

# Residential Segregation

**Table 1. White/Black Residential Segregation, Columbus and Selected Metro Areas, 2005–2009**

Metropolitan Area	Dissimilarity Index	Metropolitan Area	Dissimilarity Index
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI	80.9	Toledo, OH	68.0
Detroit, MI	79.7	Pittsburgh, PA	67.9
New York, NY	79.1	Indianapolis, IN	65.9
Chicago, IL	78.1	San Francisco, CA	63.8
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH	75.6	<b>Columbus, OH</b>	<b>61.2</b>
Youngstown-Warren, OH	71.7	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	55.9
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	70.3	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA	53.6
Dayton-Springfield, OH	68.9	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	47.9

- The Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was highly segregated along white/black racial lines in the period 2005–2009, with a dissimilarity index of 61.2. The dissimilarity index can be interpreted as the percentage of one racial group that would need to change its geographic place of residence to achieve an even distribution of the two races.
- The white/black residential segregation of the Columbus MSA in the period 2005–2009 was less than the segregation calculated for the metro areas of Toledo (index of 68.0), Cincinnati (70.3), and Cleveland (75.6).

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## About the Data

### Data Sources:

- Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, 2010 analysis of the Census Bureau's 2005–2009 American Community Survey five-year estimates (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.

### Update Status:

March 2012