

These generalizations about region and metropolitan size must be further modified by considering population dispersal and relative size of the nonwhite population. Disparities in all regions and size groups tend to be exaggerated in metropolitan areas where a high proportion of the total population lives outside the central city. While central cities are more likely to contain disadvantaged groups of the population, suburbs in highly suburbanized metropolitan areas, rather than being wealthy as in the large and Northeastern SMSA's, are likely to represent the large middle class. Where nonwhites constitute an important element of the total metropolitan population, the classic disparity pattern occurs in the North, but in the South and West the pattern runs the other way—high socioeconomic status in the cities and lower status outside.

In addition to modifying the simplified notion of uniformly low socioeconomic status in the cities and high status in the suburbs, the analysis demonstrates a lack of significant central city-suburban disparity in some unexpected cases. One of the most surprising findings has to do with education. On the whole, cities and suburbs show little difference in the proportion of their adult populations with less than 4 years of high school—an inadequate education by today's standards—or in their high school dropout rates. Under-education of youth and adults is an equally serious problem in both urban and suburban segments of most metropolitan areas.

Significant central city suburban differences may be summarized by a series of successively modified lists,⁶ presented according to metropolitan area characteristics:

<u>Central city proportion higher</u>	<u>Equivalent proportions</u>	<u>Suburban higher</u>
In SMSA's in general, all regions and sizes		
Elderly; unrelated individuals; broken families with children; clerical and sales workers; household and service, total and nonwhite; working wives; unemployed; nonwhite movers; nonwhites.	Ages 10 to 44 total and nonwhite; nonwhite craftsmen; education; dropouts.	Young children; migrants, total and nonwhite; families with children; craftsmen; upper middle rentals; commuters; highest nonwhite housing values (except South).
In addition to the above, in large SMSA's in all regions		
Nonwhite clerical and sales; unsound rentals; low income.	-----	Upper middle nonwhite housing values; highest rentals.
In small SMSA's, all regions		
College graduates; professional and technical; managers; household and service, total and nonwhite; income over \$8,000; highest housing values; upper middle nonwhite housing values.	Movers, between 1955-60; nonwhite clerical and sales; unemployment; highest rents.	Undereducated; operatives; middle income; unsound rentals.
In SMSA's with a high percentage of nonwhites, irrespective of region, size, or population dispersal		
Nonwhite age 30 to 44; nonwhite movers; broken families with children; household and service workers; unemployed.	-----	Families with children; craftsmen; migrants.

⁶ Reference is to total population unless the characteristic is prefixed by "nonwhite."