

Krivo, Lauren J. and Robert L. Kaufman. 1999. **"How Low Can It Go? Declining Black-White Segregation in a Multi-Ethnic Context."** (Previously presented at the meetings of the Population Association of America, Miami, May 1994). *Demography* 36: 93-109.

### **Abstract**

This paper extends research on whites' neighborhood contact with blacks, population composition, and prospects for desegregation by developing a new measure of the floor of racial residential segregation under conditions of low black-white contact. The measure incorporates the way in which multi-ethnic contexts further constrain levels of black-white segregation. The results show that black-white desegregation is likely when the black population is small but unlikely otherwise. Yet, when multiple ethnic groups are sufficiently large, a moderate level of black-white segregation is necessary for whites to maintain low neighborhood contact with blacks, even when the proportion of African Americans is small.