

Census: Integration of U.S. cities slows

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (UPI) -- Residential segregation, especially for blacks, persists in America and may be solidifying, U.S. Census Bureau figures show.

The newly released 2005-2009 data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey was analyzed by sociologists John Logan of Brown University and Brian Stults of Florida State, USA Today reported Wednesday.

"This is a surprising result," said Logan. "At worst, it was expected that there would be continued slow progress."

The study found that blacks are still the most segregated minority, especially in major cities.

Using a "segregation index" measuring distribution of groups across neighborhoods, the researchers found that black-white segregation declined from 65.2 in 2000 and 62.7 today and Hispanic-white segregation from 51.6 in 2000 vs. 50, while Asian-white segregation rose from 42.1 to 45.9.

Immigration was a major factor in the Asian and Hispanic numbers.

In the New York; Milwaukee, Wis.; Newark, N.J.; Detroit and Chicago metropolitan areas, the segregation figure for black populations is near 80, the same level as 30 years ago.

The average white household lives in a neighborhood that is 74 percent white, down from 88 percent in 1980.

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