
America's Most Diverse, Mixed-Income Neighborhoods



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 Hillcrest (Jamaica)

Located on a ridge between Jamaica and Flushing, Hillcrest is a predominantly residential neighborhood of small homes and apartments.

It is home to St. John's University. Residents include Asian, Russian, Latino and African-Americans, and the neighborhood is also home to a substantial Orthodox Jewish community.

Hillcrest's census tract is one of the most diverse, mixed-income tracts in the U.S., ranking in the top 2 percent of all tracts nationally in measured racial/ethnic diversity and income diversity. The neighborhood is 35 percent Asian, 29 percent white, 16 percent Latino and 12 percent black, with the remainder mixed race or other. Nearly equal segments of its population are in each of the five income categories we examined.

Other neighborhood indicators show a mixing of homeowners (58%) and renters (42%), single family residents (55%) and apartment dwellers (45%). The neighborhood's poverty rate is about 18 percent, slightly higher than the US average. Median income is about \$58,000, roughly the same as the rest of New York City.

Like many New York neighborhoods, it has its beloved local pizza and deli shops, including Boureka Bachar on Union Turnpike and the Double J near St. John's campus. On most weekends, you'll see a diversity of people from the neighborhood in evidence at the bustling St. Nicholas of Tolentine Flea Market.

METHODOLOGY

For purposes of this study, neighborhood populations are divided into five broad groupings: Asian, Black, Latino, White and all other. We also used an income diversity index—which measures how varied incomes are in an area—to identify which neighborhoods had the most mixed incomes.

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COMPARING NEIGHBORHOODS:

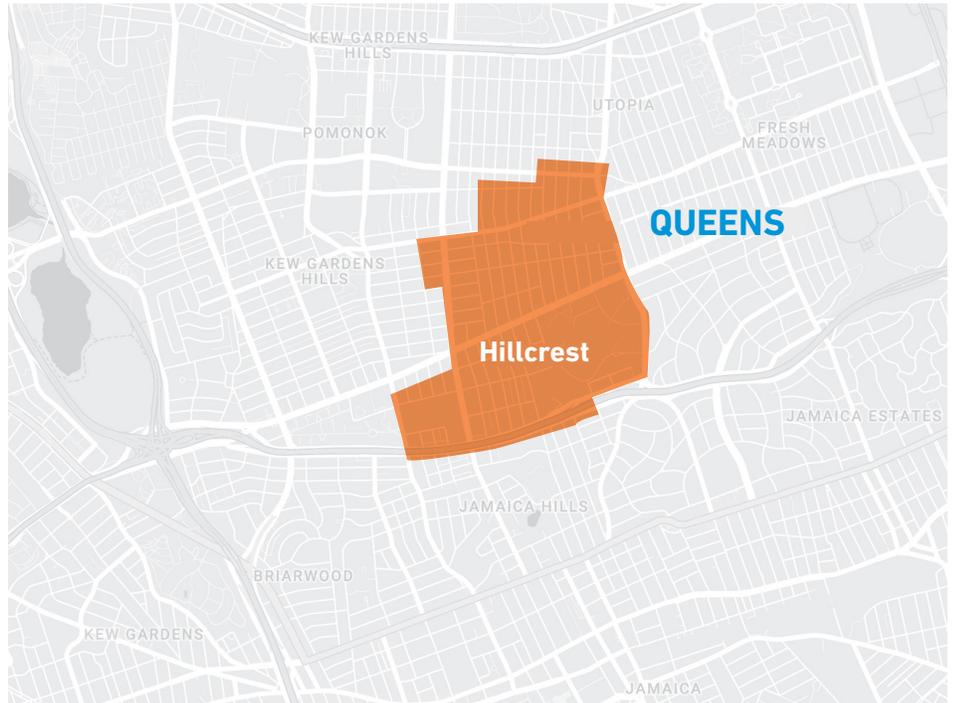
Hillcrest diversity index: 74.8

Hillcrest has greater ethnic diversity than about 98 percent of all US urban neighborhoods.

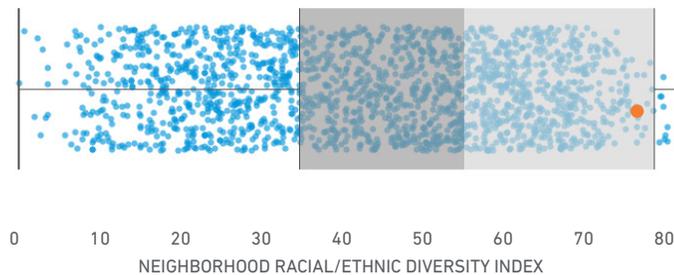
Hillcrest income diversity index: 78.6

Hillcrest has greater income diversity than 98 percent of all urban US neighborhoods.

Hillcrest Walk Score: 89



Racial and ethnic diversity of Queens neighborhoods



● Each circle corresponds to the racial/ethnic diversity index of one neighborhood
 ● Racial/ethnic diversity index of Hillcrest

Income diversity of Queens neighborhoods



● Each circle corresponds to the income diversity index of one neighborhood
 ● Income diversity index of Hillcrest

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.