In a nation increasingly divided by race and economic status, some American neighborhoods are bucking the trend. These neighborhoods have high levels of racial, ethnic and income diversity—which research has shown reduces poverty and promotes economic mobility.

About Near South Side

Located just South of downtown Chicago’s famous loop, the Near South Side neighborhood (census tract 3302) includes an area between Roosevelt Avenue on the north and Cermak Avenue on the south, West of State street.

It’s part of a larger “Near South Side community area”, which stretches east to the Lakefront and south to the city’s McCormick Place convention center.

The Near South Side census tract is one of the most diverse, mixed-income tracts in the US, ranking in the top 10 percent of all tracts nationally in racial/ethnic diversity and top 5 percent in income diversity. The neighborhood is 44 percent white, 30 percent black, 18 percent Asian, 3 percent Latino, with the remainder mixed race or other. Nearly equal segments of its population are in each of the five income categories we examined.
America’s Most Diverse, Mixed-Income Neighborhoods

Comparing Neighborhoods:

Near South Side diversity index: **68.4**
Near South Side has greater ethnic diversity than about 91 percent of all US urban neighborhoods.

North Hill income diversity index: **78.3**
Near South Side has greater income diversity than 96 percent of all urban US neighborhoods.

North Hill Walk Score: **89**

Racial and ethnic diversity of Chicago neighborhoods

Income diversity of Chicago neighborhoods

This report is produced by City Observatory, a virtual think tank, contributing original data-driven research and regular commentary on what matters to city success, focused on how building great places to live can attract, develop and harness talent to create widely shared opportunity.