

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.

New Jersey's Diversity Paradox:

Why Diversity and Integration Aren't Quite the Same Thing

Post 1.2: November 24, 2015:

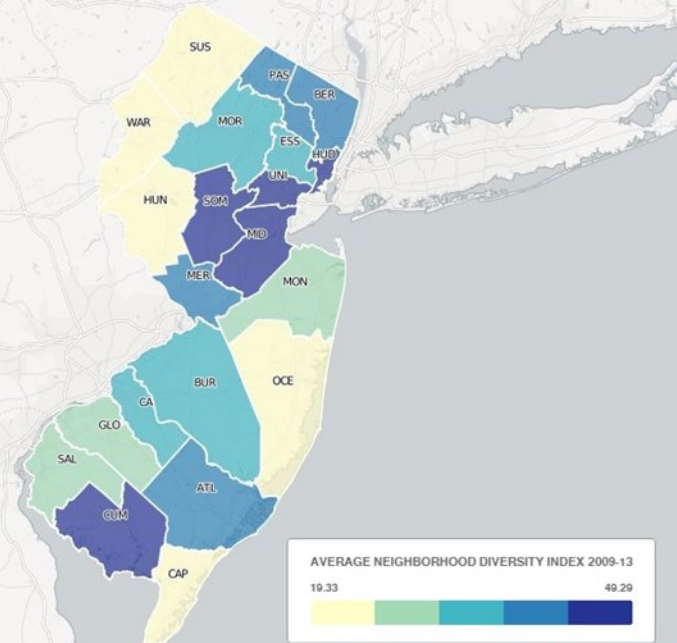
How diverse are neighborhoods within New Jersey Counties?

Neighborhood Racial and Ethnic Diversity in New Jersey Counties

What is Neighborhood Diversity?

Diversity is the mixture of different racial and ethnic groups within a particular area. To measure neighborhood diversity, we have calculated the average of the Diversity Indexes of each neighborhood within a county. The Diversity Index measures the evenness or unevenness of the distribution of racial and ethnic groups in a particular geography and represents the probability that two randomly chosen individuals from the same area will be from different racial / ethnic groups. The Diversity Index ranges from 0 to 87.5. The higher a county's Average Neighborhood Diversity Index Score, the more likely it is that individual neighborhoods within the county are diverse.

This map shows the average Diversity Index of all neighborhoods within each county.



In our last post, we calculated the Diversity Index of each county and were able to show that New Jersey is home to some of the most diverse counties in the country. In this post, we will explore the concept of neighborhood diversity, or the distribution of racial and ethnic groups across neighborhoods within counties. To measure diversity of neighborhoods within counties, we use the same approach used to calculate Diversity Indexes of counties, only here we are calculating the Diversity Indexes of neighborhoods.ⁱ We then took the average of the Diversity Index of all a county's neighborhoods to arrive with an **Average Neighborhood Diversity Index Score** for each county. This index will help us understand how diverse the average neighborhood is within each county. To familiarize yourself with our process of calculating the Diversity Index, [see our previous post](#) . For a more detailed explanation of neighborhood diversity, please check out our footnotes at the end of this post.ⁱⁱ

Even though counties can be extremely diverse, neighborhoods within each county are often times more homogenous. This is true throughout the counties of New Jersey. By our calculations, Hudson County has the highest Average Neighborhood Diversity Index Score at **49.29**. This may seem like a large difference from Hudson County's Countywide Diversity Index Score of **69.80**. In fact, the numerical difference between a county's countywide diversity and its average neighborhood diversity plays an important role in calculating integration and segregation. This is a concept we will discuss in our next post, but for now, it is important to understand that Hudson County is both diverse at the countywide level *and* at the neighborhood level. Considering the high diversity at both levels, we can suggest that Hudson County is home to a great mixture of different races and ethnicities, as are its individual neighborhoods.

The same is not true for Essex County, however, which has the second-highest Countywide Diversity Index Score in the state, but whose Average Neighborhood Diversity Index Score of **37.78** only ranks 10th out of 21 counties. We can interpret this result to mean that, while Essex County is home to a great mixture of different races and ethnicities, its individual neighborhoods are less diverse.

Remembering that the Diversity Index represents the probability that two randomly chosen individuals from the same area will be from different racial/ethnic groups, we can interpret these results to mean there is nearly a one-in-two (**50 percent**) chance that two randomly chosen individuals from the average Hudson County neighborhood will be from different racial or ethnic groups while there is only a **38 percent** chance of this happening in the average Essex County neighborhood. This means it is **30 percent** more likely in Hudson County than in Essex County that two randomly chosen individuals from the average neighborhood will be from two different groups. That is a difference that is hard to overlook.

If you live in a county that has a low Average Neighborhood Diversity Index Score, you are much more likely to live in a neighborhood where the majority of your neighbors look like you. In Essex County, for instance, there is a **62 percent** chance that a random neighbor of yours will be the same race or ethnicity as you.ⁱⁱⁱ See the map above, or the table on the next page to see how average neighborhood diversity compares across all counties in the state.

Check back next week as we explore one final concept related to racial and ethnic diversity: integration and segregation within counties.

New Jersey County Diversity Rankings

COUNTY	COUNTYWIDE DIVERSITY INDEX	AVERAGE NEIGHBORHOOD DIVERSITY INDEX
HUDSON	69.80	49.29
ESSEX	69.24	37.78
UNION	68.21	46.18
MIDDLESEX	67.57	48.87
PASSAIC	64.30	39.92
CUMBERLAND	64.15	46.43
MERCER	64.07	41.83
ATLANTIC	60.56	42.72
CAMDEN	58.73	37.67
SOMERSET	57.73	45.64
BERGEN	56.97	44.88
BURLINGTON	47.77	36.01
MORRIS	42.59	34.16
MONMOUTH	39.60	29.96
SALEM	39.33	30.99
GLOUCESTER	33.90	27.36
WARREN	27.33	23.53
OCEAN	25.88	19.33
CAPE MAY	24.36	18.41
HUNTERDON	22.78	19.57
SUSSEX	21.32	19.80

Footnotes

ⁱWe are using census block groups to define neighborhoods. Census block groups are subdivisions of census tracts and generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people. Census block groups represent the smallest geographical unit for which public American Community Survey data is available. Using this geographical unit allows for an analysis with increased granularity over census tracts, and one that is available in more regular intervals compared to the decennial census.

ⁱⁱThe Average Neighborhood Diversity Index of a county is always equal to or lower than its Countywide Diversity Index. In other words, if a county is not racially and ethnically diverse overall, its neighborhoods cannot be considered racially and ethnically diverse. However, the reverse can be true, and often is. Counties can be diverse, overall, but their individual neighborhoods may not be.

ⁱⁱⁱThis is calculated as the inverse, or one minus the Diversity Index.