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Report: School desegregation stalls

Progress toward desegregation of public schools has stalled for most of the country in the past decade and some areas with prior success at desegregation suffered a rollback, says a new report from the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research in Albany, N.Y. John Logan, director of the Mumford center, says the study used U.S. Department of Education statistics to come up with a "segregation index" number - a percentage of students of one racial or ethnic group who would have to be moved to another school to achieve a racial balance equal to that in a community. For the nation, the index rose slightly from 65 in 1989-90 to 67 in 1999-2000. But the report cites significant changes in 18 metropolitan areas, which in 1989-90 had achieved success at school desegregation while under court orders to desegregate. Following a 1991 Supreme Court ruling that made it easier for schools to rescind desegregation orders, the index in those areas climbed anywhere from 5 points in the Nashville area to more than 32 points in the Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, Ohio, area. The full report is at www.albany.edu/mumford/census. (Click on "Reports.")

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