



A shared sense of responsibility for each other is a crucial element of opportunity. While public opinion that government has a responsibility to those who need assistance increased, trust in the government declined.


Another key indicator of community is racial segregation in schools. In the twelve years from 1993-94 to 2005-06, K-12 public education segregation has significantly decreased for white and American Indian students, but significantly increased for black, Hispanic, and Asian students.

Our overall assessment indicates that opportunity for community was mixed for the years examined.

INDICATOR	2009 UPDATE	SUPPORTING DATA
<p>Trust in Government: evaluates public opinion research on trust in the government.¹</p>		<p>From 2007 to 2008, Americans expressed an increased level of mistrust in the government, meaning opportunity declined in this area. When asked, they responded in the affirmative to the following:</p> <p>“Just about always” trusted the government 2008: 17% of those surveyed 2007: 24% of those surveyed Change: decreased 29.2% SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>“Never” trusted the government 2008: 9% of those surveyed 2007: 5% of those surveyed Change: increased 80.0%* SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>*An increase in a negative perception reflects a decline in opportunity; therefore, the opportunity arrow shows a decline.</p>
<p>Government Responsibility to Those Who Need Assistance: evaluates the American public’s views of the obligation of the U.S. government to aid people who need assistance.²</p>		<p>The American people between 2003 and 2007 have increasingly believed that the U.S. government has a role to play in protecting people who need assistance. Therefore, opportunity in this area increased.</p> <p>The government has a responsibility to take care of people who can’t take care of themselves 2007: 69% of those surveyed agreed with the above statement 2003: 66% of those surveyed agreed with the above statement Change: increased 4.5% SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>Help more needy people even if debt increases 2007: 54% of those surveyed agreed with the above statement 2003: 54% of those surveyed agreed with the above statement Change: remained constant SIGNIFICANT: NO</p>

¹ Galston et al., *Change You Can Believe In Needs a Government You Can Trust*, Third Way, November 2008, Table 1, available at http://www.thirdway.org/data/product/file/176/Third_Way_-_Trust_in_Government_Report.pdf.

² *Trends in Political Values and Core Attitudes: 1987-2007*, The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, March 2007, pg 13, available at <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/312.pdf>.

INDICATOR	2009 UPDATE	SUPPORTING DATA
<p>K-12 Public Education Segregation: a measurement of racial and ethnic isolation in public schools. (Note: numbers may not add up due to rounding.)³</p> <p><i>“Majority white school”:</i> a public school where fewer than 5% of the students are non-white.</p> <p><i>“Majority minority school”:</i> a public school where fewer than 5% of the students are white.</p>		<p>In the twelve years from 1993-94 to 2005-06, K-12 public education segregation has significantly decreased for white and American Indian students but significantly increased for black, Hispanic, and Asian students. Therefore, opportunity in this area was mixed.</p> <p>White Students enrolled in a “majority white school” 2005-06: 21%, or 5.8 million 1993-04: 34%, or 9.6 million Change: the percent decreased 38.2%, 3.8 million SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>Black Students enrolled in a “majority minority school” 2005-06: 31%, or 2.6 million 1993-04: 28%, or 2.0 million Change: the percent increased 10.7%, or 0.6 million SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>Hispanic Students enrolled in a “majority minority school” 2005-06: 29%, or 2.7 million 1993-04: 25%, or 1.4 million Change: percent increased 16.0%, or 1.4 million SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>Asian Students enrolled in a “majority minority school” 2005-06: 8%, or 185,400 1993-04: 6%, or 91,300 Change: percent increased 33.3%, or 94,100 SIGNIFICANT: YES</p> <p>American Indian Students enrolled in a “majority minority school” 2005-06: 16%, or 83,200 1993-04: 18%, or 95,400 Change: decreased 11.1%, or 12,200 SIGNIFICANT: YES</p>

³ Pew Hispanic Center, *Racial and Ethnic Composition of Schools*, August 30, 2007, Table 1, available at <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/79.pdf>.