

Community of Focus

South Tacoma

Help share South Tacoma's story. You are the expert on your community. What matters to you may make a difference in your community's health.

Community snapshot

South Tacoma sits on ancestral lands of the Puyallup, Nisqually, Steilacoom, Squaxin, and Muckleshoot tribes.

About 30,000 people live in South Tacoma.

South Tacoma is more racially diverse than Pierce County overall. Families make up about half the residents. Many speak languages besides English.

The area has a mix of big industry, businesses, and homes.

Equity issues

Heavy industrial zones and warehouses are next to dense, diverse, low-income neighborhoods. Many of these industries also sit above the South Tacoma Aquifer. The aquifer supplies water to thousands in Tacoma. Chemicals and pollution from businesses and heavy traffic can leak down into it.

Local leadership

Many community organizations provide services and leadership. They include Asia Pacific Cultural Center and St. Vincent de Paul, among others.

Community resources

South Tacoma has 7 schools. Mt. Tahoma High School and Gray Middle School serve as community anchors.

The area is home to STAR Center, the Schatz Branch of the Boys & Girls Club, and over 10 faith organizations.

Local businesses in the South Tacoma Business District include Edison Square, Howdy Bagel, Church Cantina, and Historic Real Art Tacoma.

Resident priorities

- Thoughtful development.
- Access to transportation.
- Affordable housing options.
- Support for people experiencing homelessness.

Together we can make South Tacoma the best place to live!

Email us at bridgingtocommunity@tpchd.org to get involved.



Data insights

Housing

- 34% of residents pay more than 30% of income on rent. Median rent is \$1,539 per month.
- 44% own homes.

Economy

- 35% live below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- Median income is \$64,785.

Education

- 92.5% high school graduation rate.
- Edison Elementary has the highest student diversity in Pierce County.

Environment

- 99% of children live near a park.
- Only 13% tree canopy cover makes the South Tacoma neighborhood up to 14°F hotter than North Tacoma.



Learn more at
tpchd.org/communitiesoffocus

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Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities