Segregation also occurs by class, with Columbus following a national trend of more residents concentrated in very poor or very affluent neighborhoods, and a decline in the number of residents living in middle income neighborhoods.

Population Group | Vacancy Rate | College Attendance Rate | Poverty Rate
--- | --- | --- | ---
White | 9.6 | 33.6 | 11.8
African American | 16.1 | 25.2 | 20.7
Latino | 12.2 | 31.9 | 15.4
Asian | 10.2 | 45.7 | 12.3

To access the report and other online material, visit: http://www.kirwaninstitute.org/community-development-collaborative/
The City Expands: Growth & Decentralization

Like most urban areas in the United States, Franklin County has experienced a pattern of urban decentralization over the past fifty years. Over one-third of the county’s census tracts - mostly in the suburbs - doubled the number of housing units from 1970 to 2005/2009. At the same time, most tracts within the I-270 loop experienced stagnant housing unit growth (or loss), and saw increases in vacant properties. However, in recent decades, some city neighborhoods, especially near the city center, have begun to experience renewed investment.

Franklin County Population 1970 & 2010

The Recession & the Housing Crisis Hit Home

Franklin County experienced a general decrease in adjusted median income from 1970 to 2005/2009; 83% of tracts experienced an overall loss of income, with the 2000s being the worst decade for median household income decline. Between 2000 and 2005/2009, more than 8 in 10 tracts experienced an increase in poverty and over a quarter of tracts experienced over a 100% increase in poverty.

Changing Demographics

In 1970, foreign-born residents were a small percentage of the population. By 2005/2009, there were significant populations of foreign-born residents throughout Franklin County. Of today’s foreign-born populations, a significant number are non-citizens. Franklin County has also experienced a diversification of languages since 1970. In 2005/2009, one-fourth of tracts had more than 10% of their populations who did not speak English.

From 2000 to 2005/2009, tracts in which at least 15% of the housing units were vacant quadrupled, from 9% to 36%. In many neighborhoods in Franklin County, this reversal of fortune has literally stopped revitalization in its tracks:

"Vacancies...have stymied past progress and we’ve had to reorient our focus on stabilizing neighborhood housing markets rather...on...economic development, infrastructure, and preserving affordable housing."

Vacancy Rates: 2000 & 2010

Educational Improvement

Franklin County and its neighborhoods have seen tremendous growth in educational attainment in the past fifty years. However, severe achievement gaps exist: in 2009, 45.5% of census tracts had a 90% or greater high school degree achievement rate, while 4 census tracts had less than a 50% high school graduation rate.


