

Executive Summary

Purpose

The Resilient Pierce County collaborative seeks to understand adversity and resilience factors in zip codes in Franklin Pierce (98444 and 98445) and Salishan/East Tacoma (98404), which each have unique histories of systemic inequity and its resultant outcomes. This report, developed by The Center for Community Resilience (CCR), seeks to inform and support this effort by **identifying gaps in community resources, assessing outcome disparities, highlighting existing health, wellbeing, and economic supports. The report also points toward opportunities for collaboration and integration across partners that could improve the wellbeing and economic status of families in the communities under study.** This analysis is relevant in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has widened pre-existing inequities for families. At all points in this report, researchers at CCR identify data points that can inform community conversations and measure systems change.

Background

The *Resilient Pierce County* collaborative consists of multiple cross-sector partners that serve Tacoma and Pierce County families, including public health, education, social services, behavioral health, faith-based organizations, library services, LGBTQ support services, and more.

This report supports three goals of the collaborative:

- **Goal 1:** Introduce the Pierce County/ Tacoma community to the concept of the [“Pair of ACEs”](#) and trauma-informed practice.
- **Goal 2:** Identify key adversity and resilience factors experienced by zip codes in Franklin Pierce (98444 and 98445) and Salishan/East Tacoma (98404).
- **Goal 3:** Use community data to reimagine service delivery for the targeted zip codes in Franklin Pierce and Salishan/East Tacoma.

Report Structure and Methods

Integrating the Pair of ACEs concept and [Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities \(BRIC\) concept](#), as suggested by Resilient Pierce County staff, CCR has analyzed a wide range of data and made connections to historical context and systemic inequities.

The report consists of five primary sections: 1.) Historical Context, 2.) Demographics, 3.) Built Environment and Public Infrastructure, 4.) Community Environments, 5.) Childhood Experiences and finally, a section detailing examples of how to use the data and potential next steps. Key findings and recommendations are presented throughout the report.

Key Findings

1. Systemic factors are associated with a smaller proportion of community residents with a college degree, a lower median household income, and a smaller proportion of workers with occupations in management, business, science, and arts. Although we cannot make a causal relationships between systemic inequity and outcomes, we can identify three factors that are likely related. For example, lower educational attainment prevents residents from obtaining jobs in the management, business, science, and arts sectors, which in turn leads to lower median household income. Research demonstrates **families with limited English proficiency may have more difficulty accessing needed resources due to language barriers.**

Recommendations Summary: Resilient Pierce County collective action should focus on education, job opportunities, and living wage as key issues. Single-parent households and individuals with limited English proficiency are high priority populations. Collective action should build upon the community's strength in racial/ethnic diversity to increase the capacity and sustainability of single-parent households and those with limited English proficiency.

2. Much of Franklin Pierce and East Tacoma/Salishan are in unincorporated areas. Public transit access, walkability, public educational resource access, health care access, and childcare resources all appear to be lacking in these three zip codes despite the high population density which may be attributed to their incorporation status. Living in an unincorporated area means the residents have less direct means to advocate for needed public infrastructures compared with Tacoma residents living just a few miles away.

Recommendations Summary: Resilience Pierce County could help residents in Franklin Pierce and East Tacoma/Salishan organize and advocate for an improved public infrastructure system. This could include advocacy efforts in support of municipal incorporation or annexation into the City of Tacoma. Franklin Pierce and East Tacoma/Salishan communities are currently under consideration for annexation.

3. A disproportionate number of families are experiencing housing cost burden and are at risk for housing instability, which can lead to numerous negative health outcomes.

Recommendations Summary: Resilient Pierce County's collective actions should focus on housing and finance strategies to help families increase their incomes. For example, affordable housing options funded through public or private means can divert more income into savings or pay for other essential needs instead of housing.

4. Food insecurity, mental health needs, and educational participation are three adverse childhood experiences in Franklin Pierce and East Tacoma/Salishan. All three school districts (Tacoma, Franklin Pierce, Bethel) have high levels of food insecurity, and the three zip codes each have areas considered "low food access." Food insecurity can lead to numerous health

issues, including increased mental health needs among parents and children. Furthermore, depressive feelings and suicidal ideation are on the rise among Pierce County students over the last decade. Increased and unaddressed mental health needs at home can then affect children's educational participation.

Recommendation Summary: The Collaborative should focus on increasing access to healthy and nutritious food as well as preventive and supportive services for children, adults, and families.

Conclusion

This report provides data and perspective on the complex interactions of systemic inequity that generate outcomes Resilient Pierce County collaborative aims to reverse and improve.