



Published Tuesday, May 8, 2001

## Many Twin Cities children grow up in segregated areas

David Peterson / Star Tribune

White children growing up in the Twin Cities area are doing so in neighborhoods quite **segregated** from kids of other races, according to a new analysis of 2000 census data released Monday.

But **segregation** levels among children didn't increase much during the 1990s even as the number of minorities increased rapidly, said a team of researchers from the University at Albany in New York..

The team, led by urban sociologist John Logan, issued an analysis in March, when the census data first emerged, which found that **segregation** among all age groups in the Twin Cities metro area had declined somewhat.

The new analysis homes in on people under age 18, because the team felt that it's important to know whether tomorrow's adults are growing up and going to school with the variety of people they will encounter in later life. It looks at each pair of races separately, for example where whites are living in relation to blacks, Asians in relation to Hispanics, and so on.

The key findings:

Nationally, the Twin Cities area is the nation's fifth most racially **segregated**, among the top 50 most populous metro areas, when it comes to young whites living in proximity to Asians.

In 1990, the Twin Cities ranked eighth.

However, experts said that's understandable given that the Twin Cities area is unusual in having a large group of relatively recent arrivals from Southeast Asia who speak the same language.

"Many Southeast Asians, and especially the Hmong, *like* living together," said Will Craig, assistant director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota. "One reason they

concentrated here, after starting in other parts of the country, was so they could be next to each other."

Unlike the other pairings, black and white children are highly **segregated** from one another -- that is, on a scale of 0 to 100, 100 being totally **segregated**, their **segregation** index is 64. Anything over 60 is considered highly **segregated**.

On the other hand, that reading didn't change much during the 1990s, even as Minnesota experienced one of the nation's fastest increases in black population.

Compared with other metro areas, the Twin Cities area grew much more **segregated** during the 1990s when it came to white and Hispanic young people. Where it had ranked 154th out of all 313 metros, it now ranks 82nd. This suggests that unlike blacks, newly arriving Hispanic families with children are tending to cluster in enclaves, perhaps because of language issues.

The bottom line, Logan said, is that when the Twin Cities are compared with other U.S. metro areas, "the changes in your levels of **segregation** don't seem particularly significant, but kids are still living in very different neighborhoods, which means they're probably going to different schools and certainly not having a full range of exposure to other groups."

*-- David Peterson is at david. a.peterson@startribune.com .*



— © Copyright 2001 Star Tribune. All rights reserved.