



[Why segregation is declining for all Hispanic groups except Mexicans](#)

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Every Hispanic group except Mexicans has experienced a sharp decline in segregation from whites in the United States since 1990. (Shutterstock)

Every Hispanic group except Mexicans has experienced a sharp decline in segregation from whites in communities across the United States since 1990, a new study reveals.

The [study](#) was released Wednesday by US2010 project, which researches changes in American society. It shows that segregation of Mexicans from whites has stayed relatively the same in the last 30 years even as the population of Mexicans in the U.S. [has grown rapidly](#). With a population of nearly 32 million, Mexicans currently make up 60 percent of the country's entire Hispanic population.

Other Hispanic groups, however, have become less segregated from whites. The least segregated Hispanic group is South Americans, who generally have higher levels of education and lower rates of poverty than other Hispanic groups. Puerto Ricans have experienced the largest drop in segregation in the last 30 years.

Both of these Hispanic groups live in neighborhoods that are slightly more than 30 percent Hispanic while Mexicans live in neighborhoods that are about 50 percent Hispanic.

“The overall statement that Hispanic segregation is unchanging—while accurate—is misleading,” the study states. “A more complete conclusion is that Mexican segregation from whites is persistent, but that other groups are experiencing much more integration with whites.”

Reasons why Mexican segregation hasn't changed much

John Logan, co-author of the study and a sociology professor at Brown University, said there are various factors that explain why segregation has been on the decline for all Hispanic groups except Mexicans.

“I think this is related to the large scale of existing Mexican communities, they have very strong ethnic identity and the fact that many Mexicans are holding on to the use of Spanish as their main language,” Logan told VOXXI.

Eileen Diaz McConnell, an [Arizona State University](#) professor who researches the growth and change of Latino populations in non-traditional areas of the U.S., had a different explanation.

“I think it's not so much cultural reasons. I think it has more to do with economic resources,” she said.

Diaz McConnell noted that compared to other Hispanic groups, Mexicans have lower incomes. According to the US2010 study, the mean annual wages for employed Mexicans were \$20,200 between the years 2008 and 2010. That's well above the Hispanic average of \$22,000. Cubans (\$30,000) had higher annual wages, followed by Puerto Ricans (\$29,000), South Americans (\$25,250) and Dominicans (\$23,558).

Having lower incomes than most Hispanics, Diaz McConnell noted, makes it more difficult for Mexicans to move into upper-middle-class or upscale neighborhoods where more non-Hispanic whites live. Therefore, many of them end up living in lower-income neighborhoods where there are larger populations of Hispanics.

However, Mexicans are still less segregated than other Hispanic groups

She also said it's important to note that "even though segregation has remained stable for Mexicans in the past 30 years, they still are less segregated than a lot of these other Hispanic groups."

According to the [US2010](#) study, Puerto Ricans are slightly more segregated from whites than Mexicans. Meanwhile, Dominicans and Central Americans are even more segregated from whites than Mexicans.

Logan agreed with Diaz McConnell that it is important to note that some Hispanic groups are more segregated than Mexicans.

"Still, the fact that Mexican segregation is not changing, despite the fact that Mexicans have been in the country for many generations, suggests that there are some factors limiting change for this group," he told VOXXI.

He added, "What we don't know is whether segregation of Dominicans and Central Americans will continue to decline or will eventually hold steady at the same level as Mexicans."

Read more: <http://www.voxxi.com/segregation-declining-hispanic-mexicans/#ixzz2OHSPyAN6>