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NEWS MILWAUKEE

Philadelphia ranking improves

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On average, rankings of Northeastern metro areas changed the least, improving slightly, in the new ratings of black-white integration by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee researchers.

No metro area in the Northeast did better than Philadelphia, whose new ranking was 32nd, a huge jump from its 85th place showing on the old segregation index.

Barbara Grant, spokeswoman for Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, called the study good news for the city.

"It's good to see a study that takes a look at blocks, because that's what people call home," she said.

Grant called Philadelphia a "city of neighborhoods" that can change quickly from block to block.

"I could probably name 100 neighborhoods in Philadelphia," she said. "If this study is saying there is more diversity when you look block by block, that would be the aim of every city."

Other metro areas that saw their ranking improve significantly include New Haven, Conn., which rose from 77th to 28th; Newark, N.J., which jumped from 95th to 53rd; and Buffalo-Niagara Falls, N.Y., which rose from 93rd to 55th.

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- SUNDAY:** A dubious index used by researchers nationwide has long branded Milwaukee and other northern cities as the most segregated communities in America. That assessment is deeply flawed, a new study demonstrates.
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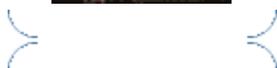
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Northeastern metro areas that dropped the most include Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Penn., which dropped from 26th to 87th; and Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, Penn., which dropped from 34th to 92nd. In both metro areas, blacks make up a small percentage of the population.

- Bruce Murphy

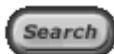
goals, expectations and conclusions that fuel accepted research on segregation.

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