

Fostering an integrated approach.

Although housing is a critical mechanism for fostering social inclusion, it is not the only one. Specifically, measures to enhance individuals' educational and employment opportunities, as well as to advance intercultural understanding among ethnic groups, need to be embraced to foster urban social inclusion.

Seeking outgroup-sensitive policy solutions. Policy measures need to account for the differential impacts of residential segregation on specific groups. For instance, children and youth constitute the groups most susceptible to possible detrimental effects of segregation. Particular efforts should therefore be made to improve educational

quality in immigrant communities and provide an affirmative attitude toward the childrens' culture of origin. Homeownership options adjusted to the economic and cultural needs of an ethnic group are another example of a group-sensitive approach.

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Changing Racial Composition: Minneapolis–St. Paul

The changing racial composition in the Twin Cities was the focus of a recent keynote address by Reynolds Farley of the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center. Farley spoke at a January 24, 2008, symposium on "Advancing Interdisciplinary Research and Action on Health and Education Disparities," sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium; School of Public Health; and Minnesota Population Center. In his keynote, Farley traced sociodemographic changes in the Twin Cities during the last half-century based on a detailed analysis of U.S. Census data and readings about the history of the region.

According to Farley, Minneapolis and St. Paul have weathered the

fundamental economic changes in the United States since World War II better than other cities in the Midwest and Northeast. That economic success has attracted migrants to the region, particularly since 1970. These migrants have included large numbers of Latinos, African Americans, and immigrants from abroad, transforming the area from being almost exclusively White. Racial/ethnic minorities have always resided in Minnesota, but in very small numbers. Residential and school segregation of those minorities has been lower than in other cities in the Midwest and Northeast, but higher than places in the South and West. Poverty rates among African Americans are several times higher than that of Whites, whereas Latinos and Asians fall somewhere in

between. Farley concluded that the Twin Cities are better positioned than other places to deal with economic and health disparities because they have a diverse economic base, a good reputation to maintain, a well-educated and affluent population, an ethic of corporate tithing and corporate support for the public good, a governmental tradition of supporting the public welfare, and strong public institutions to work on reducing these disparities.

Farley's PowerPoint presentation (with voice narration) is available online at <http://cpheo1.sph.umn.edu/healthandeducation/>, along with presentations from other speakers at the symposium.