

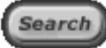


Journal Sentinel Services Classifieds OnWisconsin LIVE Coupons Yellow Pages

Online Bachelor's & Master's Degrees for Working Professionals

- Accounting
- Education
- Management
- Business
- Information Technology
- Nursing

News Articles: Advanced Searches



Subscribe to the newspaper - enter online

JS Online Features List

ON WISCONSIN : JS ONLINE : NEWS : EDITORIALS :

E-MAIL | PRINT THIS STORY

FEATURED ADVERTISERS



Many other black-white gaps demand area's attention

Shop the city's largest lighting showroom

- News
- Wisconsin
- Milwaukee
- Waukesha
- Oz/Wash
- Racine
- Editorials
- Columnists
- Obituaries
- Letter to Editor
- Weather
- AP The Wire

By GREGORY STANFORD gstanford@journalsentinel.com

Last Updated: Jan. 25, 2003

Milwaukee's "hypersegregated" label has, presto, vanished in a crunch of numbers.

Now, can researchers work similar magic on the other statistical charts that put Milwaukee in a bad racial light?

This town long wore the tag "most segregated" like a scarlet letter. In shedding it, we are partying so hard that we may lose sight of this fact: The residential sphere here was not the sole area in which the black-white gap yawned more widely than in most other locales.

In fact, for some reason, Beer Town shows up as extreme in racial inequality on many gauges. Thus, in rethinking residential segregation, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Employment and Training Institute has only partly cleaned this city's image on race.

To help sober us up, I've rounded up a sampling of racial rankings of localities and states - the latter on the ground that, since African-Americans in Wisconsin overwhelmingly live in the Milwaukee area, the information sheds light on the community:

Education:

- Just 41% of black students who had started high school in 1996 picked up their diplomas in 2000 in Wisconsin - the worst graduation rate among the 31 states for which there were data - the Manhattan Institute has noted. Dairyland's white graduation rate was more than twice the black rate - the biggest disparity among the states.
- Wisconsin registered the widest gap in scores between white and

Special Features:

- 2002 year in review
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- SPECIAL SECTION MILWAUKEE'S FUTURE
- CAUCUS investigation click here
- War on Terrorism CLICK HERE
- PHOTO OF THE DAY
- Take 5 A DAILY Q&A

Archived Features:

University of Phoenix ONLINE

Programs offered in:

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

Accelerate Your Career

MARKETPLACE

Jobs



Need Help?

Searching Archives
Wireless Access
Site Topics
Table of Contents
Contact Staff
Subscriptions

black eighth-graders on a national science test in 1996, the last time it was administered, according to federal data.

- As for racial mixing in the schools, both Wisconsin and metro Milwaukee tend to show up among the 10 most segregated - albeit not near the very top. Just the other day, a report released by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project ranked Wisconsin No. 10 in school segregation. Last year, the Lewis Mumford Center of the State University of New York listed the Milwaukee area as No. 7 in school segregation among the 50 biggest metro areas. (The UWM institute may have a thing or two to say about these studies, which employed gauges that it had attacked when they were applied to residential segregation.)

Financial well-being:

- For every dollar the typical white person grossed in metro Milwaukee in 2000, the typical African-American grossed 46 cents - the second-widest gap among the top 50 metro areas - the Mumford Center has pointed out.
- This metro area ranked third worst among the top 50 in how well management mirrored the share of African-Americans in the work force of larger firms in 2000, the Journal Sentinel has noted in analyzing federal data.
- Metro Milwaukee typically ranks near the top in black unemployment. The latest federal figures, for 2000, show improvement. The black jobless rate here dipped into single digits, to 9.6%, only the eighth highest among 36 metro areas for which there were data. That rate was 2.9 times the white rate, just the 13th-biggest gap in the nation. But brand new data, for states, suggest the 2000 figures may be a blip, not a trend. In 2001, Wisconsin's black workers had a jobless rate of 15.8%, the third highest in the nation. What's more, that rate was 4.1 times the white rate, the second-biggest gap in the nation.

Law and order:

- In 1996, a black man was 53 times more likely to be serving time for a drug offense than a white man in Wisconsin - the second-biggest gap among the 37 states for which data could be compared - according to Human Rights Watch.
- In mid-2001, Wisconsin had proportionately more black people in jail or prison - 4,058 inmates per 100,000 residents - than did any other state, according to the U.S. Justice Department. That rate of imprisonment was 11.6 times the white rate - the nation's fifth-biggest gap.

Dear reader, I find myself running up against the end of my column without having listed all of what I had thought was just a modest sampling. Still, the picture is clear. Notwithstanding the recent study that challenged conventional academic thinking about residential segregation, Milwaukee and Wisconsin continue to feature some of the starkest racial disparities in the nation in various social realms.

[Cars](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Rentals](#)
[Personals](#)
[General Classifieds](#)
[Grocery Coupons](#)
[Buy & Sell Tickets](#)
[Contests](#)

Will new research lessen the starkness? The better bet for improving the numbers is to improve the reality. Whatever the sources of these extreme racial gaps, their presence bodes ill for the metro area and for the state.

Gregory Stanford is a Journal Sentinel editorial writer and columnist.

A version of this story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Jan. 26, 2003.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

News Articles:
Advanced Searches

Search



Subscribe to the
newsletter -
order online

JS Online Features List

© Copyright 2003, Journal Sentinel Inc. All rights reserved.
Produced by [Journal Interactive](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Journal Sentinel Inc. is a subsidiary of [Journal Communications](#), an employee-owned company.
v050802a