About the Data

The data for this project was compiled and analyzed by Olivia Hall of Philadelphia Media Network and Tom Ferrick with support from Next City through its Philadelphia in Flux project. The data came from a number of sources and was the most recent data available at the time of project completion.

We obtained data on violent crimes by census tract from the Philadelphia Police Department (2009-2014); data on home prices from the city's Office of Property Assessment (2011-2015). The 2010 census tract information for the OPA database was added by Azavea under contract with Next City. The OPA database contained only residential sales. In our analysis, we excluded any sales below $10,000, "distress sales" — including sheriff sales and bank foreclosure sales, plus any so-called "bundled sales" where multiple properties were included under one deed.

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2009-2014) was the source of census tract information on population, poverty and median household income.

Citywide averages for the periods covered were:
- Crime: -19%
- Median Household Income: -7%
- Median House Sales: +6%
- Population: +1%
- Poverty Rate: +2.6%

We then applied a number value for each factor based on how far or how close it came to the citywide averages listed above. For instance, in Southwest Center City household income rose 22% (from $55,000 to $67,000 a year). We assigned this a +4 because it was so much higher than the city's -7%.

While violent crime declined by -19% during the period studied, it rose by 11% in Allegheny West, and we scored that a -4 for the neighborhood.

Once a number was assigned in each category, we added them up to come up with a neighborhood's overall total. It was not unusual for a neighborhood to have a combination of plusses and minuses; making its score the net of the positive and negative scores.

For example, here is Kensington's score:

Crime	MHI	Pop	Pov	Home $	Total
0	-2	0	-2	4	0

To simplify our map, we grouped the scores into five color-coded classifications:
- 12 to -7: Facing the Greatest Challenges
- 6 to -3: Falling Behind
- 2 to 2: Average
- 3 to 6: Advancing
- 7 to 14: Making the Greatest Advances

Kensington's score of 0 puts it into the average category.

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