

## STATE TRENDS

While the minority public school population in the U.S. continues to grow, overall, white students in most parts of the country still remain isolated from any significant minority presence in their schools (see Table 4 above).<sup>102</sup> There are, however, now eleven states where white students have, on average, at least 20% minority students in their classes (Table 13). Seven of these eleven are located in the South and another is a Border state, all places where students once attended legally mandated segregated schools. The high number of Southern states where white students experience significant exposure to minority students as seen in Table 13, combined with the fact that none of the Northern or Midwest states have similar levels of exposure for white students, may suggest the lasting impact of court-ordered desegregation plans to produce interracial contact in these schools.

**Table 13**  
**States with Highest White Exposure to Black and Latino Students, 2000-01**

State	% Blacks and Latinos in Schools of Typical White
New Mexico	41.9
Delaware	32.5
South Carolina	31.7
Texas	31.5
California	30.8
Mississippi	29.2
Florida	28.4
Louisiana	27.8
Nevada	26.3
North Carolina	26.1
Georgia	25.5
Arizona	24.8
Virginia	21.8

*Source: 2000-01 NCES Common Core of Data Public School Universe.*

### *Black Segregation*

Although the black student population is growing nationally, there are a number of states with relatively small proportions of black students. In 2000, there were sixteen states with less than five percent of black students (Table 14). Most of these states are in northern New England or the Western and Midwestern regions. Except for the northern New England states, there was considerable isolation for minority students. Most of the

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<sup>102</sup> It should be noted that, due to the unique racial composition of Alaska and Hawaii, they have been excluded from the state comparisons. Additionally, Washington D.C. is not included in any state comparisons.

Western states had large proportions of black students in predominantly minority schools, partly due to large Latino enrollments. Over half of the black students in New Mexico and Arizona attended schools that were majority nonwhite. Two Western states (i.e. Arizona and New Mexico) have more than 5% of their black students in intensely segregated (90-100% minority) schools. Even though only 4.6% of Arizona's school children are black, 13.2% of these students attend such schools.

**Table 14**  
**Percentage of Black Students in States with Low Black Public School Enrollment, 2000-01<sup>103</sup>**

	<b>% Black</b>	<b>% in 50-100% Minority Schools</b>	<b>% in 90-100% Minority Schools</b>
Arizona	4.6	55.5	13.2
Iowa	4.0	12.1	0.0
Idaho	0.7	1.6	0.0
Maine	1.2	0.0	0.0
Montana	0.6	5.8	0.0
North Dakota	1.0	0.1	0.1
New Hampshire	1.1	0.0	0.0
New Mexico	2.4	60.2	6.6
Oregon	2.9	38.4	1.6
South Dakota	1.2	3.9	0.1
Utah	1.0	15.6	0.0
Vermont	1.1	0.0	0.0
West Virginia	4.3	8.8	0.0
Wyoming	1.2	3.6	0.0

*Source: 2000-01 NCES Common Core of Data Public School Universe.*

During the latter part of the 1990s, there was an increase in black segregation in all but two states; the highest levels of black segregation in 2000 were found in Illinois, Michigan, New York, and California (Table 15). The only two states not showing increases in segregation since 1996, Michigan and New Jersey, were highly segregated and showed virtually no change. Delaware had the largest decline in percent of students who were white in schools of the average black student, likely a result of the 1995 court decision ending the metropolitan Wilmington desegregation court order.<sup>104</sup> Other states showing larger decreases in integration from 1996-2000 are several Southern and Border states including Florida, Missouri, and North Carolina. These are states that had long-running school desegregation orders requiring desegregation across metropolitan areas but, in many of these districts, desegregation court orders were terminated during the 1990s.

<sup>103</sup> All states in this table have less black percentage that is less than 5% of total enrollment.

<sup>104</sup> In Delaware, the courts merged eleven school districts into a single metropolitan district including most of the public school students in Delaware. Once desegregation occurred, the district was then split into four districts. In 1995, the school systems were declared unitary. See "Selected Unitary Status Rulings between 1990-2002" in Appendix A.

Despite declines, most of the states with the highest levels of white students in schools of the average black are in the South and Border regions. The high exposure of black students to white students in some of these states, e.g. Kentucky, where the average black student attends a school that is two-thirds white, lends support to the argument that desegregation efforts of the past thirty-five years continue to have an impact, regardless of recent declines. In fact, Kentucky, which has had the highest level of black-white exposure since 1980, consolidated the city and county school systems of metro Louisville in order to create significant desegregation. It remains under a desegregation plan today.

**Table 15**  
**Changes in the Percentage of White Students in Schools Attended by the Average Black Student by State, 1970-2000**

	% White Students in School of Average Black				Change		
	1970	1980	1996	2000	1970-80	1980-2000	1996-2000
Alabama	32.7	37.9	31.9	30.2	5.2	-7.7	-1.7
Arkansas	42.5	46.5	40.3	37.7	4.0	-8.8	-2.6
California	25.6	27.7	25.0	23.2	2.1	-4.5	-1.8
Connecticut	44.1	40.3	34.0	33.6	-3.8	-6.7	-0.4
Delaware	46.5	68.5	59.8	54.0	22.0	-14.5	-5.8
Florida	43.2	50.6	38.4	35.4	7.4	-15.2	-3.0
Georgia	35.1	38.3	33.2	30.8	3.2	-7.5	-2.4
Illinois	14.6	19.0	19.8	19.2	4.4	0.2	-0.6
Indiana	31.7	38.7	46.0	42.9	7.0	4.2	-3.1
Kentucky	49.4	74.3	69.1	65.7	24.9	-8.6	-3.4
Louisiana	30.8	32.8	29.0	27.0	2.0	-5.8	-2.0
Maryland	30.3	35.4	26.0	24.0	5.1	-11.4	-2.0
Massachusetts	47.5	50.4	41.9	39.1	2.9	-11.3	-2.8
Michigan	21.9	22.5	19.8	20.0	0.6	-2.5	0.2
Mississippi	29.6	29.2	27.7	26.2	-0.4	-3.0	-1.5
Missouri	21.4	34.1	37.7	34.4	12.7	0.3	-3.3
New Jersey	32.4	26.4	25.2	25.7	-6.0	-0.7	0.5
New York	29.2	23.0	18.7	17.9	-6.2	-5.1	-0.8
North Carolina	49.0	54.0	47.2	43.3	5.0	-10.7	-3.9
Ohio	28.4	43.2	36.1	33.1	14.8	-10.1	-3.0
Oklahoma	42.1	57.6	45.9	43.0	15.5	-14.6	-2.9
Pennsylvania	27.8	29.3	30.4	29.3	1.5	0.0	-1.1
Rhode Island	NA	65.8	46.3	41.7	NA	-24.1	-4.6
South Carolina	41.2	42.7	40.5	38.9	1.5	-3.8	-1.6
Tennessee	29.2	38.0	33.5	32.3	8.8	-5.7	-1.2
Texas	30.7	35.2	31.4	28.7	4.5	-6.5	-2.7
Virginia	41.5	47.4	44.2	42.4	5.9	-5.0	-1.8
Wisconsin	25.7	44.5	32.0	29.7	18.8	-14.8	-2.3

Source: DBS Corp., 1982;1987;1996-97, 2000-01 NCES Common Core of Data Public School Universe.

Although, as discussed above, white students in some states (particularly those in the South) are experiencing substantial exposure to blacks and Latinos, most black students continue to have relatively small proportions of white students in their schools. The twenty states in which the lowest percentages of white students in schools of the average black student are in the South or Border regions. Most of the ten most segregated states (90-100% minority) are in the Northeast. Among states with small percentages of black students, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island now number among the states in which black exposure to whites is lowest. Eight other states, including the three most segregated states for black students (i.e. New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania), are in the Northeast and Midwest regions, areas that have relatively smaller proportions of black students. In addition in five states (Michigan, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Maryland) at least half of black students are in intensely segregated minority schools. Six of nine Northeastern states have among the highest percentages of black students in predominantly minority, and five of nine have among the most intensely segregated minority schools. Notably, there are few Western states among any of the states with high measures of black student segregation.

Many of the states that were the most segregated in 1986 for black students remain so in 2000 as well. Of the ten states in 1986 that had the lowest black-white exposure rate, nine are among top ten list of states in 2000 with lowest white percentage in schools of average black. The tenth, Alabama, has the twelfth lowest percent in 2000.

**Table 16**  
**Most Segregated States for Black Students, 2000-01**

Rank	% In Majority White Schools	Rank	% in 90-100% Minority Schools	Rank	% Whites in School of Typical Black
1	New York 13.6	1	Michigan 62.5	1	New York 17.9
2	California 14.1	2	New York 60.8	2	Illinois 19.2
3	Michigan 17.6	3	Illinois 60.1	3	Michigan 20.0
4	Illinois 18.2	4	New Jersey 50.0	4	California 23.2
5	Maryland 21.3	5	Maryland 50.0	5	Maryland 24.0
6	Mississippi 22.6	6	Pennsylvania 48.3	6	New Jersey 25.7
7	Louisiana 23.1	7	Alabama 43.1	7	Mississippi 26.2
8	New Jersey 24.3	8	Wisconsin 42.9	8	Louisiana 27.0
9	Texas 24.3	9	Louisiana 42.2	9	Texas 28.7
10	Wisconsin 27.1	10	Mississippi 41.3	10	Pennsylvania 29.3
11	Georgia 27.7	11	California 37.1	11	Wisconsin 29.7
12	Connecticut 28.2	12	Texas 37.0	12	Alabama 30.2
13	Pennsylvania 28.9	13	Missouri 36.2	13	Georgia 30.8
14	Ohio 29.4	14	Georgia 35.4	14	Ohio 33.1
15	Alabama 29.6	15	Ohio 35.1	15	Connecticut 33.6
16	Missouri 32.5	16	Connecticut 32.2	16	Missouri 34.4
17	Massachusetts 32.5	17	Florida 30.6	17	Florida 35.4
18	Arkansas 32.7	18	Massachusetts 24.6	18	Arkansas 37.7
19	Rhode Island 35.4	19	Indiana 21.3	19	South Carolina 38.9
20	Florida 35.6	20	Colorado 20.0	20	Massachusetts 39.1

*Latino Segregation*

Latino student enrollment has continued to increase during the 1990s, particularly in the Western states where there was the greatest change in the exposure of Latino students to whites. From 1996 to 2000, the exposure of Latinos to white students in almost every state fell (Table 17), with the greatest changes in Nevada and California.

**Table 17**  
**Changes in the Percentage of White Students in Schools Attended by the Average Latino Student by State, 1970-2000**

	% White Students in School of Average Black				Change		
	1970	1980	1996	2000	1970-80	1980-2000	1996-2000
Arizona	45.5	43.5	36.4	32.6	-2.0	-10.9	-3.8
California	54.4	35.9	23.5	21.0	-18.5	-14.9	-2.5
Colorado	56.8	59.0	51.2	46.3	2.2	-12.7	-4.9
Connecticut	47.8	37.9	35.1	35.7	-9.9	-2.2	0.6
Florida	46.4	35.3	33.9	32.7	-11.1	-2.6	-1.2
Illinois	50.0	36.4	30.0	28.7	-13.6	-7.7	-1.3
Massachusetts	NA	52.6	42.2	39.6	NA	-13.0	-2.6
Nevada	83.7	75.3	50.6	41.9	-8.4	-33.4	-8.7
New Jersey	38.2	29.6	29.3	28.8	-8.6	-0.8	-0.5
New Mexico	36.9	32.6	30.2	27.5	-4.3	-5.1	-2.7
New York	21.6	20.8	18.1	18.4	-0.8	-2.4	0.3
Texas	31.1	35.1	24.2	22.5	4.0	-12.6	-1.7
Wyoming	75.3	82.8	83.0	81.9	7.5	-0.9	-1.1

*Source: The Next Generation; 1996-97; 2000-01 NCES Common Core of Data.*

While states such as California and Texas have experienced an explosion of Latino students due to immigration and higher birth rates, the growing isolation of Latino students cannot be completely explained by demographic factors. The three states with the largest Latino enrollments—California, Texas, and New York—are the most segregated states for Latinos, by all three measures (Table 18). The Northeast, however, which is only one-eighth Latino, is rapidly becoming the most segregated region for Latinos. In fact, half of the ten states with the largest percentages of Latino students in intensely segregated minority schools are located in this region.

As with black student segregation, the majority of the states that were most segregated for Latinos in 1986 remain the most segregated for Latinos in 2000 (Table 18). Rhode Island, however, a state that ranked in the top ten on all three measures of Latino segregation in 2000, was not on any list of the most segregated states for Latinos in 1986. In 1986, 41.8% of Rhode Island’s Latino students went to a majority white school; today, only 20% attend such schools.

**Table 18**  
**Most Segregated States for Latino Students, 2000-2001**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>% of Latinos in Majority White Schools</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>% of Latinos in 90-100% Minority Schools</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>% Whites in School of Typical Latino</b>			
1	New York	13.3	1	New York	58.7	1	New York	18.4
2	California	13.3	2	Texas	46.9	2	California	21.0
3	Texas	16.6	3	California	44.0	3	Texas	22.5
4	New Mexico	17.4	4	New Jersey	40.7	4	New Mexico	27.5
5	Rhode Island	20.0	5	Illinois	40.0	5	Illinois	28.7
6	Illinois	25.5	6	Florida	30.0	6	New Jersey	28.8
7	New Jersey	25.8	7	Pennsylvania	27.6	7	Rhode Island	30.5
8	Arizona	28.2	8	Connecticut	27.1	8	Arizona	32.6
9	Florida	29.3	9	Arizona	25.6	9	Florida	32.7
10	Connecticut	29.6	10	Rhode Island	25.4	10	Connecticut	35.7
11	Maryland	31.1	11	New Mexico	24.8	11	Maryland	36.0
12	Massachusetts	35.2	12	Maryland	21.1	12	Massachusetts	39.6
13	Pennsylvania	35.3	13	Massachusetts	18.8	13	Pennsylvania	40.3
14	Nevada	39.1	14	Wisconsin	16.7	14	Nevada	41.9
15	Georgia	44.5	15	Colorado	15.2	15	Georgia	45.8
16	Colorado	46.0	16	Georgia	12.6	16	Colorado	46.3
17	Louisiana	47.8	17	Indiana	11.2	17	Louisiana	48.8
18	Virginia	49.6	18	Louisiana	10.3	18	Virginia	49.5
19	Kansas	52.7	19	Michigan	10.3	19	Delaware	52.4
20	Washington	55.3	20	Nevada	8.3	20	North Carolina	52.7

*Source: 2000-01 NCES Common Core of Data Public School Universe.*