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# Census 2000

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## Minorities reshape suburbs

By Haya El Nasser, USA TODAY

Minorities are moving to the nation's mostly white suburbs like never before and forming their own racial and ethnic enclaves, a new analysis of Census 2000 shows Blacks, Hispanics and Asians are doing what new arrivals to America and minorities traditionally have done: live with their own.

John Logan, sociologist at the University at Albany, says his analysis of suburbs in 330 metropolitan areas shows that "suburbanization" of minorities doesn't necessarily mean more integration.



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"Increasingly, we're finding that immigrants are moving to the suburbs as their first step when they arrive in the country," Logan says. "It used to be you go to the city and then the suburbs."

America's suburbs often have better schools and less crime. But the concentration of minorities in the suburbs is changing that in some places, Logan says. Because minority neighborhoods tend to be poorer, they can't generate the tax base to support services, such as health care, good schools and adequate police protection. "Separate turns out for most people to be unequal," Logan says.

But minority enclaves are not always poor. The nation's wealthiest black neighborhoods are in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

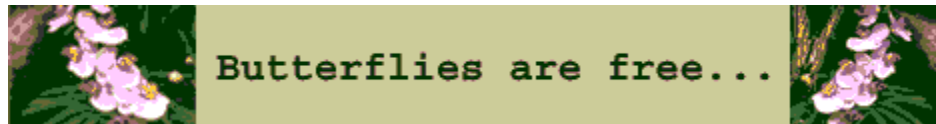
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"Upper-income blacks want to associate more with their own people because they feel more comfortable," says William Boone, political science professor at Clark Atlanta University.

Demographer William Frey predicts that in melting-pot metro areas such as Los Angeles, New York and Miami — areas that have large numbers of people of all races and ethnic backgrounds — concentration in the suburbs is temporary.

"If we fast-forward to the next 10 years, we'll find more intermarriages, more integration and more assimilation," says Frey of the Milken Institute in Santa Monica, Calif.

Logan's analysis shows in many suburbs, more minorities are living apart from whites. Atlanta had the largest share of blacks in the suburbs in 2000: 26%, vs. 19% in 1990. The average black suburbanite in Atlanta lived in an area that was 56% black, up from 52% in 1990.



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