

Hidden Treasures: Hamilton County's Stable Integrated Communities



Study Objective

What are the actual, current facts vs. perceptions about integrated neighborhoods?

Study Scope

122 neighborhoods in Cincinnati and suburban communities in Hamilton County



Study Components

Part One

- Examined changing racial makeup
- Evaluated socioeconomic status

Part Two

- Interviewed residents individually and in groups
- Had residents document community attributes



Part One

“Stable Integrated Community”

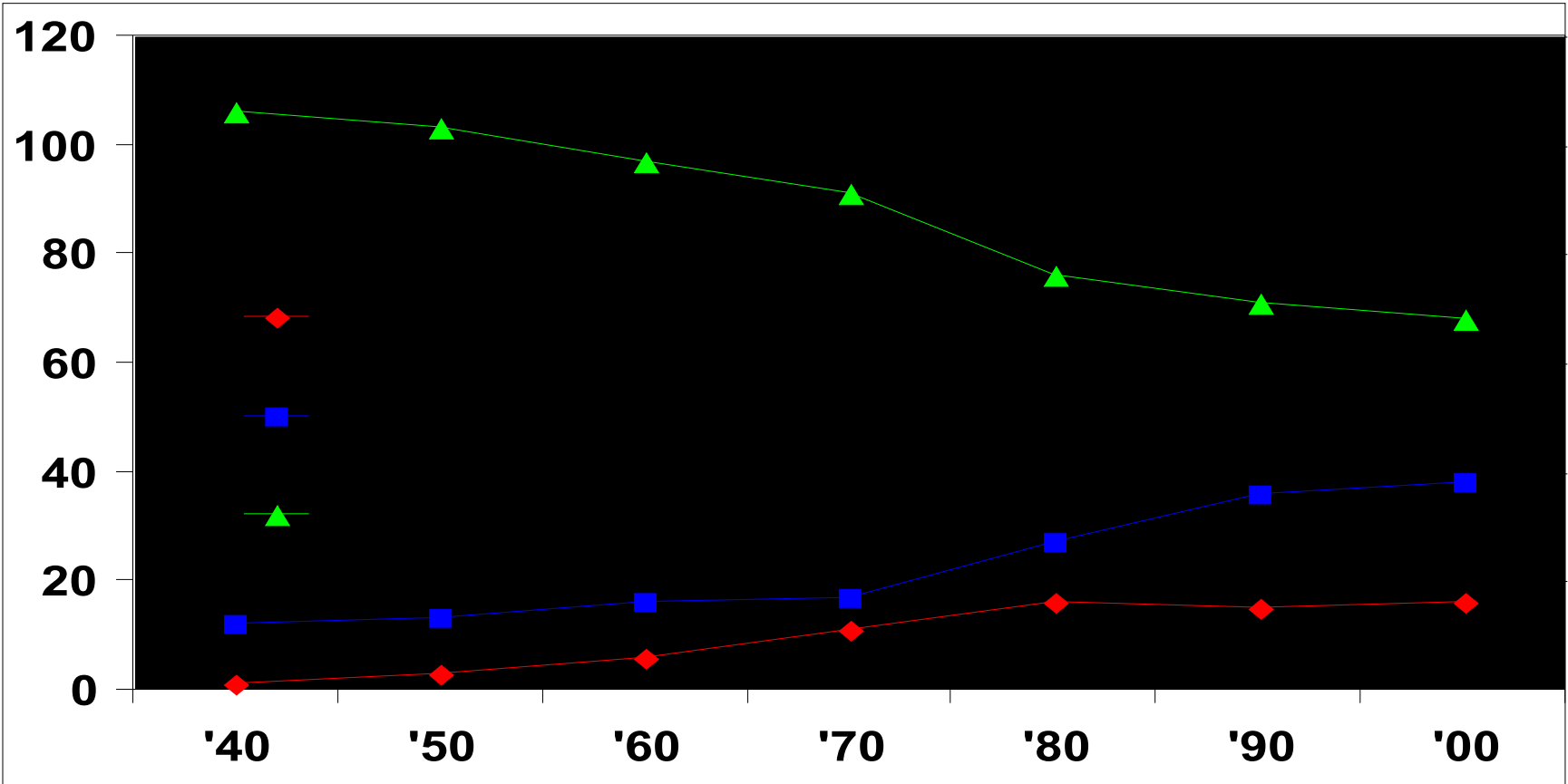
Qualifying Criteria

- **Diversity:** between 10% - 60% Black
- **Dispersal:** Dissimilarity (Segregation)
Index less than 65
- **Durability:** persistence of *diversity* and *dispersal* over two or more censuses

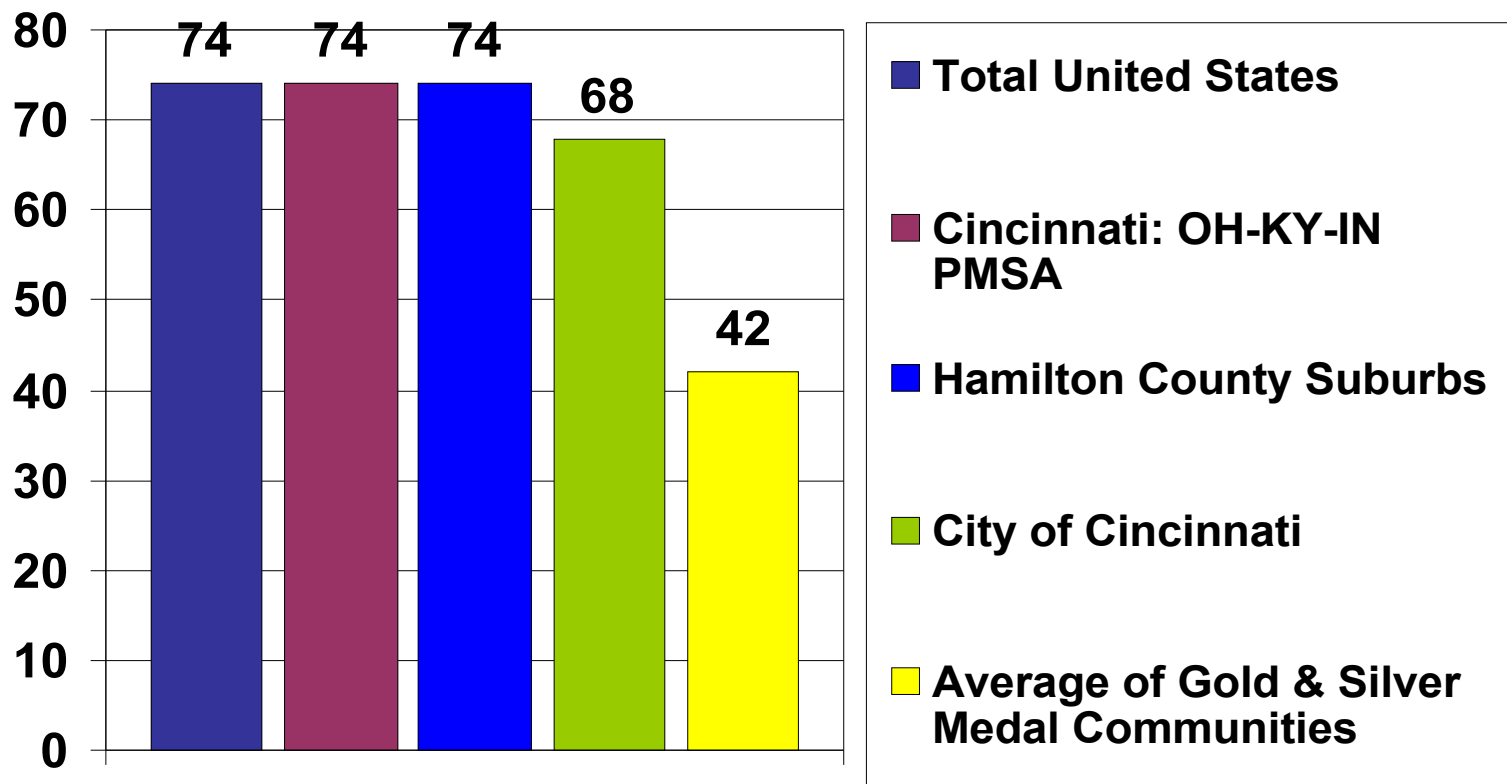


Diversity Trends in Hamilton County

Communities: Diverse Communities (Blue) rising,
Majority Black Communities (Red) flat after 1980.



Dissimilarity (Segregation) Index Benchmarks (> 60 is hyper-segregated)



Stable Integrated Communities

Gold Medal: A community that achieved integration for four censuses (1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000)

Silver Medal: A community that achieved integration for three censuses (1980, 1990, and 2000)

Bronze Medal: A community that achieved integration for two censuses (1990 and 2000)



Gold Medal Communities: Integrated 1970 through 2000 (Dissimilarity Index)

- Corryville (38)
- Madisonville (43)
- Central Business District/Riverfront (51)



Silver Medal Communities: Integrated 1980 through 2000 (Dissimilarity Index)

- Spring Grove Village (Winton Place) (21)
- Fairview/Clifton Heights (34)
- City of Forest Park (34)
- University Heights (35)
- Northside (36)
- Pleasant Ridge (41)
- College Hill (43)
- Kennedy Heights (50)
- East Walnut Hills (51)
- Mt. Airy (52)
- N. Avondale/Paddock Hills (57)

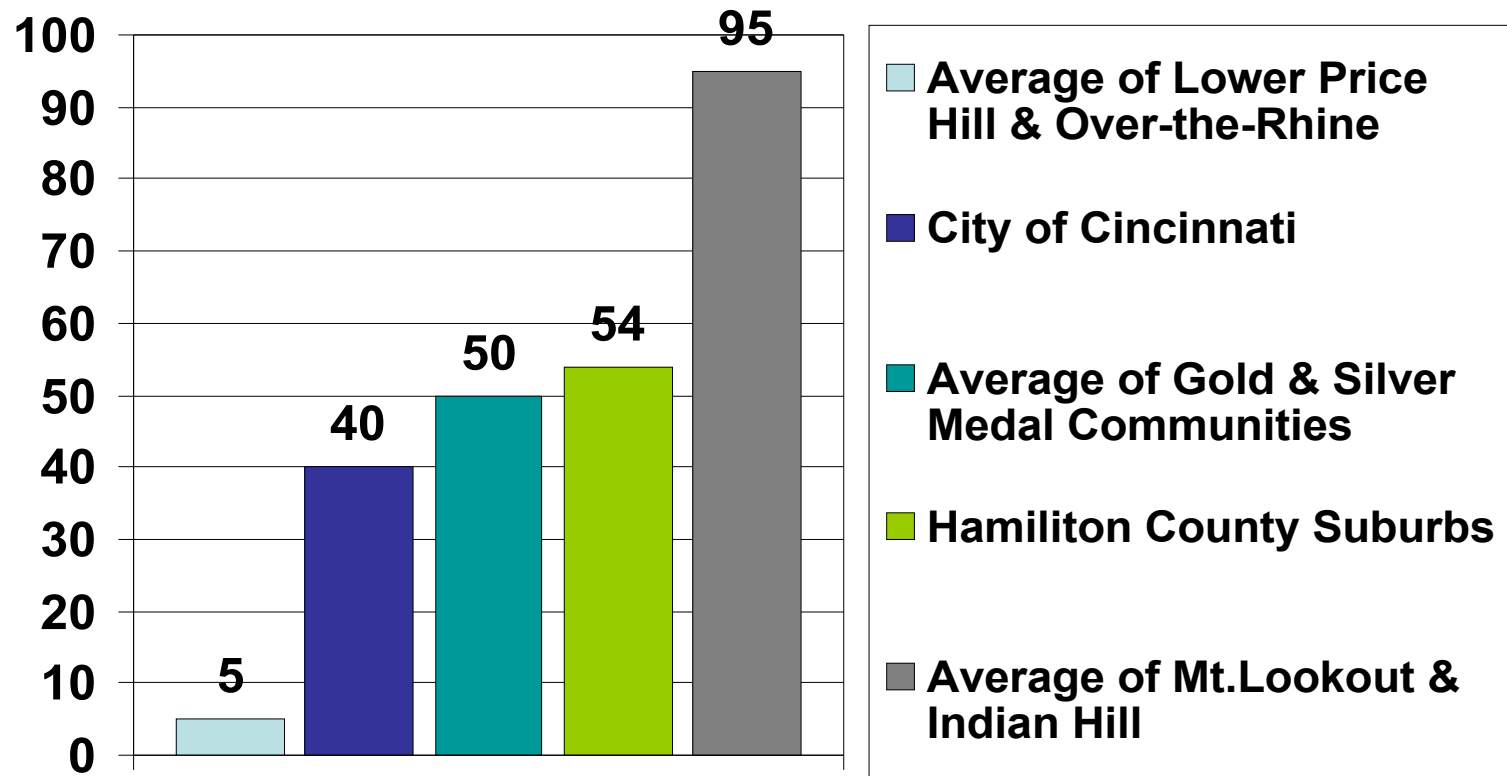


Socio-Economic Status Index Components

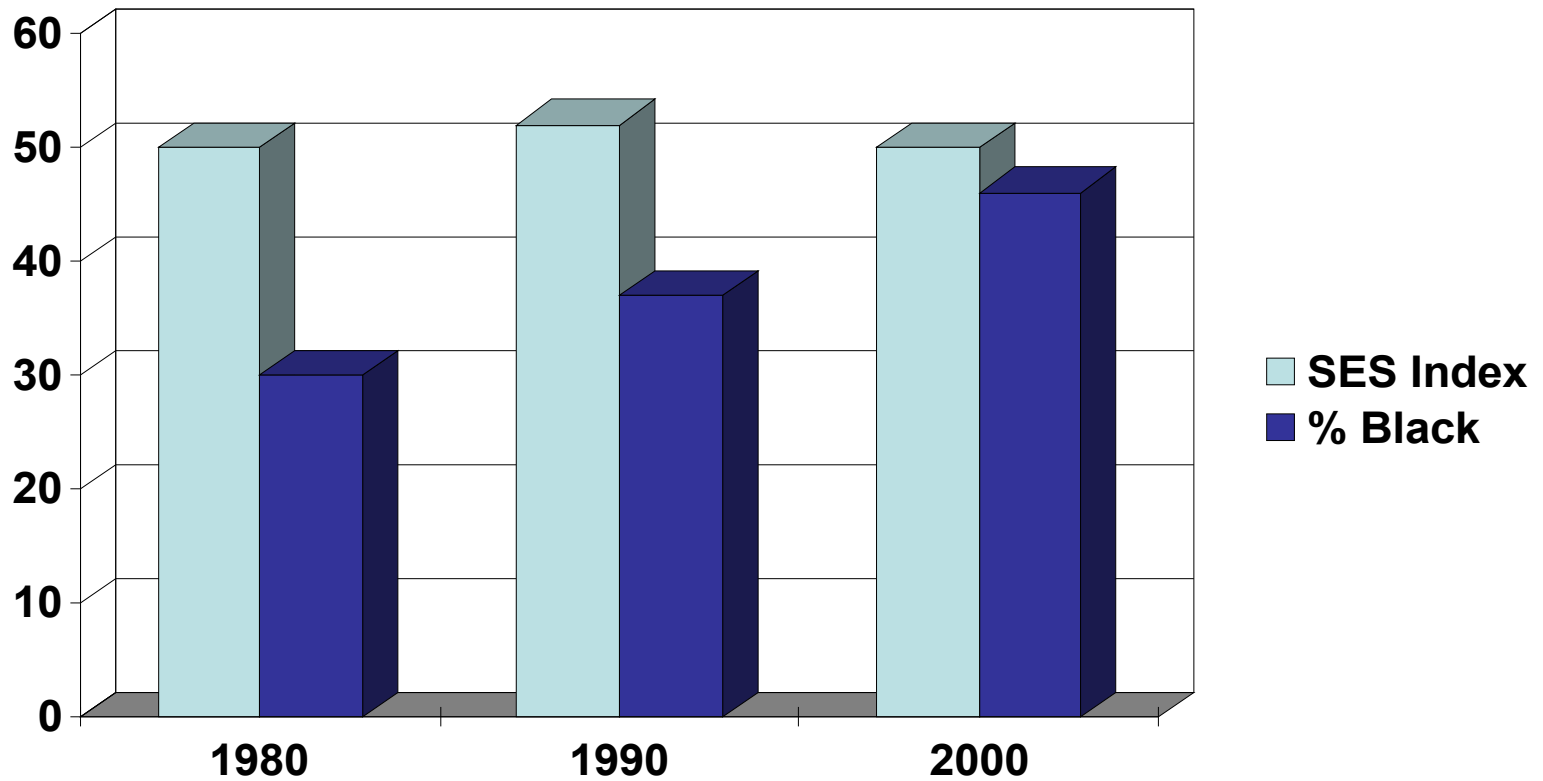
- Median Family Income
- Education level of adults in the household
- Persons per room in the dwelling
- Family structure
- Occupation



Year 2000 Socio - Economic Status Benchmarks Showing Gold & Silver Medal Communities Compared to Hamilton County Suburbs



Gold Medal Communities: SES Index Constant While % Black Population Rose from 30% to 46%.



Part Two. Representative Stable Integrated Communities Examined in Depth

Neighborhood	Population (% Black)	Dissimilarity Index	Socio-Economic Status Index
Madisonville	10,827 (60.2%)	43.3	47.7
Northside	9,389 (38.7%)	35.7	36.6
Pleasant Ridge	8,872 (35.6%)	40.8	59.3



Group Discussions and Individual Interviews

Participants were asked to describe the

- Benefits
- Costs
- Assets
- Threats
- Opportunities

of living in integrated communities.



Part Two Findings: What residents of integrated communities value

- Learning about others who are different
- Living in a purposefully diverse neighborhood
- Having multiple kinds of housing to choose from
- Having an abundance of small businesses and support services
- Having active faith communities
- Having safe communities
- Getting more people engaged in community events and decision-making
- Being among and helping develop caring people



Study Conclusions

Part One: Integration doesn't produce all or predominantly black neighborhoods, nor does the socio-economic status decline.

Part Two: People who live in integrated neighborhoods are happy with their choices, their "hidden treasures."



Desired Outcomes of This Study

- Scale-up. County-wide pride in integrated neighborhoods which inspires segregated neighborhoods to seek a similar quality of life.
- Systemic change. Public policies and industry practices that create and sustain integrated neighborhoods everywhere they occur.



Stable Integrated Communities

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