



NATIONAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
INDICATORS  
PARTNERSHIP

## Advancing Equity with Community Data

The value of good data for creating neighborhoods rich with opportunity cannot be overstated.

When people have data about where they call home, and the skills to use those data, they have the power to articulate strengths, uncover problems, and identify solutions.

But good data do not just happen. They must be collected, cleaned, analyzed, and shared—all of which takes time, trust, expertise, community knowledge, and diverse perspectives.

That's where the **National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP)** comes in. Coordinated by the Urban Institute, our network of more than 30 independent organizations helps residents, local governments, foundations, nonprofits, and other change agents use data to advance equity and well-being across neighborhoods.

### URBAN'S ROLE

As network coordinator, Urban fosters a culture where partners can vet ideas and share what works and what doesn't. We also help NNIP achieve scale and impact by

- **elevating** members' insights to local and national policy audiences,
- **designing** multicity projects in collaboration with funders across a range of issue areas,
- **providing** guidance to help all communities use data for social change,
- **developing** new norms for using data to advance racial and economic equity, and
- **helping** new organizations adopt the NNIP model and join the network.

### WHAT NNIP PROVIDES

NNIP has decades of expertise in using neighborhood data to strengthen communities.

- **We democratize data** by publishing data in easy-to-use formats and sharing analyses with communities to spur action.
- **We demonstrate that place matters** by showing how issues related to residents' health, housing, education, safety, and economic mobility intersect and vary across neighborhoods and different groups of people.
- **We connect diverse changemakers** to build a shared understanding of community issues and develop solutions together.
- **We support learning** through training, direct assistance, and community events to strengthen residents' and local organizations' abilities to use data.

## PARTNERS IN ACTION



### Advancing Equitable Economic Mobility

Using local and national data, NNIP member **Neighborhood Nexus** collaborated with the city of Atlanta to identify specific indicators for equitably achieving the city's economic mobility goals. The data became the basis of an interactive tool residents and policymakers are using to understand neighborhoods' pathways to economic mobility. Leaders used the data to determine the distribution of grants to support small businesses, which led to more funding for Atlanta neighborhoods with fewer pathways to opportunity and higher shares of people of color. Leaders also subsidized businesses to hire people from such neighborhoods as part of a \$27 million incentive program. Several agencies are using this tool to evaluate and guide their investment strategies.

### Improving Neighborhood Safety

Over seven years, nearly 150 people were killed or injured while walking in Gulfton, a predominantly immigrant neighborhood in southwest Houston. Residents felt limited in their abilities to safely get to school, work, or places for exercise. In response, the community worked together with NNIP member **Kinder Institute for Urban Research** at Rice University to audit the neighborhood's pedestrian conditions. Residents included their insights from the analysis in their action plan, and Houston's mayor took notice: the city chose to fund Gulfton's planning efforts and Houston Public Works put \$500,000 toward improving sidewalks, curbs, bike lanes, and signals at pedestrian crossings.

### Illuminating and Decreasing Racial Disparities

Frustrated with the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on Allegheny County's Black community, a group of leaders formed the Black Equity Coalition (BEC) to address racial inequities in the pandemic response. With support from NNIP member **Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center**, BEC successfully pressured local and state health departments to release and improve the quality of testing, case, and vaccination data by race. BEC used the data in a dashboard to monitor disparities and guide its outreach to health providers and the community. Because of BEC's data-informed advocacy, Allegheny County now provides COVID-19 testing in locations more accessible to Black residents. Over six months, the disparity in infection rates between white and Black residents fell by half.



*The Urban Institute is a nonprofit research organization that provides data and evidence to help advance upward mobility and equity. We are a trusted source for changemakers who seek to strengthen decisionmaking, create inclusive economic growth, and improve the well-being of families and communities. For more than 50 years, Urban has delivered facts that inspire solutions—and this remains our charge today.*