

## Section 2 – Community Demographics and Risk Factors

This section describes demographic conditions and risk factors for 48 census tracts in Tacoma, organized by neighborhood. This methodology was chosen because there are significant demographic distinctions between census tracts in Tacoma, and these distinctions may be lost when examining the data at a larger level. Data in this section was drawn from the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data projections for 2016, except where noted. Overall data for Tacoma and Pierce County is drawn from the 2017 ACS data.

Tacoma is a highly diverse city of 213,426 residents located in the south end of Puget Sound in Pierce County, Washington. About one quarter (24%) of the population of Tacoma is age 19 or below, which is comparable to the rate in Washington state, but slightly below the rate of Pierce County.

**Table 2.1 Population overview of Washington, Pierce County and Tacoma**

Area	Population	% residents age 0 to 19	Per capita income	Median household income	% persons below poverty line	% children under age 18 below poverty line
Tacoma	213,426	24%	\$30,451	\$57,164	14.90%	18%
Pierce County	876,764	26%	\$32,540	\$69,278	10%	11%
Washington	7,405,743	24%	\$36,975	\$70,979	11%	14%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2017 1-year data)

The per capita income in Tacoma is 17.6% lower than the per capita income in Washington State and 6.4% lower than the per capita income in Pierce County. The percent of persons living in poverty is 35.5% higher in Tacoma than in Washington state, and is 49% higher than in Pierce County overall.

The city is more racially diverse than both the state of Washington and Pierce County overall. Tacoma’s black/African American population is 2.5 times higher than that of Washington state, and 42.9% higher per capita than the population of black/African American residents in Pierce County. The city also has a slightly larger percentage of biracial residents than Washington state overall.

**Table 2.2 Racial/ethnic overview of residents of Washington, Pierce County and Tacoma**

Area	% White	% Black	% Native	% Asian	% Islander	% Other	% two races	% Hispanic
Tacoma	59%	10%	1%	8%	1%	0%	7%	12%
Pierce County	67%	7%	1%	6%	2%	0%	7%	11%
Washington	69%	4%	1%	8%	1%	0%	5%	13%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2017 1-year data)

Tacoma residents are 18.8% more likely to be single (57%) than residents of Pierce County or Washington (48%). The birth rates in Tacoma are lower, and household size is also smaller. Tacoma residents are 15.9% less likely to own property than residents of Pierce County and Washington overall, and Tacoma’s geographic mobility rate of 18.6% is higher than that of Washington (17.8%) and Pierce County (16.7%).

**Table 2.3 Family structure overview of Washington, Pierce County and Tacoma**

Area	% Married	% Single	% women 15-50		% Rent	% Own	Geographical mobility rate
			who gave birth in past year	Persons per household			
Tacoma	43%	57%	4.7%	2.5	47%	53%	18.6%
Pierce County	52%	48%	6.1%	2.7	37%	63%	16.7%
Washington	52%	48%	5.6^	2.6	37%	63%	17.8%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2017 1-year data)

Tacoma residents are slightly less likely to have a high school diploma than residents of Pierce County/Washington state. They are slightly less likely to speak English only than residents of Pierce County, and slightly more likely to speak English at home than residents of Washington overall. The most common languages spoken at home besides English are Spanish and Asian/Islander languages. A small percentage of Tacoma residents with children also speak an Indo-European language at home.

**Table 2.4 Overview of educational attainment and language spoken at home for Washington, Pierce County and Tacoma**

Area	Educational attainment			Language spoken at home with children under 18				
	% less than high school	% High school diploma	% Bachelor’s degree	English only	Spanish	Indo-European	Asian/Islander	Other
Tacoma	11%	89%	28%	81%	8%	3%	6%	1%
Pierce County	8%	92%	26%	88%	7%	2%	3%	1%
Washington	9%	91.3%	35.5%	77%	13%	4%	4%	1%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2017 1-year data)

A little more than one in ten (12.4%) of Tacoma residents were born outside the U.S. The most common region that immigrants migrate from is Asia, followed by Latin America and Europe. Tacoma also has a small percentage of African immigrants.

**Table 2.5 National origin of residents of Washington, Pierce County and Tacoma**

Area	% foreign born		Region of origin		
	born	Europe	Asia	Africa	Latin America
Tacoma	12.4%	19%	48%	3%	28%
Pierce County	9.3%	20%	44%	4%	31%
Washington	14.3%	14%	44%	6%	34%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2017 1-year data)

## INCOME AND POVERTY

Tacoma’s overall median and per capita incomes disguise wide variances in income at the census tract level. Table \_\_\_ shows the bottom eight and top eight census tracts in Tacoma by median annual income.

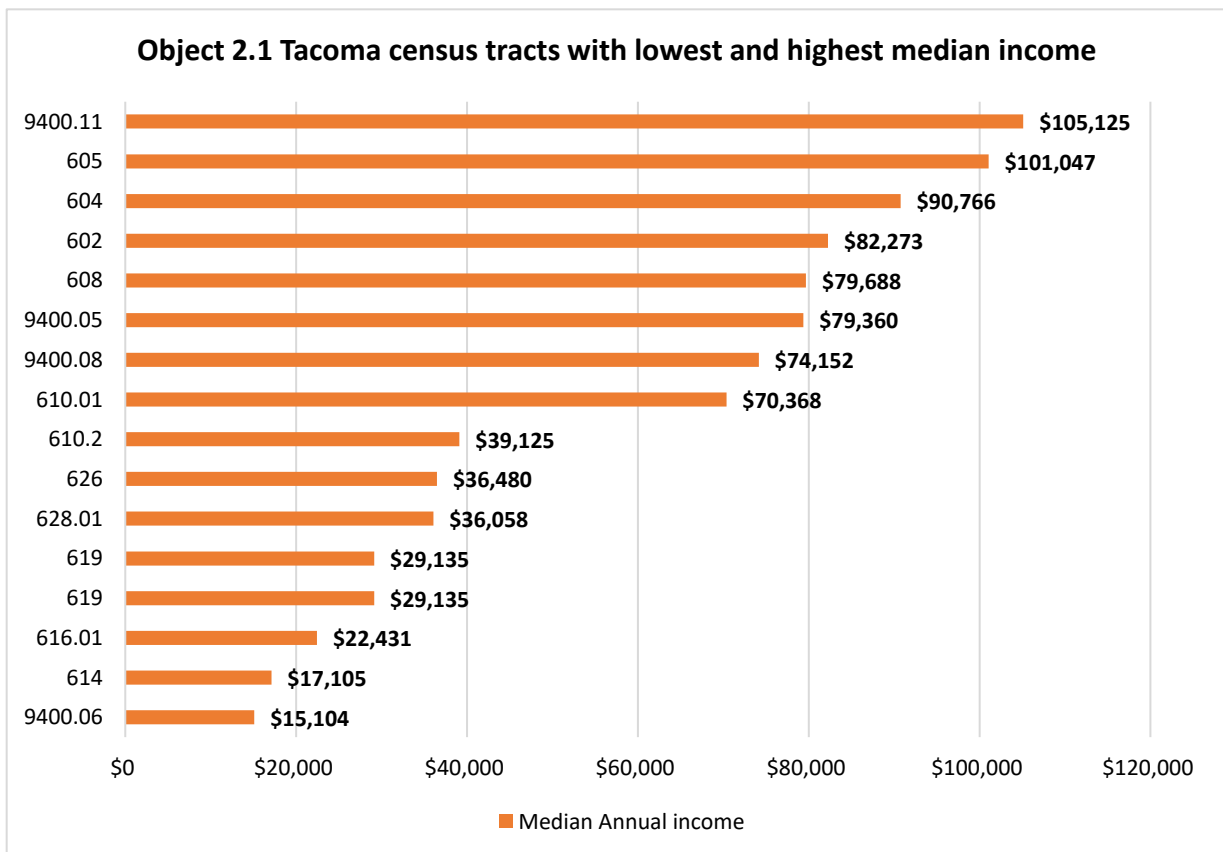
The highest median income census tracts are found in Northeast Tacoma and New Tacoma. The lowest income tracts are in East Side and New Tacoma. The income differential between the lowest median income (\$15,104) in Census Tract 9400.06 and the highest median income (\$105,125) in Census Tract 9400.11 is over \$90,000 annually.

One reason data for this section was analyzed by census tract for this report is illustrated in Table 2.6 “Eight lowest and highest median income census tracts in Tacoma.” Some of the highest and lowest median incomes are found

**Table 2.6 Eight lowest and highest median income census tracts in Tacoma**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	Median Household income
9400.06	East Side	\$15,104
614	New Tacoma	\$17,105
616.01	New Tacoma	\$22,431
619	South End/East Side	\$29,135
619	East Side	\$29,135
628.01	South Tacoma	\$36,058
626	South Tacoma	\$36,480
610.2	West End	\$39,125
610.01	West End	\$70,368
9400.08	North East	\$74,152
9400.05	North East	\$79,360
608	North East	\$79,688
602	New Tacoma	\$82,273
604	North East	\$90,766
605	North East	\$101,047
9400.11	North East	\$105,125

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2016 5-year data)



**Table 2.7 Eight lowest and highest per capita income census tracts in Tacoma**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	Per Capita income
9400.06	East Side	\$10,294
614	New Tacoma	\$11,747
9400.07	East Side	\$17,433
623	East Side	\$18,643
613	Central	\$18,822
620	East Side	\$18,963
633	East Side	\$19,599
628.01	South Tacoma	\$19,914
615	New Tacoma	\$36,401
603	West End	\$38,976
602	New Tacoma	\$39,633
604	Northeast	\$46,008
606	Northeast	\$46,171
610.01	West End	\$46,647
9400.11	Northeast	\$51,751
605	Northeast	\$52,363

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2016 5-year data)

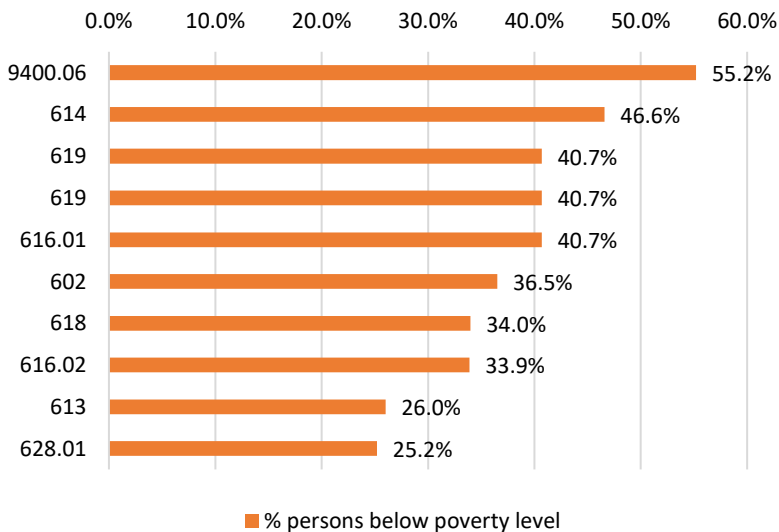
within the same neighborhoods (West End and New Tacoma).

The census tracts with the highest per capita income annually are found in Northeast, West End and New Tacoma neighborhoods. The lowest per capita income census tracts are in East Side and New Tacoma.

The lowest per capita income (\$10,294) is found in Census Tract 9400.06 in the East Side neighborhood. The highest per capita annual income (\$52,363) is found in Census Tract 605 in the Northeast neighborhood. The annual per capita income in the highest census tract is roughly five times higher than the annual per capita income in the lowest census tract. The eight census tracts with the lowest per capita income all have per capita incomes below \$20,000 annually.

The ten census tracts in Tacoma with the highest percentage of persons living in poverty are in the East Side, New Tacoma, South End, Central and South Tacoma neighborhoods. Over half of the people who reside in Census Tract 9400.06 in the East Side neighborhood live below the poverty level. In five census tracts in Tacoma, more than 40% of residents live below the poverty level.

**Object 2.2 Percentage of population below the poverty level by census tract**



**Table 2.8 Census tracts with the highest percentage of persons living below poverty level in Tacoma**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	% persons below poverty level
9400.06	East Side	55.2%
614	New Tacoma	46.60%
619	South End/East Side	40.70%
616.01	New Tacoma	40.70%
602	New Tacoma	36.50%
618	South End	34%
616.02	New Tacoma	33.90%
613	Central	26.0%
628.01	South Tacoma	25.2%
609.4	West End	25%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2016 5-year data)

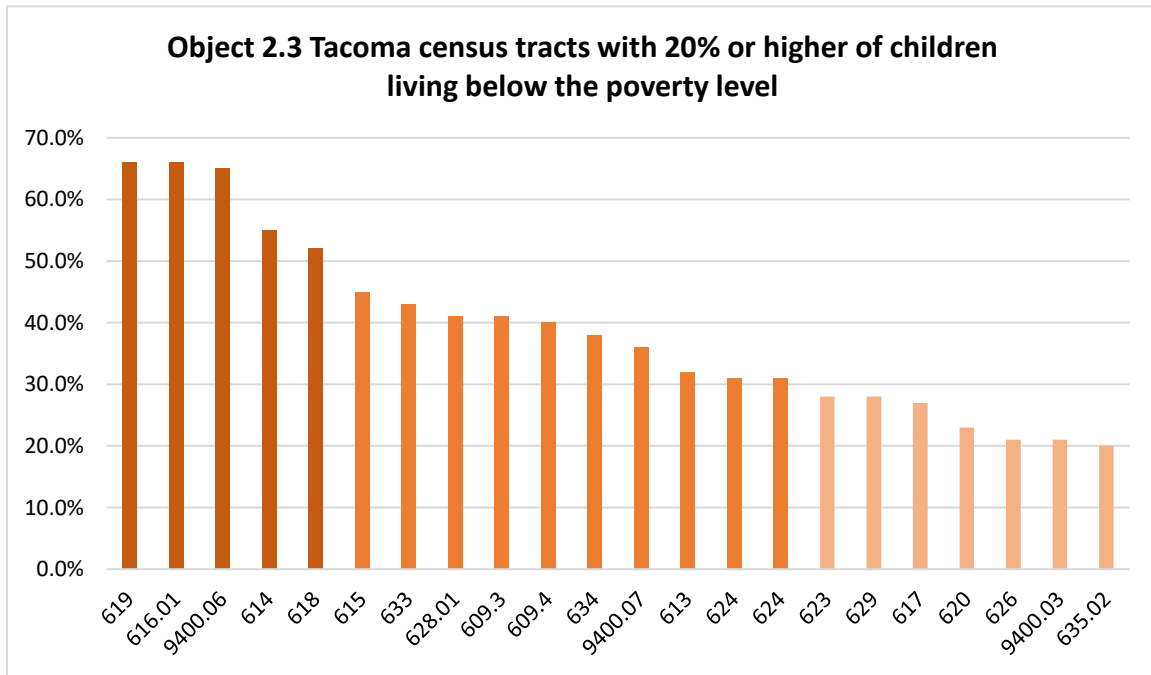
**Table 2.9 Tacoma census tracts with the highest percentage of children living below the poverty level in Tacoma**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	% children below poverty level
619	South End/East Side	66%
616.01	New Tacoma	66%
9400.06	East Side	65%
614	New Tacoma	55%
618	South End	52%
615	New Tacoma	45%
633	East Side	43.0%
628.01	South Tacoma	41%
609.3	West End	41%
609.4	West End	40.0%

(Censusreporter.org, ACS 2016 5-year data)

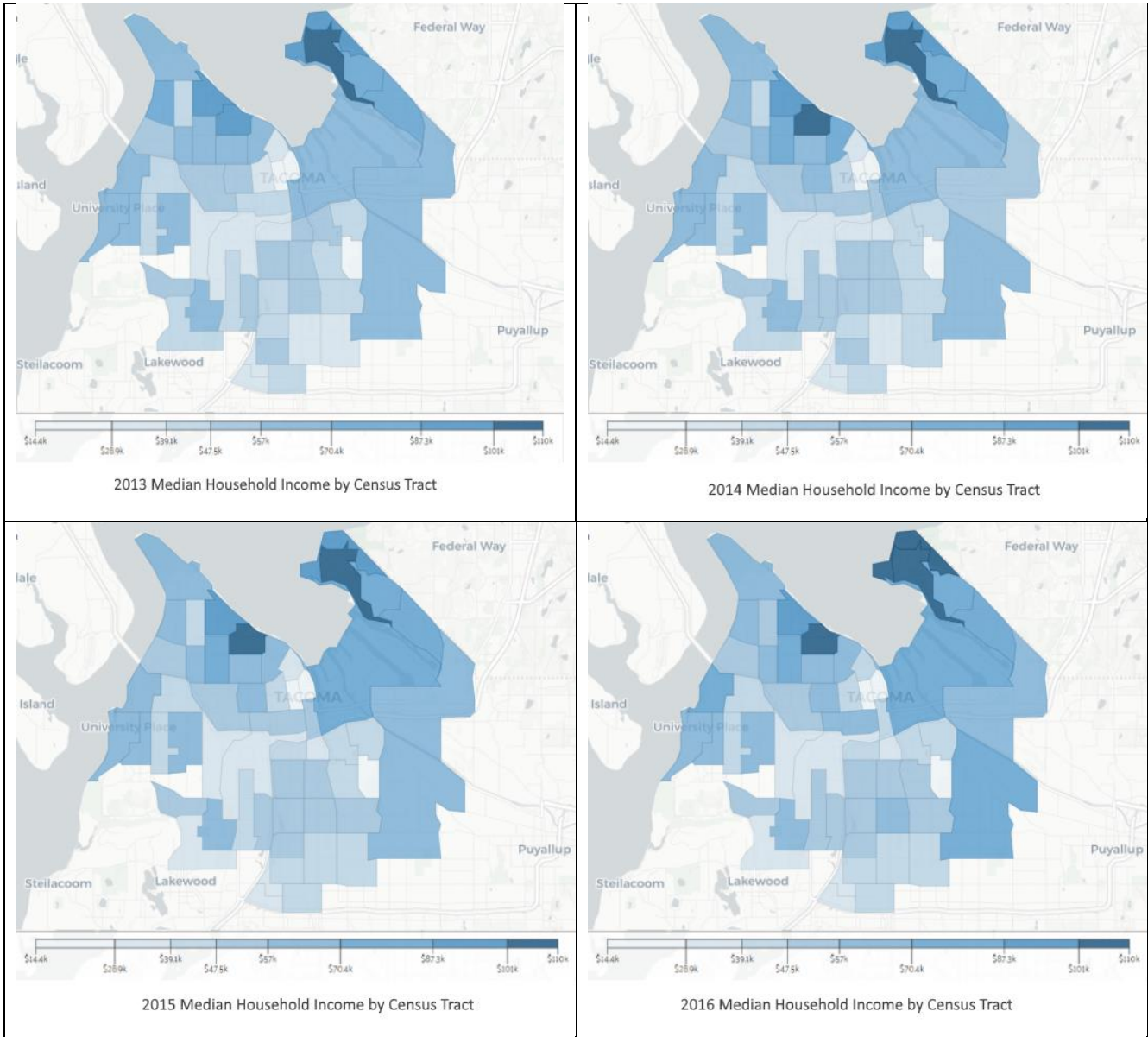
Tacoma has five census tracts where more than 50% of children live below poverty, and three census tracts where almost two-thirds of children live below the poverty level. The census tracts with the most children below the poverty level in the East Side, South End, New Tacoma and West End.

A total of 48 census tracts were examined for this report. In 22 of these tracts (45.8% of all census tracts), more than one in five children lives below the poverty level.



The maps below show the American Community Survey estimated income shifts occurring in Tacoma at the census tract level between 2013 and 2016.

**Object 2.4 Census Tracts by estimated income, 2013 to 2016**



**RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

The greatest racial diversity in Tacoma is found in the East Side and South End neighborhoods. Eight of the ten most racially diverse census tracts in Tacoma are in those neighborhoods. The largest populations of Hispanic/Latino residents are found in the New Tacoma and East Side neighborhoods. The largest populations of black/African American residents are found in the East Side, South Tacoma and Central Tacoma neighborhoods.

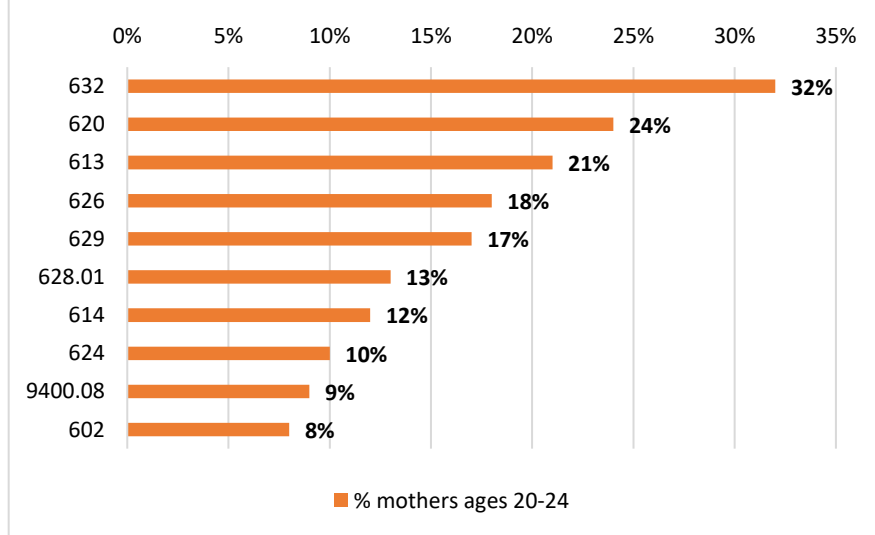
**Table 2.10 Ten most racially diverse census tracts in Tacoma**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	White	Black	Native	Asian	Islander	Biracial	Hispanic
9400.06	East Side	22%	33%	0%	26%	0%	11%	7%
633	East Side	31%	14%	1%	19%	4%	3%	28%
635.02	South End	34%	9%	0%	29%	7%	12%	9%
9400.07	East Side	35%	8%	13%	10%	6%	8%	19%
635.01	South End	41%	11%	0%	14%	3%	15%	15%
618	South End	42%	6%	4%	23%	0%	12%	13%
623	East Side	42%	11%	3%	13%	0%	6%	25%
631	South End	42%	16%	0%	7%	4%	15%	15%
630	South Tacoma	42%	16%	0%	7%	4%	15%	15%
617	Central	42%	24%	0%	10%	0%	11%	13%

**FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS**

The largest percentage of young mothers in Tacoma (ages 20-24) are in the East Side, South End, Central and South Tacoma neighborhoods. Six of the ten neighborhoods with high levels of young parents also have high rates of child poverty.

**Object 2.5 Ten Tacoma census tracts with the highest percentage of mothers age 24 and under**



**Table 2.11 Percentage of mothers below age 25 and percent of children below poverty line**

Census Tract	% mothers ages 20-24	% children below poverty
632	32%	65.0%
620	24%	18%
613	21%	52%
626	18%	11%
629	17%	11%
628.01	13%	27.%
614	12%	38%
624	10%	17%
9400.08	9%	66%

The highest birth rates are found in the South End, East Side, West End, and Central neighborhoods.

**Table 2.12 Top ten Tacoma census tracts by birth rate**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	Birth rate	Census Tract	Neighborhood	Birth rate
618	South End	14.8%	609.3	West End	9.8%
9400.07	East Side	11.0%	612	Central	8.20%
634	South End	10.9%	625	South End	7.8%
632	South End/East Side	10.6%	611	Central	7.80%
9400.06	East Side	9.8%	602	New Tacoma	7.7%



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The neighborhoods with the highest rates of high school completion are the Northeast and West End neighborhoods. The neighborhoods with the lowest rates of high school completion are New Tacoma, East Side, South End, and South Tacoma. It appears that educational attainment is sometimes, but not always, correlated to income. Two of the census tracts with the lowest rates of high school completion also have the lowest median incomes. Two of the neighborhoods with the highest rates of high school completion also have the highest median incomes. However, many other neighborhoods with low educational attainment have mid-range incomes.

**Table 2.13 Census tracts by lowest and highest educational completion rate and median household income**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	High school completion rate	Median household income
614	New Tacoma	73.4%	\$17,105
9400.06	East Side	74.2%	\$15,104
631	South End	75.6%	\$51,694
630	South Tacoma	75.6%	\$51,694
620	East Side	78.00%	\$55,294
633	East Side	78.0%	\$45,403
634	South End	81.4%	\$45,806
635.02	South End	81.1%	\$42,044
608	Northeast	95.1%	\$65,429
610.01	West End	96.0%	\$70,368
605	Northeast	96.5%	\$101,047
606	Northeast	97.0%	\$63,967
603	West End	97.1%	\$65,972
607	Northeast	97.4%	\$105,125
9400.11	Northeast	97.1%	\$67,364

## CONCLUSION

This section seeks to identify specific local factors at the census tract level and show the diversity in income, family structure, race/ethnicity, educational attainment and other social factors across and within Tacoma's eight larger neighborhoods.

**Table 2.14 Tacoma neighborhoods with highest percentage of children living in poverty, by selected characteristics**

Census Tract	Neighborhood	Population	% children age 0 to 19	% children below poverty	Per capita income	% high school completion
619	South End/East Side	1,906	23%	<b>66%</b>	\$22,089	88.1%
616.01	New Tacoma	1,906	9%	<b>66%</b>	\$29,138	87%
9400.06	East Side	3,050	44%	<b>65%</b>	\$10,294	74.2%
614	New Tacoma	3,598	18%	<b>55%</b>	\$11,747	73.4%
618	South End	2,902	32%	<b>52%</b>	\$20,471	87.8%
615	New Tacoma	4,865	11%	<b>45%</b>	\$36,401	91.5%
633	East Side	8,514	29%	<b>43%</b>	\$19,599	78%
628.01	South Tacoma	6,512	26%	<b>41%</b>	\$19,914	84.2%
609.3	West End	3,449	24%	<b>41%</b>	\$35,307	92.1%
609.4	West End	5,233	23%	<b>40%</b>	\$26,927	88.0%

The table above shows the intersection between low per capita income, rates of child exposure to poverty, and educational attainment in specific Tacoma census tracts.



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A more in-depth examination of census tract data by neighborhood is found on Appendix A, page 179 of this report.