

Tucson Southeast Church Plant Summary

The ACNA Diocese of Western Anglicans and The Arizona Anglican Deanery are preparing for a new church plant on the Southeast side of Tucson. The city metropolis spills over in all directions for many miles representing about one million people in Pima County. There is already an ACNA church plant, King's Cross Anglican, on the far Northwest side, in Oro Valley. However, this is a long distance to drive from Southeast Tucson. Our goal is to reach souls in a in this area where a) there are many families moving into area, b) there are fewer churches serving a large population, and c) there is a strong base for new church growth and sustainability.

The primary focus for a South East Tucson church plant is along the South Houghton Road corridor, reaching outward within approximately a 20-minute drive. The North boundary is East Speedway Blvd, while the South boundary crosses Interstate 10 to the area known as Corona De Tucson. The West boundary is Wilmot Road, while the East boundary includes Saguaro National Park East and the city of Vail. **See yellow highlighted area of attached map.** Both old and new structures are in Southeast Tucson, with a lot of space for new construction, and new population growth.

The average median age is 38.8 years. A younger median age exists in zip code 85747, with an older average population in zip code areas 85748 and 85710. **See the zip code demographics chart attached based on 2020 census.** This data is by no means exhaustive but may be helpful in understanding church plant focus. **See the following website for additional details:**
<https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org>

The culture in Southeast Tucson encompasses a variety of attitudes. People appear independent, holding an I-can-do-it-myself western "cowboy" stance. Individuals are often friendly, casual, and easy-going. There are also many professionals.

An average of 42% are aged 25 and over and have a college Associate degree or higher. Many independent professionals are newcomers, moving in from California and Canada. They are bringing their individually unique attitudes from other places with them, adding more flavors to Southeast Tucson culture. One unfortunate factor of Tucson's independent attitude is that most people are not church members. Pastor Glen Elliott, from the Pantano Christian Center on Houghton Road, suggests that as many as 900,000 people in Pima County do not attend church on a regular basis. That represents a large mission field.

Families are a high priority in Southeast Tucson. Nearly one-third of homes have children in residence – closer to 40% in some neighborhoods. Southeast Tucson schools - private, public, and charter -welcome community volunteers to help with events and are open to having churches use their facilities. Many new church organization start-ups are already meeting in schools. There are many more facilities available. The zip code website referenced above lists school names and addresses. A strong connection with families and schools is vital to a church

plant. Single parents in the area raising children range from 11% –23%. A ministry that reaches families will draw many souls to Christ. Parents want guidance and support raising their children.

About 75% of adult residents are employed full or part-time. The largest employers in the area are Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, the University of Arizona, Raytheon, Amazon, public schools, and the governments (City, County, State, Federal). Of those who are employed, about 90% commute in private vehicles 10-30 minutes from homes. The median household income for all zip codes in range is \$69,440. Due to inflation, median income has most likely increased since 2020 census data.

A large chunk of then remaining 25% who are not working, are mostly retired, receiving income from business partnerships, pensions, investments and/or Social Security. This is especially true in zip code areas 85748 and 85710 where older neighborhoods and an older median age exist.

In the past, Tucson has had more affordable housing than other cities in U.S. The influx of buyers from outside Arizona has significantly raised home values in Tucson since 2020 census, when median home value in Southeast Tucson was \$184,160.

Zip code 85707 is NOT included on chart because there are only 658 people living there. Most of that land is covered by old planes, known as the "Aircraft Boneyard." Population averages in the chart would be skewed by anomaly 85707. Male and female population numbers average out to about half each. The Davis-Monthan AFB, a neighbor West of Wilmot, has a higher male to female ratio. DM AFB statistics are not averaged into Southeast focus, since military personnel will skew averages of permanent residents and because military assignments constantly change. Military families can certainly be a focus for outreach. It remains to be seen in future how God leads new church ministry.

Population race census records show church plant focus area on average to be 82.5% white, 4.7% black, and 13.8% other races (Hispanic, Asian, mixed). Zip code census data does not show a self-identity race category "Hispanic," thus it is difficult to define in statistical terms how these individuals influence Southeast Tucson population. Clearly Hispanic culture is more prominent in neighboring areas to the West, where a rich Hispanic ethnic influence abounds. Here is another possibility for future ministry outreach.

Zip code 85710 has a highly dense population with 4,508 persons per square mile. It also has the older residences. The Rita Ranch area located within 85747 zip code has grown very rapidly in recent years. The proposed church plant area abuts lesser population areas, e.g., where the vast Saguaro National Park East lies. The very large zip code area 85641 includes Vail and Corona de Tucson where new homes are being built. 2020 census data for zip code 85641 stated an average of only 47 persons per square mile. Since then, many more homes and business have sprung up in zip code area 85641. Large tracts of land from the vast Rocking K Ranch near Old Spanish Trail are now being sold for home site builds. There is still a LOT of land space for new construction expansion. That means many more souls will need a church home in

the future to anchor them in their Christian journey. Pray for the Lord to lead the Anglican Arizona church plant team. Pray for God to send ACNA clergy to this harvest field.