

The Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers University-Newark is pleased to present "Map of the Week" — a weekly blog series designed to explore some of the community and economic development and social equity issues present in the Newark, New Jersey region through the use of maps and infographics. The Cornwall Center uses research and demonstration to address key urban and metropolitan problems in Newark and the surrounding region.

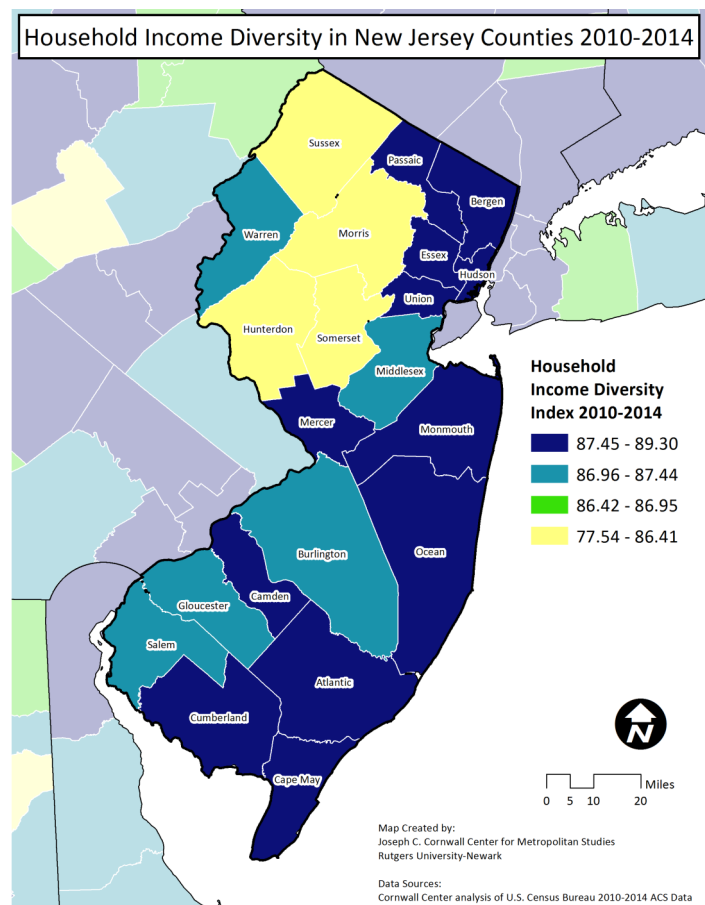
Exploring Income Diversity and Segregation in New Jersey

January 11, 2016:

Can New Jersey's Counties be Considered Mixed Income?

In this series of posts, we will be exploring the extent of income diversity and segregation in New Jersey. Just as the lack of racial and ethnic diversity and the presence of racial and ethnic segregation can coincide with certain socioeconomic outcomes, so too can class diversity and class segregation. Household income is just one way of observing diversity and segregation of social class or status; other ways, which we will explore at later dates, include education attained and occupation, among others. While researchers suggest that [certain facets of racial segregation have been declining recently in American metropolitan areas](#)¹, [segregation by class or social status has been growing](#)² and plays a significant part in the residential segregation experienced throughout the country. This means that today Americans are more likely to live in "pockets" with people who are of the same class as themselves (e.g. income level, education level, occupation group) than they are to live in pockets with people of similar races or ethnicities. This residential sorting by household income greatly affects neighborhoods, towns, and individuals throughout the country, which we will discuss in the conclusion of this month's posts.

Map 1: Household Income Diversity in NJ Counties 2010-2014

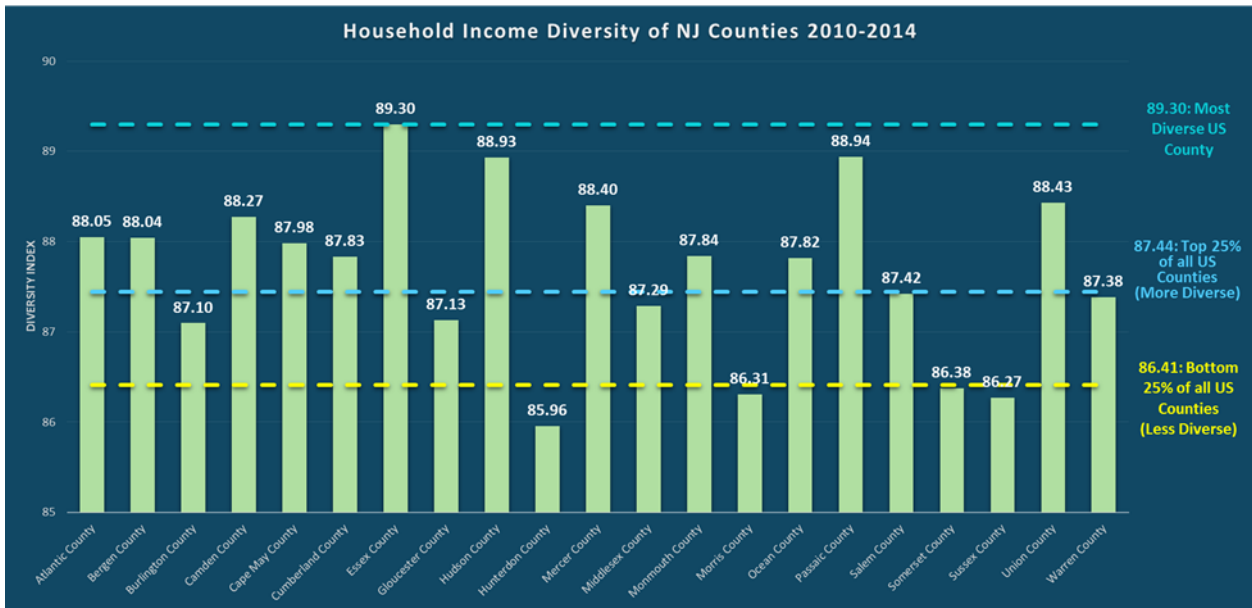


To understand the extent of income segregation in New Jersey, we have used the same methods we employed to analyze racial and ethnic segregation. This means that we must first understand how diverse New Jersey's counties are. Just as in that method, we have used data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, only instead of race or ethnicity of individuals, this time we are analyzing the diversity of household income in each county. In this exercise, we used the 10 mutually exclusive income "buckets" or deciles provided by the American Community Survey. In this instance, the Diversity Index would tell us how evenly distributed household income is in a particular county. The higher a county's Household Income Diversity Index, the more likely it is that similar shares of county households fall into every income group. If household income in a county were evenly distributed among all ten income groups, exactly 10% of all households would fall into each household income group. The resulting Household Income Diversity Index of a county in this scenario of total income diversity would be 100.00. To review how we calculated the diversity index of counties, please see our [previous posts regarding racial and ethnic diversity](#).

Map 1 shows how household income diversity plays out across counties in New Jersey. Counties are shaded based on how their Household Income Diversity Index score compares with all other US counties. Counties whose Diversity Index score falls in the bottom quartile (25%) of all US counties are shaded in yellow, while counties whose Diversity Index score falls in the top quartile of US counties are shaded in dark blue.

For another view of how Household Income Diversity Index scores of individual New Jersey counties compare to the quartiles of all US Counties, see Chart 1.

Chart 1: Household Diversity Index Scores of New Jersey Counties



Data Source: Cornwall Center Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 5-year ACS Data

Looking at the chart above, we can see how far particular New Jersey counties rise above or fall below national quartiles of household income diversity. We can also see that Essex County is, in fact, the most diverse county in the US in terms of household income (i.e. has the highest Household Income Diversity Index score of any US county). While it doesn't have a perfect score of 100.00, its score of 89.30 means that households in Essex County are more evenly split among the ten income groups than any other county in the US. We also see that

that 12 of New Jersey's 21 counties have Household Income Diversity Index scores that fall in the top quartile of US Counties and can be considered more diverse in terms of household income. This equates to 57% of New Jersey's Counties being considered more diverse, ranking it seventh out of all states, including the District of Columbia, as seen below in Table 1.

Table 1: Top Ten US States by Percentage of Counties Considered More Diverse

STATE	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	NUMBER OF COUNTIES WHOSE DIVERSITY INDEX IS IN TOP 25% OF US COUNTIES	PERCENTAGE OF COUNTIES WHOSE DIVERSITY INDEX IS IN TOP 25% OF US COUNTIES
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1	1	100%
RHODE ISLAND	5	5	100%
MASSACHUSETTS	14	11	79%
CALIFORNIA	58	43	74%
LOUISIANA	64	47	73%
CONNECTICUT	8	5	63%
NEW JERSEY	21	12	57%
NEW YORK	62	30	48%
NEW MEXICO	33	15	45%
TEXAS	254	108	43%

Data Source: Cornwall Center Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 5-year ACS Data

Yet another way to understand if New Jersey's counties are diverse, in terms of household income, is shown in Table 2. In this table, we can see that not only does Essex County have the highest Household Income Diversity Index score of any US county, but three New Jersey counties fall in the top 10 highest ranked US counties. No other state has more than one county in the top ten.

Table 2: Top Ten US Counties by Household Income Diversity Index Score

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD INCOME DIVERSITY INDEX 2010-2014
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	89.30
SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS	89.17
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA	89.16
ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA	89.13
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.94
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	88.94
HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.93
KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK	88.91
YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA	88.87
OLDHAM COUNTY, TEXAS	88.86

Data Source: Cornwall Center Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 5-year ACS Data

This evidence not only suggests that New Jersey counties are very diverse, in terms of household income, but also proves that New Jersey counties are some of the most diverse in the US. However, this tells us nothing in regard to how household income is physically distributed throughout a county. Check in next week as we explore the distribution of household income within individual New Jersey neighborhoods to see if neighborhoods are as diverse as the counties they lie within, or if pockets of similar incomes are seen throughout counties. For now, look at Table 3, below, to see how each New Jersey county compares in terms of its Household Income Diversity.

Table 3: Household Income Diversity Index Score of NJ Counties

COUNTY	INCOME DIVERSITY INDEX 2010-2014	US COUNTY QUARTILE
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	89.30	1
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.94	1
HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.93	1
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.43	1
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.40	1
CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.27	1
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.05	1
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	88.04	1
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.98	1
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.84	1
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.83	1
OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.82	1
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.42	2
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.38	2
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.29	2
GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.13	2
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	87.10	2
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	86.38	4
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	86.31	4
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	86.27	4
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	85.96	4

Data Source: Cornwall Center Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 5-year ACS Data

¹Frey, W. H. (2015, December 8). *Census shows modest declines in black-white segregation*. Retrieved from Brookings Institute: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2015/12/08-census-black-white-segregation-frey>

²Bischoff, K., & Reardon, S. F. (2013). *Residential Segregation by income, 1970-2009*. 2010 Project of the Russell Sage Foundation and Brown University.

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