15.8%         |
| Blue Collar                              | 22.6%         | 28.1%         | 14.7%         | 17.6%         | 13.5%         | 26.0%         | 28.5%         | 19.4%         |
| Farming/Forestry/Fishing                 | 0.6%          | 0.6%          | 0.8%          | 0.3%          | 0.1%          | 0.4%          | 0.9%          | 0.0%          |
| Construction/Extraction                  | 4.5%          | 7.3%          | 2.5%          | 4.7%          | 4.7%          | 6.8%          | 7.3%          | 4.2%          |
| Installation/Maintenance/Repair          | 2.8%          | 3.2%          | 1.9%          | 3.3%          | 1.8%          | 4.7%          | 5.3%          | 4.6%          |
| Production                               | 8.0%          | 8.1%          | 4.9%          | 3.5%          | 3.3%          | 5.6%          | 6.5%          | 4.0%          |
| Transportation/Material Moving           | 6.7%          | 8.9%          | 4.5%          | 5.7%          | 3.6%          | 8.5%          | 8.5%          | 6.6%          |
| <b>Households</b>                        |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>2015 Households</b>                   | <b>8,477</b>  | <b>9,878</b>  | <b>6,951</b>  | <b>6,166</b>  | <b>10,624</b> | <b>14,766</b> | <b>10,189</b> | <b>14,189</b> |
| 2015 Average Household Size              | 2.43          | 3.01          | 1.6           | 2.75          | 2.27          | 2.68          | 2.5           | 2.1           |
| <b>Households By Type - 2010</b>         |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>8,081</b>  | <b>9,515</b>  | <b>6,451</b>  | <b>6,088</b>  | <b>10,424</b> | <b>14,600</b> | <b>9,721</b>  | <b>13,661</b> |
| Households with 1 Person                 | 32.6%         | 23.9%         | 63.1%         | 19.1%         | 32.1%         | 26.4%         | 29.2%         | 37.7%         |
| Households with 2+ People                | 67.4%         | 76.1%         | 36.9%         | 80.9%         | 67.9%         | 73.6%         | 70.8%         | 62.3%         |
| Family Households                        | 56.2%         | 68.2%         | 25.0%         | 74.7%         | 56.2%         | 64.6%         | 59.8%         | 54.6%         |
| Husband-wife Families                    | 32.3%         | 39.9%         | 13.9%         | 59.9%         | 43.1%         | 39.9%         | 32.0%         | 39.3%         |
| With Related Children                    | 15.1%         | 21.6%         | 3.6%          | 28.1%         | 18.2%         | 18.7%         | 15.8%         | 13.7%         |
| Other Family (No Spouse Present)         | 23.8%         | 28.3%         | 11.1%         | 14.8%         | 13.0%         | 24.7%         | 27.8%         | 15.3%         |
| Other Family with Male Householder       | 6.4%          | 7.5%          | 2.8%          | 4.3%          | 3.6%          | 7.7%          | 7.2%          | 3.9%          |
| With Related Children                    | 3.7%          | 4.8%          | 1.7%          | 2.5%          | 2.1%          | 4.5%          | 4.2%          | 2.1%          |
| Other Family with Female Householder     | 17.5%         | 20.8%         | 8.2%          | 10.5%         | 9.4%          | 17.0%         | 20.7%         | 11.4%         |
| With Related Children                    | 11.7%         | 14.7%         | 6.3%          | 7.0%          | 5.5%          | 11.5%         | 15.1%         | 7.3%          |
| Nonfamily Households                     | 11.3%         | 7.8%          | 11.9%         | 6.3%          | 11.7%         | 9.0%          | 11.0%         | 7.7%          |
| All Households with Children             | 31.3%         | 42.1%         | 12.0%         | 38.1%         | 26.2%         | 35.7%         | 36.1%         | 23.5%         |
| Multigenerational Households             | 4.3%          | 7.9%          | 0.9%          | 3.8%          | 1.7%          | 6.0%          | 4.0%          | 2.0%          |
| Unmarried Partner Households             | 10.5%         | 9.7%          | 8.9%          | 6.8%          | 7.6%          | 10.0%         | 11.0%         | 6.4%          |
| Male-female                              | 9.2%          | 8.8%          | 8.0%          | 6.0%          | 6.2%          | 8.9%          | 10.0%         | 5.6%          |
| Same-sex                                 | 14%           | 0.9%          | 0.9%          | 0.7%          | 14%           | 10%           | 10%           | 0.8%          |

Data Note: Household population includes persons not residing in group quarters. Average Household Size is the household population divided by total households. Persons in families include the householder and persons related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Per Capita Income represents the income received by all persons aged 15 years and over divided by the total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2015 and 2020. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography. Compiled by BERK, 2016

TACOMA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
APPENDIX B – COUNCIL DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

| Council District   | Central      | East Side     | New Tacoma   | North East   | North End     | South End     | South Tacoma  | West End      |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Households By Size - 2010</b>                         |              |               |              |              |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>8,082</b> | <b>9,513</b>  | <b>6,451</b> | <b>6,088</b> | <b>10,423</b> | <b>14,600</b> | <b>9,721</b>  | <b>13,663</b> |
| 1 Person Household                                       | 32.6%        | 23.9%         | 63.1%        | 19.1%        | 32.1%         | 26.4%         | 29.2%         | 37.7%         |
| 2 Person Household                                       | 29.6%        | 26.5%         | 25.2%        | 34.4%        | 35.0%         | 30.1%         | 31.6%         | 35.0%         |
| 3 Person Household                                       | 16.6%        | 16.3%         | 6.5%         | 18.2%        | 15.0%         | 16.9%         | 17.4%         | 13.7%         |
| 4 Person Household                                       | 11.2%        | 14.1%         | 3.1%         | 17.0%        | 11.7%         | 12.9%         | 11.3%         | 8.5%          |
| 5 Person Household                                       | 5.5%         | 8.5%          | 1.1%         | 7.0%         | 4.2%          | 7.5%          | 6.2%          | 3.3%          |
| 6 Person Household                                       | 2.6%         | 5.2%          | 0.6%         | 2.7%         | 1.4%          | 3.5%          | 2.4%          | 1.1%          |
| 7 + Person Household                                     | 2.0%         | 5.5%          | 0.4%         | 1.6%         | 0.7%          | 2.7%          | 2.0%          | 0.8%          |
| <b>Households By Tenure &amp; Mortgage Status - 2010</b> |              |               |              |              |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>8,081</b> | <b>9,515</b>  | <b>6,451</b> | <b>6,088</b> | <b>10,424</b> | <b>14,600</b> | <b>9,721</b>  | <b>13,661</b> |
| Owner Occupied   | 53.7%        | 60.7%         | 12.5%        | 78.1%        | 66.7%         | 59.8%         | 38.4%         | 53.6%         |
| Owned with a Mortgage/Loan                               | 44.7%        | 50.0%         | 9.5%         | 67.2%        | 52.3%         | 47.5%         | 31.0%         | 38.7%         |
| Owned Free and Clear                                     | 9.0%         | 10.7%         | 3.0%         | 11.0%        | 14.4%         | 12.3%         | 7.4%          | 14.9%         |
| Renter Occupied  | 46.3%        | 39.3%         | 87.5%        | 21.9%        | 33.3%         | 40.2%         | 61.6%         | 46.4%         |
| <b>HOUSING</b>   |              |               |              |              |               |               |               |               |
| <b>2015 Housing Units</b>                                | <b>9,359</b> | <b>10,831</b> | <b>8,238</b> | <b>6,466</b> | <b>11,482</b> | <b>16,069</b> | <b>11,348</b> | <b>15,447</b> |
| 2015 Owner Occupied Housing Units                        | 46.3%        | 52.7%         | 9.9%         | 72.9%        | 59.5%         | 52.2%         | 32.2%         | 47.1%         |
| 2015 Renter Occupied Housing Units                       | 44.3%        | 38.5%         | 74.5%        | 22.5%        | 33.0%         | 39.7%         | 57.6%         | 44.8%         |
| 2015 Vacant Housing Units                                | 9.4%         | 8.8%          | 15.6%        | 4.6%         | 7.5%          | 8.1%          | 10.2%         | 8.1%          |
| 2015 Median Home Value                                   | \$207,304    | \$179,950     | \$345,130    | \$330,030    | \$335,877     | \$186,104     | \$182,025     | \$290,143     |
| <b>2015 INCOME</b>                                       |              |               |              |              |               |               |               |               |
| 2015 Median Household Income                             | \$40,760     | \$43,444      | \$25,675     | \$88,900     | \$66,308      | \$45,978      | \$39,677      | \$50,346      |
| <b>2015 Household Income Base</b>                        | <b>8,477</b> | <b>9,878</b>  | <b>6,951</b> | <b>6,166</b> | <b>10,624</b> | <b>14,766</b> | <b>10,189</b> | <b>14,189</b> |
| <\$5,000   | 18.0%        | 15.7%         | 34.4%        | 3.3%         | 7.8%          | 14.6%         | 20.8%         | 15.9%         |
| \$5,000 - \$24,999                                       | 12.7%        | 12.0%         | 14.1%        | 3.5%         | 7.2%          | 10.9%         | 10.8%         | 9.4%          |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999                                      | 11.2%        | 10.4%         | 15.5%        | 4.7%         | 8.7%          | 10.8%         | 12.7%         | 10.5%         |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999                                      | 17.4%        | 13.3%         | 12.2%        | 9.6%         | 13.1%         | 17.4%         | 14.6%         | 13.8%         |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999                                      | 17.8%        | 19.5%         | 10.1%        | 17.3%        | 18.1%         | 22.3%         | 22.1%         | 16.5%         |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999                                      | 10.6%        | 11.9%         | 5.9%         | 18.5%        | 15.6%         | 12.2%         | 10.7%         | 14.4%         |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999                                    | 10.2%        | 8.5%          | 4.3%         | 24.1%        | 16.4%         | 9.5%          | 6.9%          | 11.2%         |
| \$150,000 - \$199,999                                    | 1.8%         | 2.8%          | 1.8%         | 11.3%        | 7.5%          | 1.8%          | 1.1%          | 3.9%          |
| \$200,000+   | 0.4%         | 0.8%          | 1.6%         | 7.8%         | 5.7%          | 0.7%          | 0.3%          | 4.4%          |
| Average Household Income                                 | \$51,422     | \$54,259      | \$40,185     | \$106,871    | \$84,979      | \$54,719      | \$47,883      | \$70,067      |
| <b>2015 OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS BY VALUE</b>        |              |               |              |              |               |               |               |               |
| <b>2015 Owner Occupied Housing Units</b>                 | <b>4,335</b> | <b>5,706</b>  | <b>810</b>   | <b>4,711</b> | <b>6,830</b>  | <b>8,383</b>  | <b>3,658</b>  | <b>7,276</b>  |
| <\$50,000  | 0.3%         | 0.2%          | 1.1%         | 0.1%         | 0.1%          | 0.2%          | 1.0%          | 0.1%          |
| \$50,000 - \$99,999                                      | 2.4%         | 3.7%          | 2.6%         | 0.3%         | 0.3%          | 2.8%          | 3.7%          | 1.3%          |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999                                    | 10.7%        | 20.8%         | 6.0%         | 1.4%         | 1.4%          | 15.4%         | 19.8%         | 4.3%          |
| \$150,000 - \$199,999                                    | 32.1%        | 42.1%         | 10.6%        | 5.1%         | 4.5%          | 43.9%         | 39.9%         | 9.4%          |
| \$200,000 - \$249,999                                    | 31.2%        | 21.8%         | 11.1%        | 16.3%        | 12.5%         | 26.9%         | 18.8%         | 17.2%         |
| \$250,000 - \$299,999                                    | 15.1%        | 7.2%          | 10.0%        | 20.3%        | 19.9%         | 7.8%          | 6.9%          | 22.0%         |
| \$300,000 - \$399,999                                    | 6.0%         | 2.2%          | 19.0%        | 21.3%        | 31.6%         | 1.8%          | 4.4%          | 24.5%         |
| \$400,000 - \$499,999                                    | 0.6%         | 0.4%          | 11.1%        | 17.3%        | 13.1%         | 0.4%          | 1.3%          | 9.0%          |
| \$500,000 - \$749,999                                    | 0.3%         | 0.6%          | 15.9%        | 15.1%        | 10.9%         | 0.3%          | 1.5%          | 7.9%          |
| \$750,000 - \$999,999                                    | 0.1%         | 0.0%          | 4.2%         | 1.7%         | 3.7%          | 0.1%          | 0.2%          | 1.7%          |
| \$1,000,000 +  | 1.2%         | 0.8%          | 8.4%         | 1.1%         | 2.0%          | 0.7%          | 2.5%          | 2.5%          |
| Average Home Value                                       | \$224,885    | \$195,303     | \$438,070    | \$378,226    | \$388,161     | \$198,416     | \$222,621     | \$344,140     |

Data Note: Household population includes persons not residing in group quarters. Average Household Size is the household population divided by total households. Persons in families include the householder and persons related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Per Capita Income represents the income received by all persons aged 15 years and over divided by the total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2015 and 2020. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography. Compiled by BERK, 2016