

Residential Segregation

Table 1. White/Black Residential Segregation, Columbus and Selected Metro Areas, 2000

Metropolitan Area	Dissimilarity Index	Metropolitan Area	Dissimilarity Index
Detroit, MI	84.7	Dayton-Springfield, OH	70.2
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI	82.2	Toledo, OH	69.1
New York, NY	81.8	Pittsburgh, PA	67.3
Chicago, IL	80.8	Columbus, OH	63.1
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH	77.3	San Francisco, CA	60.9
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	74.8	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	57.8
Youngstown-Warren, OH	72.8	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA	49.6
Indianapolis, IN	70.7	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	43.7

- The Columbus MSA was highly segregated along white/black racial lines in 2000, with a dissimilarity index of 63.1. The dissimilarity index can be interpreted as the percentage of one racial group that would need to change their geographic place of residence to achieve an even distribution of the two races.
- The white/black residential segregation of the Columbus MSA in 2000 was less than the segregation calculated for the metro areas of Toledo (index of 69.1), Cincinnati (74.8), and Cleveland (77.3).

About the Data

Data Sources:

- Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, *Metropolitan Racial and Ethnic Change—Census 2000*, April 2000 (dissimilarity indexes for Columbus MSA and other metro areas)

Definitions:

- **Dissimilarity Index:** The dissimilarity index measures, on a scale of 0 to 100, the degree to which two groups are evenly spread among census tracts in a given metropolitan area. A high value indicates that the two groups tend to live in different tracts. A value of 60 or above is considered a very high level of residential segregation. It means that 60% of the members of one group would need to move to a different tract in order for the two groups to be equally distributed. Values of 40 or 50 are usually considered a moderate level of segregation, and values of 30 or below are considered to be fairly low.

Explanations and Caveats:

- The Mumford Center used the following rules for classifying race and ethnicity: 1) coded as “Asian” any person who indicated that they were Asian, regardless of any other race/ethnicity they may have indicated; 2) coded as “Hispanic” any remaining person listed as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, regardless of what they answered for the race/ethnicity question; 3) coded as “black” any non-Hispanic who indicated that they were African-American, regardless of any other race/ethnicity they may have indicated; and 4) coded as “white” non-Hispanics who answered only “white” as their race.
- The Lewis Mumford Center uses the following criteria to evaluate the significance of changes in a dissimilarity index: 10 and above very significant; 5-10-moderate; below 5-small or no change.

Update Status:

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