RACIAL DIVERSITY BY CENSUS BLOCK GROUP
St. Louis Metropolitan Area

Calculating Racial Diversity Using the Shannon-Weaver Index

This map depicts a measure of racial diversity for the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Using U.S. Census 2000 data, an index of diversity was calculated for each census block group using the Shannon-Weaver Index. The Shannon-Weaver Index was developed as part of information theory and has since been applied to social science. It takes into account the number and geographic spread of inputs, in this case, races. The applied index, in this data, displays racial diversity relative to the St. Louis Metropolitan area. For this index, “Diverse” areas have a more even mix of races, while lower diversity areas are more segregated.

Racially diverse areas are found in South St. Louis City, North St. Louis County, and Central St. Clair County. The most segregated areas are found in Northwest St. Clair County, West and South St. Louis County, and rural areas.

LEGEND

- High Diversity
- Above Average Diversity
- Average Diversity
- Below Average Diversity
- Low Diversity
- No Diversity
- No Population

Sources: East-West Gateway Council of Governments, U.S. Census Bureau