

Neighborhood Census Tracts
 Parks and Greenways
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Northwest Side Neighborhood

Data Portrait | March 2023

DATA YOU CAN USE

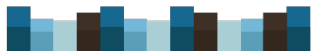


Table of Contents

Introduction and Background	2
About the Data and Acknowledgements	3
Section One Population Characteristics	4
Table 1: Population by Race	4
Table 2: Population by Age and Sex	5
Table 3: Residents Living in Poverty by Age	6
Table 4: Household Characteristics	7
Table 5: Vehicles per Household.....	8
Table 6: Employment Status by Sex	9
Table 7: Employment Sector by Sex	10
Table 8: Educational Attainment	11
Section Two Housing and Household Characteristics	12
Table 9: Housing Occupancy and Tenure	12
Table 10: Units in Structure for Occupied Housing Units	13
Table 11: Housing Unit Bedrooms and Year Built	14
Table 12: Gross Rent and Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income	15
Table 13: Mortgage Status and Cost (Owner-occupied Units)	16
Table 14: Mortgage Cost as a Percentage of Household Income (Owner-occupied Units)	17
Table 15: Household Income in the past 12 Months and Median Income.....	18

Introduction and Background

This Neighborhood Portrait data profile was prepared by Data You Can Use with the support of Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA). The framework is based on input and advice from community organizers working in the neighborhoods supported by Milwaukee's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The original set of neighborhood portraits were released by Data You Can Use in 2016 using 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. This document is part of the first update to those original Neighborhood Portraits and has been edited in response to community feedback following the release and use of the original portraits.

Data You Can Use and our partners hope that these tables continue to be used by those working in Milwaukee neighborhoods in their work planning, organizing, and funding development work and programming. It is designed to be used with their staff, their partners, their funders, their elected officials, and the residents of their neighborhoods, and can be used to supplement and support the stories and anecdotes of residents to build a case for needed resources, and to identify more questions.

As part of the release of the updated Neighborhood Portraits, related training on the use of census data was conducted and offered to the neighborhood partners. A final draft of each Portrait was reviewed by these same partners, and neighborhood organizers shared the ideas, stories, and strategies that they derived from the data.

With each update to the Neighborhood Portraits, Data You Can Use strives to provide both timely data and improvements to the way data is displayed and/or the topics covered. Longer-term plans include the possibility of an interactive way to access neighborhood data, looking at some of the data points over time, and adding additional topics to the Portraits. Data You Can Use actively maintains a "wish list" of hopeful future improvements for the Neighborhood Portraits; please reach out to us if you have any questions, comments, or recommendations for future expansion of this project to new topics or neighborhoods in Milwaukee at connectwithus@datayoucanuse.org.

About the Data and Acknowledgements

Data Sources

This data portrait uses data from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, which was the most up-to-date data at the time of the writing of this report. Specific source tables from the ACS are cited below each table within this report.

Census tracts 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 28 were used to define the Northwest Side neighborhood for the purposes of this report. These tracts were chosen based on Neighborhood Strategic Planning Area (NSP) boundaries and in consultation with our neighborhood partners. The tables in the report describe the population that live within these census tracts. Please note that the boundaries of these tracts may differ from neighborhood or NSP boundaries.

Data Quality and Reliability

The data found in this report is from the American Community Survey and is some of the best data available that describes the people, households, families, and housing in Milwaukee neighborhoods. The American Community Survey data is collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, which holds its data to high standards.

It is also important to note that numbers and percentages included in this report are considered estimates. This is because the Census Bureau uses a sample of the population when they conduct the survey, which creates some level of uncertainty. The data presented here have a margin of error associated with each data point, which is a measure of the possible variation of the estimate and the true population value of each number. The margin of error helps data users understand the reliability of each data point.

We have chosen not to include margin of error for the estimates in the tables below so that the tables are clearer and easier to use. If you would like more information about data reliability for the tables in this report or would like to know the margin of error for a particular estimate, please reach out to our team at Data You Can Use. If you want to learn more about the American Community Survey, please refer to the [handbook for American Community Survey Data Users](#).

Acknowledgements and Contact

This report was prepared by Data You Can Use in collaboration with community partners and stakeholders working in the Northwest Side neighborhood in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Please reach out to Data You Can Use with questions about this report or the data it contains at connectwithus@datayoucanuse.org.

Section One | Population Characteristics

Table 1: Population by Race

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total Population	23,568	100%	592,649	100%
Hispanic or Latino	892	4%	115,160	19%
White alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	1,798	8%	201,602	34%
Black or African American alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	18,388	78%	226,809	38%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	25	0.1%	2,433	0.4%
Asian alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	2,096	9%	27,076	5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	-	0.0%	168	0.0%
Some other race alone (Not Hispanic or Latino)	55	0.2%	1,213	0.2%
Two or more races (Not Hispanic or Latino)	314	1%	18,188	3%

Data Source: 2016- 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B03002

Key Takeaway(s)

- More than three quarters (78%) of Northwest Side residents identify as Black or African American alone, which is more than twice the percentage for City of Milwaukee as a whole (38%).
- 8% of Northwest Side residents identify as White alone, compared to 34% in the City of Milwaukee as a whole.

Table 2: Population by Age and Sex

	Northwest Side				City of Milwaukee			
	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
	Estimate	%			Estimate	%		
Total	20,737		9,932	10,805	592,649		285,959	306,690
Total (percent)			48%	52%			48%	52%
Under 5 years	1,817	9%	49%	51%	45,301	8%	50%	50%
5 to 9 years	1,903	9%	49%	51%	43,193	7%	50%	50%
10 to 14 years	2,074	10%	50%	50%	43,041	7%	53%	47%
15 to 17 years	1,133	5%	52%	48%	23,305	4%	50%	50%
18 and 19 years	742	4%	56%	44%	20,317	3%	50%	50%
20 years	436	2%	41%	59%	10,991	2%	49%	51%
21 years	193	1%	13%	87%	10,689	2%	48%	52%
22 to 24 years	1,060	5%	48%	52%	28,147	5%	50%	50%
25 to 29 years	1,737	8%	49%	51%	56,089	9%	48%	52%
30 to 34 years	1,211	6%	38%	62%	46,545	8%	49%	51%
35 to 39 years	1,407	7%	47%	53%	40,147	7%	47%	53%
40 to 44 years	1,312	6%	48%	52%	34,790	6%	48%	52%
45 to 49 years	1,145	6%	48%	52%	32,515	5%	49%	51%
50 to 54 years	1,275	6%	54%	46%	32,208	5%	47%	53%
55 to 59 years	1,127	5%	42%	58%	33,025	6%	48%	52%
60 and 61 years	466	2%	56%	44%	12,571	2%	46%	54%
62 to 64 years	466	2%	56%	44%	17,280	3%	46%	54%
65 and 66 years	165	1%	55%	45%	9,303	2%	48%	52%
67 to 69 years	347	2%	42%	58%	13,995	2%	45%	55%
70 to 74 years	316	2%	55%	45%	14,436	2%	46%	54%
75 to 79 years	216	1%	30%	70%	9,522	2%	43%	57%
80 to 84 years	127	1%	31%	69%	6,715	1%	40%	60%
85 years and over	62	0%	23%	77%	8,524	1%	30%	70%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B01001

Key Takeaways

- 37% of the residents in Northwest Side are under 20 years old compared to 29% in the City of Milwaukee overall.

Table 3: Residents Living in Poverty by Age

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total Population *	23,349		576,594	
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	7,360	32%	141,667	25%
Under 5 years	957	13%	16,740	12%
5 years	362	5%	3,321	2%
6 to 11 years	1,040	14%	19,127	14%
12 to 14 years	475	6%	7,463	5%
15 years	175	2%	2,583	2%
16 and 17 years	145	2%	4,265	3%
18 to 24 years	734	10%	19,764	14%
25 to 34 years	1,239	17%	21,675	15%
35 to 44 years	530	7%	13,255	9%
45 to 54 years	587	8%	11,692	8%
55 to 64 years	806	11%	12,966	9%
65 to 74 years	220	3%	5,733	4%
75 years and over	90	1%	3,083	2%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B17001. Note: The total population number for this table does not match the total population number that can be seen in the previous tables. This is because this table is showing data for the total population for whom poverty status can be determined – in this case, slightly fewer people from the neighborhood.

How to interpret this table

The Census Bureau defines the poverty threshold differently for each person or family. Thresholds vary by the size of the family and the age of the members and are updated for inflation on an annual basis. [Read more about poverty thresholds here.](#)

Key Takeaways

- Almost one third (32%) of Northwest Side residents live in households with incomes below the poverty line, compared to 25% in the City of Milwaukee overall.

Table 4: Household Characteristics

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total Households	8,247		229,227	
Family households	5,023	61%	122,404	53%
Married couple family	1,601	19%	61,681	27%
Family with male householder, no spouse present	571	7%	13,600	6%
Family with female householder, no spouse present	2,851	35%	47,123	21%
Non-family households	3,224	39%	106,823	47%
Householder living alone	2,715	33%	85,754	37%
Householder not living alone	509	6%	21,069	9%
Average Household Size	2.86*		2.51	

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B11001 *Note: the average household size for the neighborhood shown here is an estimate calculated by dividing the estimated total number of residents in the neighborhood by the estimated total number of households. This methodology is the same as the methodology used by the U.S. Census.

How to interpret this table

The Census Bureau defines a family as “a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family.”

Key Takeaways

- More than one third (35%) of households in Northwest Side are headed by women with no spouse present, greater than the percentage for the City of Milwaukee (21%).
- The estimated average household size for the Northwest Side neighborhood is 2.86 people per household, which is higher than the average household size for the City of Milwaukee as a whole (2.51).

Table 5: Vehicles per Household

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total Households	8,247		229,227	
No vehicle available	2,050	25%	39,330	17%
1 vehicle available	3,517	43%	100,484	44%
2 vehicles available	2,048	25%	66,795	29%
3 vehicles available	365	4%	16,700	7%
4 or more vehicles available	267	3%	5,918	3%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B08201

Key Takeaways

- Approximately one quarter (25%) of households in Northwest Side do not have access to a vehicle, a greater percentage than the rate of the City of Milwaukee as a whole (17%).

Table 6: Employment Status by Sex

	Northwest Side					City of Milwaukee				
	Estimate	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment/Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate	Not Working	Estimate	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment/Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate	Not Working
Population Age 20-64 years	13,719	67%	60%	11%	40%	354,997	75%	71%	6%	31%
Male	6,524	69%	60%	14%	40%	170,519	77%	72%	7%	29%
Female	7,195	65%	60%	7%	40%	184,478	74%	70%	6%	32%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2301

How to interpret this table

- The **labor force participation rate** refers to the proportion of the population age 20-64 that is either working or actively looking for work.
- The **employment/population ratio** is the proportion of the population age 20-64 that is working.
- **Unemployment rate** is the percentage of those in the labor force who are not working.
- In this table, **not working** refers to the combined percentage of people who are not in the labor force and those who are in the labor force but are unemployed.

Key Takeaways

- 67% of Northwest Side residents ages 20-64 are participating in the labor force by working or actively looking for work. This is lower than the rate for the City of Milwaukee (75%).
- 11% of the labor force from Northwest Side is unemployed and looking for work, a greater percentage than the City of Milwaukee (6%).

Table 7: Employment Sector by Sex

	Northwest Side				City of Milwaukee			
	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
	Estimate	%			Estimate	%		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	8,978	100%	47%	53%	272,563	100%	49%	51%
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	1,751	20%	28%	72%	86,171	32%	41%	59%
Service occupations	2,447	27%	30%	70%	62,840	23%	40%	60%
Sales and office occupations	1,727	19%	38%	62%	52,639	19%	34%	66%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	565	6%	92%	8%	16,524	6%	94%	6%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2,488	28%	75%	25%	54,389	20%	71%	29%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2301

Key Takeaways

- The most common employment sectors for Northwest Side residents are production, transportation, and material moving occupations and service occupations, which account for a combined 55% of the employed population in Northwest Side.

Table 8: Educational Attainment

	Northwest Side				City of Milwaukee			
	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
	Estimate	%			Estimate	%		
Population 18 to 24 years	2,714		1,253	1,461	70,144		34,600	35,544
Less than high school graduate	532	20%	25%	15%	9,536	14%	15%	12%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,327	49%	59%	40%	22,531	32%	33%	32%
Some college or associate's degree	836	31%	15%	44%	31,227	45%	44%	45%
Bachelor's degree or higher	19	1%	1%	0%	6,850	10%	9%	11%
Population 25 years and over	13,256		6,273	6,983	367,665		172,724	194,941
Less than 9th grade	532	4%	3%	5%	20,874	6%	6%	6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,619	12%	13%	11%	36,472	10%	11%	9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,742	43%	49%	38%	114,219	31%	33%	29%
Some college, no degree	3,032	23%	22%	24%	78,772	21%	21%	22%
Associate's degree	1,085	8%	6%	10%	26,729	7%	7%	8%
Bachelor's degree	896	7%	4%	9%	58,614	16%	15%	17%
Graduate or professional degree	350	3%	2%	3%	31,985	9%	8%	10%
High school graduate or higher	11,105	84%	83%	84%	310,319	84%	83%	85%
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,246	9%	6%	12%	90,599	25%	23%	26%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S1501

Key Takeaways

- In Northwest Side, 84% of residents over 25 years old have graduated from high school or higher, the same as the City of Milwaukee overall.
- 9% of residents in Northwest Side over 25 years old have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 25% of Milwaukee residents.
- 12% of female residents in the Northwest Side have a bachelor's degree or higher, twice the percentage of male residents in the Northwest Side (6%).

Section Two | Housing and Household Characteristics

Table 9: Housing Occupancy and Tenure

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total Housing Units	9,478		256,856	
Vacant Housing Units	1,231	13%	27,629	11%
Occupied housing units	8,247	87%	229,227	89%
Owner-occupied housing units	2,216	27%	93,301	41%
Renter-occupied housing units	6,031	73%	135,926	59%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04

Key Takeaways

- 27% of the occupied housing units in Northwest Side are owner occupied compared to 41% in the City of Milwaukee as a whole.
- 13% of housing units in Northwest Side are vacant, slightly higher than the rate for the city overall (11%).

Table 10: Units in Structure for Occupied Housing Units

	Northwest Side			City of Milwaukee		
	Occupied Housing Units Estimates	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units Estimates	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units
Occupied housing units	8,247	2,216	6031	229,227	93,301	135,926
Occupied housing units %		27%	73%		41%	59%
UNITS IN STRUCTURE						
1, detached	3,729	86%	30%	94,834	76%	18%
1, attached	468	1%	7%	11,445	4%	5%
2 apartments	1,433	13%	19%	48,285	13%	27%
3 or 4 apartments	811	0%	13%	16,150	1%	11%
5 to 9 apartments	955	0%	16%	13,326	1%	9%
10 or more apartments	845	0%	14%	43,992	5%	29%
Mobile home or other type of housing	6	0%	0%	1,195	1%	1%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2504

Key Takeaways

- Of the owner-occupied housing units in the Northwest Side, 13% are duplexes (2 apartments) the same percentage as the City of Milwaukee.
- Almost three quarters (73%) of occupied housing units in the Northwest Side are rented compared to 59% in the City of Milwaukee as a whole.
- The greatest percentage of renters in the City of Milwaukee live in buildings with 10 or more apartments (29%), compared to 14% in the Northwest Side.

Table 11: Housing Unit Bedrooms and Year Built

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total housing units	9,478		256,856	
BEDROOMS				
No bedroom	110	1%	9,783	4%
1 bedroom	1,440	15%	41,543	16%
2 bedrooms	3,990	42%	90,184	35%
3 bedrooms	2,835	30%	85,070	33%
4 bedrooms	933	10%	24,652	10%
5 or more bedrooms	170	2%	5,624	2%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT				
Built 2014 or later	74	0.8%	2,430	1%
Built 2010 to 2013	288	3%	2,817	1%
Built 2000 to 2009	254	3%	8,328	3%
Built 1990 to 1999	289	3%	8,199	3%
Built 1980 to 1989	376	4%	10,630	4%
Built 1970 to 1979	621	7%	21,724	9%
Built 1960 to 1969	1,228	13%	29,130	11%
Built 1950 to 1959	2,843	30%	51,202	20%
Built 1940 to 1949	1,132	12%	26,192	10%
Built 1939 or earlier	2,373	25%	96,204	38%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04

Key Takeaways

- Of the housing units in Northwest Side, 42% are two-bedroom units, greater than the City of Milwaukee rate of 35%.
- Of all the housing units in Northwest Side, almost one third (30%) were built from 1950 to 1959, compared to 20% in the city overall.

Table 12: Gross Rent and Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income

	Northwest Side		Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
GROSS RENT				
Occupied units paying rent			132,844	
Less than \$500	5,915		11,173	8%
\$500 to \$999	569	10%	79,513	60%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	3,722	63%	33,320	25%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	1,488	25%	6,222	5%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	131	2%	1,697	1%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	0	0.0%	567	0.4%
\$3,000 or more	5	0.1%	352	0.3%
GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Occupied units paying rent*	5,603		128,036	
Less than 15.0 percent	661	12%	17,968	14%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	625	11%	15,158	12%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	418	7%	15,704	12%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	612	11%	13,410	11%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	562	10%	10,725	8%
35.0 percent or more	2,725	49%	55,071	43%
Not computed	428		7,890	

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04. *Note: This table excludes units for which gross rent as a percentage of household income cannot be calculated.

Key Takeaways

- 59% of Northwest Side households paying rent paid 30 percent or more of their household income towards rent, greater than the City of Milwaukee as a whole (51%). Households that spend 30 percent or more of their household income on rent or housing expenses are considered moderately cost burdened.

Table 13: Mortgage Status and Cost (Owner-occupied Units)

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
MORTGAGE STATUS				
Owner-occupied units	2,216		93,301	
Housing units with a mortgage	1,556	70%	61,482	66%
Housing units without a mortgage	660	30%	31,819	34%
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS				
Housing units with a mortgage	1,556		61,482	
Less than \$500	20	1%	466	1%
\$500 to \$999	559	36%	13,303	22%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	765	49%	27,513	45%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	186	12%	13,169	21%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	26	2%	4,157	7%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	0	0%	1,231	2%
\$3,000 or more	0	0%	1,643	3%
Housing units without a mortgage	660		31,819	
Less than \$250	52	8%	925	3%
\$250 to \$399	221	33%	4,711	15%
\$400 to \$599	316	48%	13,450	42%
\$600 to \$799	49	7%	7,938	25%
\$800 to \$999	15	2%	2,731	9%
\$1,000 or more	7	1%	2,064	7%

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04

Key Takeaways

- Of all owner-occupied houses in the Northwest Side neighborhood, 70% have a mortgage, compared to 66% in the City of Milwaukee.

Table 14: Mortgage Cost as a Percentage of Household Income (Owner-occupied Units)

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Housing units with a mortgage*	1,543		63,374	
Less than 20.0 percent	554	36%	26,135	41%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	209	14%	10,224	16%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	150	10%	6,758	11%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	181	12%	4,931	8%
35.0 percent or more	449	29%	15,326	24%
Not computed	13		388	
Housing unit without a mortgage*	649		31,017	
Less than 10.0 percent	250	39%	10,050	32%
10.0 to 14.9 percent	173	27%	6,763	22%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	57	9%	4,467	14%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	21	3%	2,360	8%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	32	5%	2,071	7%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	52	8%	1,047	3%
35.0 percent or more	64	10%	4,259	14%
Not computed	11		468	

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04. *Note: This table excludes households where selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income (SMOCAPI) could not be calculated.

Key Takeaways

- Almost a third (29%) of all owner-occupied units with a mortgage in the Northwest Side neighborhood pay 35 percent or more of their household income towards housing costs, a higher percentage than the City of Milwaukee as a whole (24%).
- Over a third (36%) of all owner-occupied units with a mortgage in the Northwest Side neighborhood pay less than 20 percent of their household income towards housing costs, which is a lower percentage than the City of Milwaukee as a whole (41%).

Table 15: Household Income in the past 12 Months and Median Income

	Northwest Side		City of Milwaukee	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total:	8,247		229,227	
Less than \$10,000	1,008	12%	22,659	10%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,050	13%	17,220	8%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	632	8%	14,215	6%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	517	6%	14,584	6%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	508	6%	13,065	6%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	546	7%	13,305	6%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	665	8%	11,884	5%
\$40,000 to \$44,999	431	5%	11,679	5%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	495	6%	10,134	4%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	539	7%	17,787	8%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	587	7%	22,695	10%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	553	7%	25,237	11%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	372	5%	14,826	6%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	182	2%	8,289	4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	142	2%	6,659	3%
\$200,000 or more	20	0.2%	4,989	2%
Median Household Income	\$33,741		\$43,125	

Data Source: 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B19001. Median Household Income for the neighborhood is calculated based on table B19001. Median Household Income for the City of Milwaukee is taken from table S1901.

Key Takeaways

- One third (33%) of Northwest Side household incomes are under \$20,000 per year, which is a higher percentage than the city as a whole (24%).
- 9.2% of households in Northwest Side make \$100,000 or more per year, which is a lower percentage than the City of Milwaukee as a whole (15%).
- The median household income in Northwest Side is \$33,741, less than the median household income for the City of Milwaukee as a whole (\$43,125).