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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As diversity in the nation grows, progress toward integrating neighborhoods remains mixed

Report to be released later today

March 24, 2011 – Small declines in black/white segregation in recent decades have continued, while Hispanics and Asians remain as segregated from whites as they were three decades ago, a new report from the US2010 Census Project reveals.

“Progress is mixed,” said Brown University sociology professor John Logan, director of US2010 and co-author of the report.

“The growth of the black middle class, the passage of time since Fair Housing Laws were enacted, and the evidence from surveys that white Americans are becoming more tolerant of black neighbors all point toward progress in overcoming the high level of segregation that had been reached in 1970.

“But 1970 is already 40 years behind us. At the current rate of change it will be two more decades before blacks reach the same level of segregation as Hispanics,” Logan said.

Later today, the full report can be downloaded at
http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/projects/authors_su.htm.

The two fast-growing segments of the U.S. population, Hispanics and Asians, remain at the same levels of segregation from whites as in 1980. Their increasing numbers mean that their ethnic neighborhoods are increasingly homogeneous in many parts of the country.

The average Hispanic lives in a census tract that is nearly half Hispanic; the average Asian's tract is nearly one-quarter Asian. The increased diversity of the society at large is reaching very slowly into the neighborhoods where people live.

Many tools already are available on the US2010 website:

- Information on racial composition and levels of segregation since 1980 in every metropolitan area of the nation (using constant 2010 definitions) and for all cities over 10,000 population – <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Data.htm>.
- Sortable lists showing the racial composition since 1980 for metropolitan areas (using constant 2010 definitions) and for the largest 200 cities –
- <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/SegSorting/Default.aspx>
- A web-based map system showing census data on key population variables for tracts and counties since 1940, with downloadable data and shape files –
- <http://www.s4.brown.edu/mapusa>

Logan and Stults' research on segregation is part of US2010, a program of research on changes in American society in the recent past, supported by the Russell Sage Foundation and Brown University.

Over a two-year span, 14 research teams – 26 researchers total from universities all over the U.S. -- will tackle a broad range of topics that impact all areas of American society. Led by Logan, they will release short briefs and a chapter-length report on their research areas, which include immigration, segregation, economics, education, aging, and the changing American family, among others.

"The special feature of US2010 is that it tackles questions of change in American society not from the perspective of one scholar or one topic, but with the expertise of a nationwide team of scholars who were brought together for this purpose," Logan said. More information is available on the project webpage: www.s4.brown.edu/us2010.

The US2010 project will culminate with a book incorporating all these chapters, published by the Russell Sage Foundation, which has a 50-year tradition of publishing respected, authoritative, census-based research.

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