Asian Communities In U.S. Segregated But Have More College Graduates

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Asian Scientist (Jun. 27, 2013) - A new study has found that Asian neighborhoods in the US have substantially higher proportions of college-educated residents than neighborhoods where whites live.

The study by the US2010 Project at Brown University found that Asians, as a whole, are the least segregated minority group in the US.

However, when considering different Asian ethnic groups, the study found that every Asian nationality except Japanese is more segregated from whites than are Asians as a broad category. In fact, Chinese and Indians are segregated almost as highly as Hispanics while Vietnamese segregation is almost as high as that of African Americans.

The study, which used census data from 1990 to 2010, found that these numbers have remained more or less unchanged over the last 20 years.

"The key insight is that it is misleading to combine so many different groups – Chinese, Indians, Filipinos, and more – into the category of Asians," said John R. Logan, co-author of the report.

"These nationalities include people who speak different languages, have different identities, and occupy very different positions in American society. They are actually nearly as segregated from one another as they are from whites."

The study also found that every Asian nationality except Filipino and Vietnamese lives, on average, in neighborhoods with higher proportions of college-educated residents than do non-Hispanic whites.

According to the report, more than 40% of residents in Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Korean neighborhoods were college graduates compared to 32.9% of residents in neighborhoods where non-Hispanic whites live. The highest proportion of college graduates can be found in Indian and Korean neighborhoods, with around 44% of residents being college graduates.

The full report is available at: Logan & Zhang (2013) Separate but Equal: Asian Nationalities in the U.S.

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