PRICEONOMICS
(http://priceonomics.com/)

Enter email address   **Subscribe**

In Data We Trust   CONTENT TRACKER (HTTPS://TRACKER.PRICEONOMICS.COM)   DATA SERVICES (HTTP://PRICEONOMICS.COM/DATA-SERVICES/)   CONTENT MARKETING (HTTP://PRICEONOMICS.COM/THE-CONTENT-MARKETING-HANDBOOK/)

f (https://facebook.com/price
🐦 (https://twitter.com/priceono
🔊 (/latest.rss)

(/the-most-and-least-segregated-cities-in-america/)The Least Segregated Cities in America
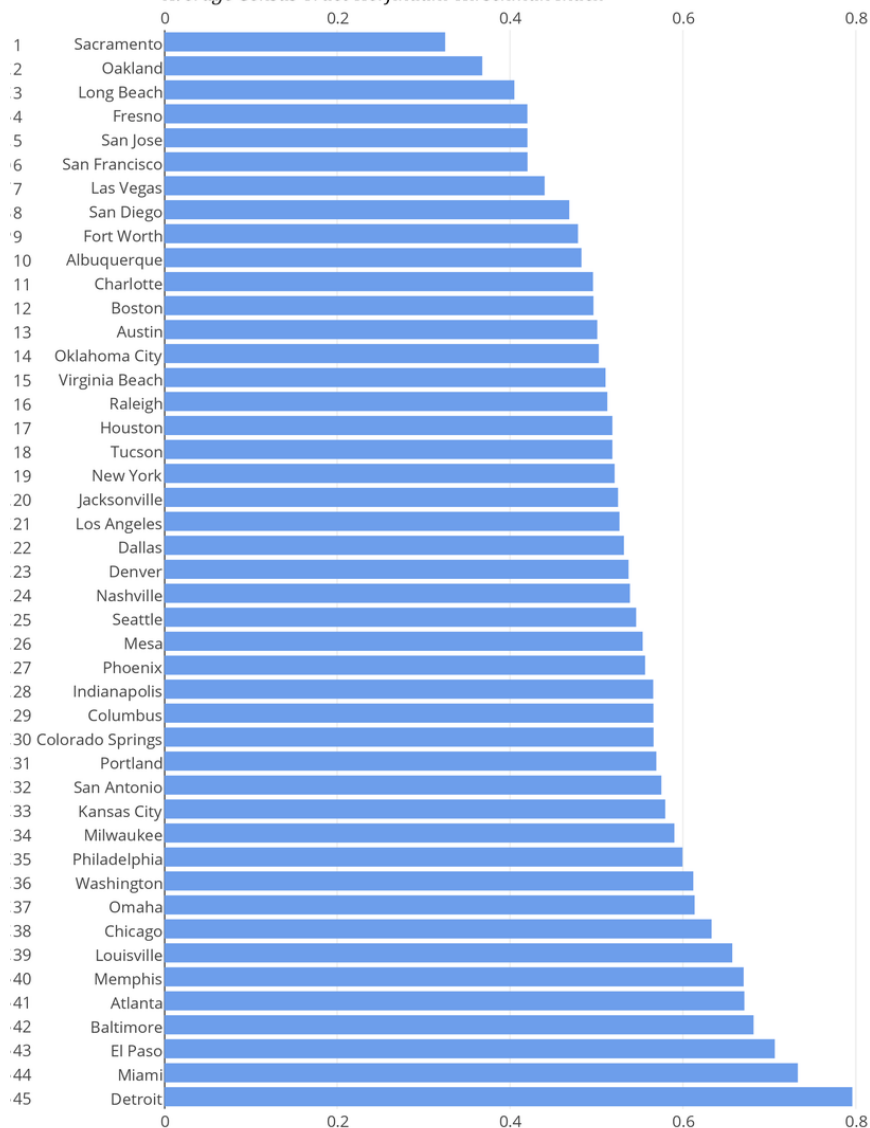
Jan 21, 2015 · 55,583 views

Share **(https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http%3A//priceonomics.com/the-most-and-least-segregated-cities-in-amer**

Major American Cities (pop>400k)
Ranked by Neighborhood Diversity

Average Census Tract Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

#	City
1	Sacramento
2	Oakland
3	Long Beach
4	Fresno
5	San Jose
6	San Francisco
7	Las Vegas
8	San Diego
9	Fort Worth
10	Albuquerque
11	Charlotte
12	Boston
13	Austin
14	Oklahoma City
15	Virginia Beach
16	Raleigh
17	Houston
18	Tucson
19	New York
20	Jacksonville
21	Los Angeles
22	Dallas
23	Denver
24	Nashville
25	Seattle
26	Mesa
27	Phoenix
28	Indianapolis
29	Columbus
30	Colorado Springs
31	Portland
32	San Antonio
33	Kansas City
34	Milwaukee
35	Philadelphia
36	Washington
37	Omaha
38	Chicago
39	Louisville
40	Memphis
41	Atlanta
42	Baltimore
43	El Paso
44	Miami
45	Detroit

Priceonomics; data via Chris Dickersin-Prokopp

A few weeks ago, we published a chart ranking the largest cities in America (http://priceonomics.com/the-most-and-least-diverse-cities-in-america/) by the diversity of its top-line demographics. We simplified these demographics down to five major racial/ethnic groups, and the closer they were to being in a 1:1:1:1:1 ratio with each other, the more diverse the city was.
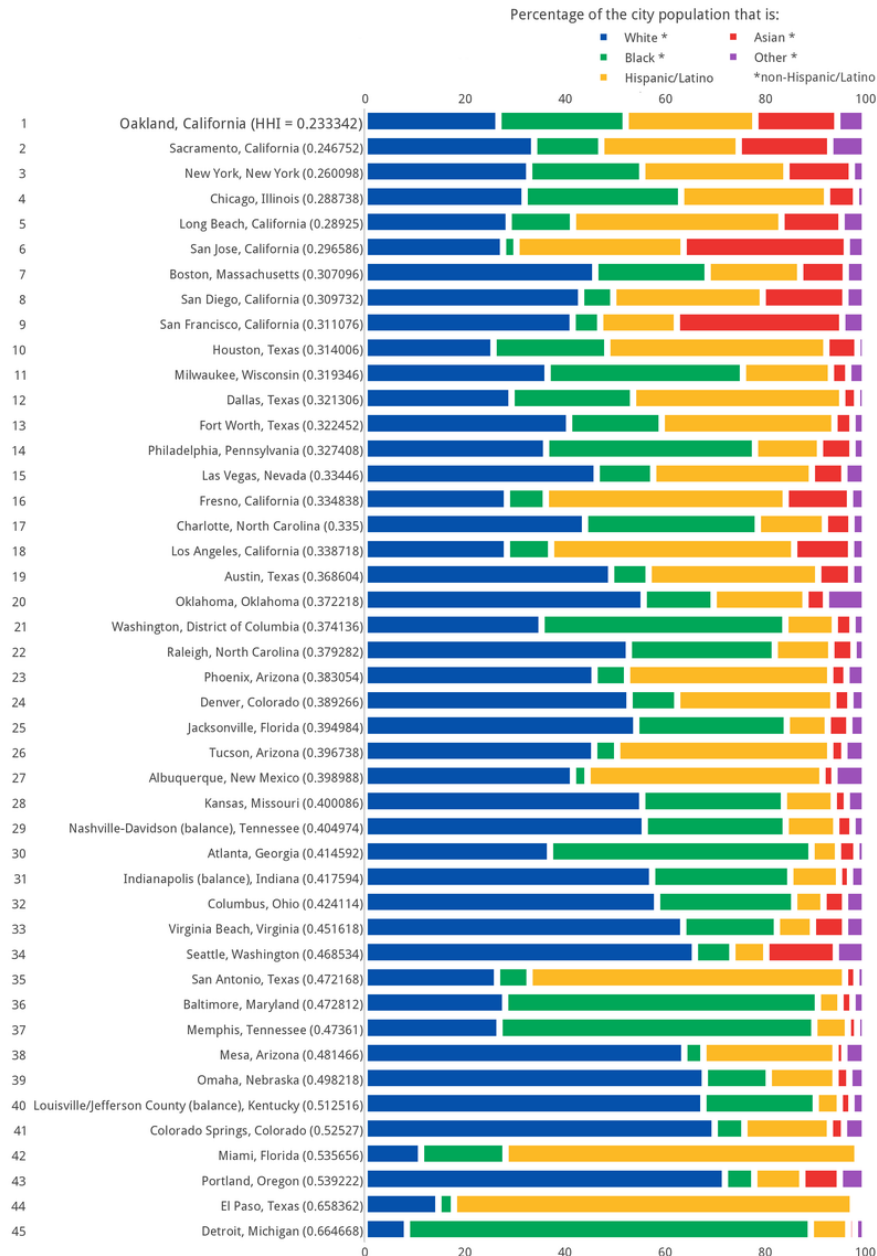
But, there was a problem with this.

Theoretically, a city could have a "perfect" diversity score and still not look particularly diverse to a resident, if the racial/ethnic groups are sequestered in homogenous neighborhoods. The problem was that our ranking wouldn't show indicate if a city was both statistically diverse *and* geographically segregated.

Other people were bothered by this simplification, too, including Chris Dickersin-Prokopp at Greater Greater Washington (http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/25252/a-city-can-be-diverse-but-its-neighborhoods-may-still-not-be-and-dc-scores-poorly-on-both-measures/). He used the same equations we used to calculate the most and least diverse cities in America (http://priceonomics.com/the-most-and-least-diverse-cities-in-america/) -- the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index -- to calculate a diversity index for *each census tract* in a city. He then found each city's average census tract diversity index, and ranked the major cities in America by this number. We've visualized his results in the bar chart above.

Some cities stayed at about the same rank in this chart as they sat in our ranking of overall city diversity. That's because, in these cities, diversity and integration go hand in hand. Detroit is an extremely undiverse city, and its minority populations are relatively segregated. Oakland is an extremely diverse city, and its minority populations are relatively integrated.

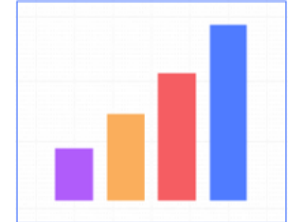## Major American Cities (pop>400k) Ranked by Diversity

Percentage of the city population that is:

- White * (blue)
- Black * (green)
- Hispanic/Latino (yellow)
- Asian * (red)
- Other * (purple)

*non-Hispanic/Latino

#	City (HHI)
1	Oakland, California (HHI = 0.233342)
2	Sacramento, California (0.246752)
3	New York, New York (0.260098)
4	Chicago, Illinois (0.288738)
5	Long Beach, California (0.28925)
6	San Jose, California (0.296586)
7	Boston, Massachusetts (0.307096)
8	San Diego, California (0.309732)
9	San Francisco, California (0.311076)
10	Houston, Texas (0.314006)
11	Milwaukee, Wisconsin (0.319346)
12	Dallas, Texas (0.321306)
13	Fort Worth, Texas (0.322452)
14	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (0.327408)
15	Las Vegas, Nevada (0.33446)
16	Fresno, California (0.334838)
17	Charlotte, North Carolina (0.335)
18	Los Angeles, California (0.338718)
19	Austin, Texas (0.368604)
20	Oklahoma, Oklahoma (0.372218)
21	Washington, District of Columbia (0.374136)
22	Raleigh, North Carolina (0.379282)
23	Phoenix, Arizona (0.383054)
24	Denver, Colorado (0.389266)
25	Jacksonville, Florida (0.394984)
26	Tucson, Arizona (0.396738)
27	Albuquerque, New Mexico (0.398988)
28	Kansas, Missouri (0.400086)
29	Nashville-Davidson (balance), Tennessee (0.404974)
30	Atlanta, Georgia (0.414592)
31	Indianapolis (balance), Indiana (0.417594)
32	Columbus, Ohio (0.424114)
33	Virginia Beach, Virginia (0.451618)
34	Seattle, Washington (0.468534)
35	San Antonio, Texas (0.472168)
36	Baltimore, Maryland (0.472812)
37	Memphis, Tennessee (0.47361)
38	Mesa, Arizona (0.481466)
39	Omaha, Nebraska (0.498218)
40	Louisville/Jefferson County (balance), Kentucky (0.512516)
41	Colorado Springs, Colorado (0.52527)
42	Miami, Florida (0.535656)
43	Portland, Oregon (0.539222)
44	El Paso, Texas (0.658362)
45	Detroit, Michigan (0.664668)

Priceonomics; data via American Community Survey 2013

But there are other cities where this was not the case, which traveled more between rankings. Chicago, for example, is extremely diverse, at about 30% Black, 30% White, and 30% Hispanic. But it's neighborhood diversity index places it towards the bottom of the chart, just ahead of Louisville, Kentucky, which is almost 68% White.

To highlight these cities -- that were either more segregated or more integrated than their overall demographics would imply -- Dickersin-Prokopp plotted average neighborhood diversity index against overall city diversity index. The cities that are far above the trendline have much more homogenous neighborhoods than predicted by the overall city demographics -- and are thus more segregated. The cities far below the trendline have much more heterogeneous neighborhoods than predicted by the overall city demographics -- and are thus more integrated.

Some of America's Most Diverse Cities
Are Also its Most Segregated

More Segregated

Miami

Baltimore

Atlanta

Chicago

Memphis

Philadelphia

DC

Milwaukee

NYC

Portland

Colorado Springs

Virginia Beach

Albuquerque

More Integrated

Las Vegas

Long Beach

Fresno

SF

Oakland

Sacramento

Average Neighborhood Diversity
(more diverse <---> less diverse)

(more diverse<--->less diverse)
Overall City Diversity
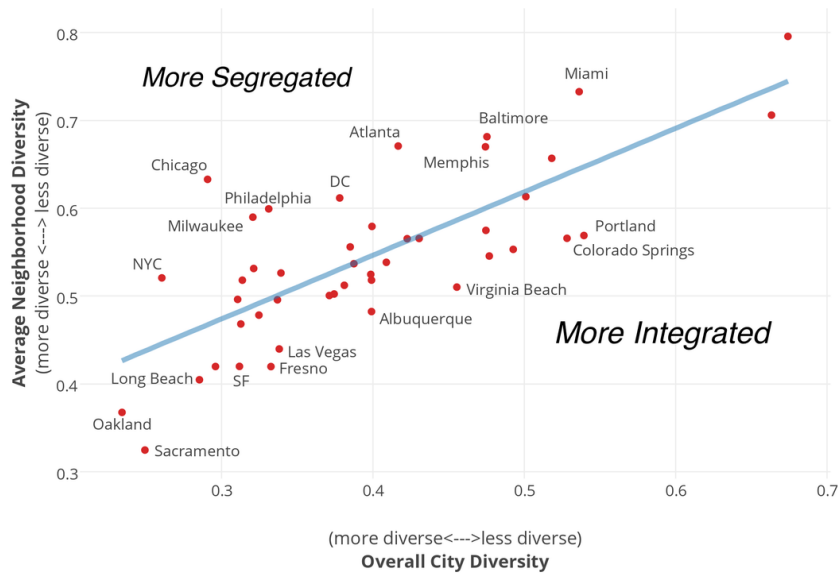
Priceonomics; data via Chris Dickersin-Prokopp

Even New York City is above the line -- the third most demographically diverse city of its size in America falls to 19th on a neighborhood level. California still dominates the bottom left chunk of this plot, with diverse *and* relatively integrated cities. But cities like Portland, Colorado, and Virginia Beach also stand out as not-very-diverse, but well-integrated.

This post was written by Rosie Cima (https://www.twitter.com/rosiecima); you can follow her on Twitter (https://twitter.com/rosiecima) here. To get occasional notifications when we write blog posts, please **sign up for our email list (http://priceonomics.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe? u=f66f07e4e312263b2c3c8405d&id=6c081361d7)**

Share   7.3k   Tweet

P
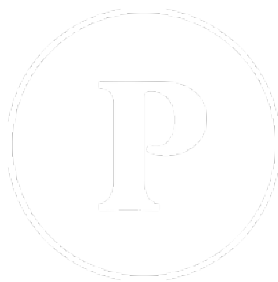
Content Tracker

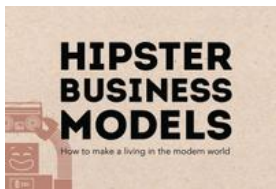A dashboard for tracking content marketing performance

Learn More

(http://priceonomics.com/content-tracker-by-priceonomics/)

More Posts from Priceonomics to Read

A free tool from

PRICEONOMICS

Hipster Business Models: A New Book by Priceonomics (http://priceonomics.com/hipster-business-models-a-new-book-by-priceonomics/)

Jan. 6, 2015 · 9,540 views

We wrote a book! We hope you enjoy it.

Read More » (http://priceonomics.com/hipster-business-models-a-new-book-by-priceonomics/)

The Rapidly Escalating Price of Cancer Drugs (http://priceonomics.com/the-rapidly-escalating-price-of-cancer-drugs/)

Jan. 29, 2014 · 2,131 views

Today, nearly all cancer drugs cost over $100,000 per year. What makes them so expensive?

Read More » (http://priceonomics.com/the-rapidly-escalating-price-of-cancer-drugs/)

Why Crime Needs Cash (http://priceonomics.com/why-crime-needs-cash/)

May 7, 2014 · 9,238 views

Could reducing the supply of paper currency stifle crime?

Read More » (http://priceonomics.com/why-crime-needs-cash/)

---

13 Comments   **Priceonomics**   1 **Login** ▾

♥ Recommend 1   ⬈ Share   Sort by Best ▾

Join the discussion…

joel · a year ago

So, the west coast is doing it right, and the east coast is still battling the ghost of an america gone by

9 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Mcineral ➔ joel · a year ago

Yeah, cause when I think of getting it right, Oakland usually comes to mind.

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

E-LO · a year ago

This is an awesome update and certainly more accurately represents how a city "feels". I do wonder what direction each city is headed in - which have improved and why? Is it more diverse in older parts of the city (infill) or in greenfill sprawl? And how are we doing w.r.t. income diversity? Always more questions...

4 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

T Bush · a year ago

This site has a neat model for building intuition about how bias (even expired biases) shape segregation:

http://ncase.me/polygons/

The bottom line is: being unbiased will not undo past biases, desegregation takes intentional work

2 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

elesterb · a year ago

Who really cares?

2 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Vigilant Bystander ➔ elesterb · a year ago

You do. That's why you took the time to read this and post a comment.

4 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Miss Y → Vigilant Bystander · a year ago

Not necessarily

1 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Chatter Snavely · a year ago

To get down to the personal level, the "most integrated" city is the one with the highest proportion of mixed-race individuals.

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

EqualOpportunityCynic · a year ago

"Even New York City is above the line -- the third most demographically diverse city of its size in America falls to 19th on a neighborhood level."

Presumably this is some sort of regression line, yes? Therefore, being "above the line" just means that NYC's neighborhoods are somewhat less diverse than we would predict for a city of that level of overall diversity. 19th is still somewhat more neighborhood-diverse than the median.

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

EqualOpportunityCynic → EqualOpportunityCynic · a year ago

Likewise I'm not sure that I'd call Portland (31st of 45) exactly well-integrated in its neighborhoods, although I get what you're saying. You mean that given its overall homogeneity, its neighborhoods are well integrated. Still sounds pretty homogenous though.

And I presume you left off part of the name of Colorado Springs.

1 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Matt · a year ago

What are the two cities at the far right - their labels are cut off. I suspect one is Oakland...

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

jmars0101 → Matt · a year ago

No, Oakland is down at the bottom left.

1 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Matthew Johnson → Matt · a year ago

Probably El Paso and Detroit.

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›

Popular Posts (http://priceonomics.com/?s=popular)

Content Tracker (https://tracker.priceonomics.com)

Data Services (http://priceonomics.com/data-services/)

Content Marketing (http://priceonomics.com/the-content-marketing-handbook/)

Jobs (http://priceonomics.com/jobs/)

About Us (https://priceonomics.com/about/)

Terms (http://priceonomics.com/privacy-and-terms/)

Feedback (http://priceonomics.com/contact/)