

# Community Health Impact Survey Results: *Port of Seattle Operations Hazardous to Health in Georgetown and South Park*

## Survey Summary

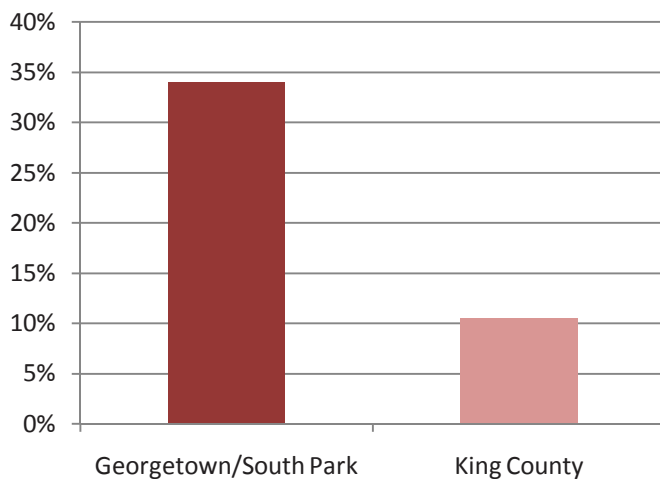
A majority of Georgetown and South Park residents reported that Port of Seattle operations — including both heavy truck traffic in their streets and airplane traffic overhead — are negatively affecting their health. Survey respondents were particularly concerned about the effects of air pollution, pedestrian hazards and excessive noise on their community and family. Although few residents believe that the Port of Seattle cares about health in their community, an overwhelming majority call on the Port to take action to make its operations safer.

## Key Findings

### The Port and Overall Health

- Three out of five (62%) Georgetown and South Park residents surveyed reported concern that Port of Seattle activities are making their health worse. These individuals are more likely to be older or have lived in the community longer.
- One third (34%) of residents surveyed rated their health status as “poor” or “fair” compared to only one tenth (10.5%) throughout King County (according to Public Health - Seattle & King County).

**Percent Residents Reporting  
Poor or Fair Health**



Source for King County: Public Health – Seattle & King County

## Living in the Shadow of the Port

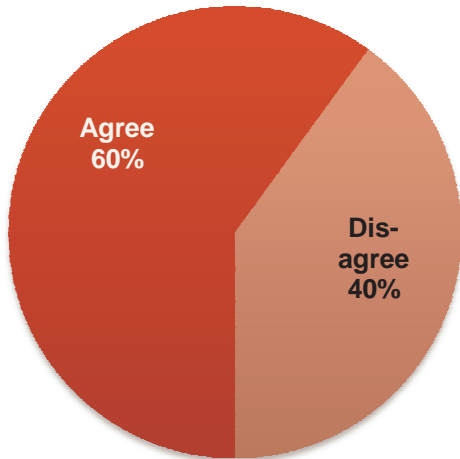
The Port of Seattle dominates commercial activity in the Duwamish valley, home to the communities of Georgetown and South Park. Over 3,000 shipping containers are moved by heavy trucks from the Port to local rail yards and warehouses every day and 700 jet airplanes fly to or from SeaTac airport over South Park. For decades, both communities have been calling on major industrial facilities, such as the Port, to reduce pollution being dumped in their neighborhoods.

## Community Survey: Background

The Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) and Puget Sound Sage (Sage) conducted a door-to-door survey in Georgetown and South Park over the summer of 2009 to better understand the links between community health and Port of Seattle operations. CCEJ and Sage were motivated by recent Port decisions on port truck pollution made without considering data on the local impacts.

A survey team of staff, interns and community volunteers knocked on nearly every door in South Park and Georgetown from June 22nd to July 31st. Over this period, we conducted 230 surveys on doorsteps and in residents' homes, in both Spanish and English – and at a few community gathering spots such as Marra Farms. (As respondents were not selected at random, this method is best described as a “convenience” sample.) We thank our respondents for the 15-30 minutes they graciously gave to complete the survey.

### Port truck pollution negatively affects family health



### The Port and Air Pollution

- A majority of residents surveyed (52%) agreed that there are “a lot of truck exhaust fumes” in their neighborhood.
- Three out of five (60%) believed that that port truck pollution affected their health and the health of their family.
- A majority (56%) thought that there are too many port trucks driving in their neighborhood.
- Somewhat less than half (45%) agreed that airplane pollution affected their health. About one out of five (18%) thought that they could smell airplane fuel in the air.\*

### The Port and Pedestrian Safety

- A majority of residents surveyed (56%) agreed that port truck traffic made it difficult to walk in their neighborhood.
- This resulted in one-third (36%) not walking to specific places and nearly a quarter (24%) of families walking less in general.
- Nearly one in five residents (18%) reported an incident of somebody in their home feeling endangered by port truck traffic in the past 12 months.
- More than half (52%) reported port trucks parked in their neighborhood during the day and two out of five (44%) reported parked trucks at night.
- Two in five (40%) thought that parked trucks in their neighborhood posed a health hazard, such as blocking views or sidewalks.

### Responsiveness of the Port to Community Concerns

- Three quarters of residents (76%) agreed that the Port should take action to reduce the problems created by heavy truck traffic and airplanes.
- Less than one-third (28%) agreed that the “Port of Seattle cares about health issues in my neighborhood.”

### The Port and Noise

- Two out of five residents surveyed (44%) agreed that airplane traffic overhead had gotten worse in the past six months.\*
- Nearly half (46%) reported that they or someone in their home had experienced sleep disruption from airplane noise an average of four days a week.\*
- Nearly one-third (30%) reported sleep disruption from port trucks in their neighborhood.
- Slightly less than half of residents (45%) believed that noise from airplane or truck traffic was affecting their health.

\* Only South Park results are reported for airport specific impacts, as Georgetown residents are affected primarily by Boeing Field.



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Community Coalition for Environmental Justice and Puget Sound Sage are part of the **Washington Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports**, a campaign to clean up pollution from port trucks and create good jobs. For more information on the campaign, go to:

[www.pugetsoundsage.org](http://www.pugetsoundsage.org)

For more information on CCEJ, go to:

[www.ccej.org](http://www.ccej.org)

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