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Racial Disparities in Buffalo

Carrie Weremblewski

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Racial Disparities in Buffalo

Abstract
This fact sheet examines data on racial disparities in Buffalo and, where possible, compares it with data from four other medium-sized cities with similar racial composition. Buffalo is the 8th most segregated metropolitan area in the nation. Segregation is prominent not only in the region, but also within the city, with South Buffalo consisting of 96% whites and 1% African Americans and Masten Community consisting of 87% African Americans.

Keywords
Buffalo, Equality/Civil Rights, Race, Fact Sheet, PPG, PDF

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Racial Disparities in Buffalo
Carrie Weremblewski
University at Buffalo Law Student

Introduction
This fact sheet examines data on racial disparities in Buffalo and, where possible, compares it with data from four other medium-sized cities with similar racial composition.

Areas Similar to Buffalo in Racial Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Segregation in Buffalo
Buffalo is the 8th most segregated metropolitan area in the nation. Segregation is prominent not only in the region, but also within the city, with South Buffalo consisting of 96% whites and 1% African Americans and Masten Community consisting of 87% African Americans.
In the average neighborhood where blacks live, 67.5% of neighbors are black. In the average neighborhood where whites live, 89.0% of neighbors are white. However, in the average neighborhood where Hispanics live, only 23.3% of neighbors are Hispanic. Thus, Hispanic children in Hispanic neighborhoods have a much higher degree of potential contact with children of various racial/ethnic groups than children in predominantly black and white neighborhoods.

**Segregation of the Child Population: Isolation by Race/Ethnicity**
(For year: 2000)

![Graph showing isolation by race/ethnicity](image-url)

Definition: Isolation is a segregation measure referring to the degree of potential contact, or the possibility of interaction, between people of the same racial group. For instance, the black isolation index provides the average proportion of neighbors that are black, for the average neighborhood where blacks live.

Notes: Children are defined as those under age 18.

**Median Household Income in Buffalo**

![Graph showing median household income by race/ethnicity](image-url)

Median Household Income in Dollars (For Year: 1999)

- Blacks: $21,727
- Hispanics: $25,427
- Asians: $32,427
- Whites: $41,744
Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods in Buffalo

Share of Population Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition: The share of people living in neighborhoods in which 20% or more of the population is in poverty.
Persons Without High School Diploma/ Equivalency in Buffalo

**Share of Persons Age 25 and Older Without a High School Diploma or Equivalency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Share of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Person With Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Buffalo

**Share of Persons Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Share of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>63.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>24.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>15.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>11.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The “War on Drugs” and Changes in the Drug Arrest Rate

From 1980 through 2003, the drug arrest rate increased by 1,204% for whites and by 930% for African Americans in Buffalo.\(^\text{11}\)

- Buffalo was the only city studied that increased its white arrest rate by more than 500%.\(^\text{12}\)
- Drug arrest rate per 100,000 for 2003 was 468 for whites and 1,717 for African Americans.\(^\text{13}\) However, the white population is more than six times greater than the African American population.\(^\text{14}\)
- African Americans are still arrested for drugs at a much higher rate than whites.\(^\text{15}\)
Drug Arrest Rate per 100,000 by Race, 1980 & 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>1204%</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>1717</td>
<td>930%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>400%</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>3202</td>
<td>881%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>3227</td>
<td>347%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>218%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>884%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drug Imprisonment Rate
In 2007, the drug admission rate in Erie County was 3.41 for whites and 103.66 for blacks. Thus, the ratio of black to white drug admission rates was 30 to 1.17

Births to Teenage Mothers18
Proportion of Population Without Health Insurance.

Proportion of Population without health insurance by Race/Ethnicity

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
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<td>23.7%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
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<td>24.2%</td>
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<td>30.7%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Definition: Disability rates are the proportion of the population with a disability, for whom disability status is known, out of the civilian non-institutionalized population aged 5 and over.
Home Ownership Rates

Home Ownership Rate by Race/Ethnicity
(For Year: 2000)

Share of Population
0.00% 20.00% 40.00% 60.00% 80.00%
Buffalo NY Kansas City MO Louisville KY Rochester NY Toledo OH

Median Value of Owned Homes

Median Value of Owned Homes in Buffalo (For Year: 2000)
Asian, $141,500
White, $90,500
Hispanic, $73,300
American-Indian or Alaska Native, $66,400
Black, $52,800

Living in Multi-Unit Household Structures in Buffalo

Households in Multi-Unit Structures (For Year: 2000)
Share of Population
0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00%
Hispanics Blacks Asians Whites
Race/Ethnicity


6 Id.


12 Id.

13 Id.

14 Id.


22 DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Median value for owned homes by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007),

23 DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Households in Multi-Unit Structures by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007),