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On prompt #1

The topic of segregation has surely made an impact in American society as it and its effects are still talked about to this day. The more notable ones are the easiest to pinpoint and talk about but just as an iceberg's true size is hidden beneath the waters, segregation too had its lesser-known consequences. In my community, Tucson, Arizona, many will point out that the city is a fairly integrated place as one could see people of all backgrounds walking its streets. Although true to a certain extent, Tucson has seen a fair amount of segregation that not too many have realized.

In a high school class here in Tucson, there are people of varied ethnicities and cultures but when they go home after school, there is a clear divide. White students go to their homes where there is typically a white majority, while non-white students go to their homes with majority-minority demographics. The reason for this division lies in the turbulent period of the 1950's and even before that to a certain extent. Hispanics and other minorities would, for lack of a better term, be put in certain neighborhoods and be restricted to move, practically chaining them in one area of the city. This and other forms of redlining would in turn lead to a much finer view of the segregated society Tucson was.

Now in the time of *Brown v. Board of Education*, "racial segregation of schools was [deemed] unconstitutional" by the Supreme Court and thus racial integration became the objective for many to reach ethnic quotas set forth by the state. Many cities, including Tucson, ironically would stay segregated due to the already in-place demographics. To reach said requirement, then, busing was a favored way to do so by politicians. The problem with this

method however was the stress and problems this caused on students and parents as a result. The forced movement of students to other schools far distances away would leave many disgruntled. Deciding which students would be transported was also via lottery. Put simply, the method was very favored among the people. The consequence of this was a period of white flight (or white exodus) from Tucson to its surrounding suburbs. Those who had money, typically whites, would leave their house and move to high white majority suburbs and housing areas in order to avoid busing chances. As a result, physical racial division and wealth gap appeared between Tucson and its suburbs.

In income, the disparity can be seen with the median household income in Tucson being ~\$43,500 while the Sahuarita and Vail suburbs earn nearly double that with ~\$80,500 and ~\$81,000 respectively. In schooling, there is also another clear divide. Tucson sees an 80% minority enrollment district-wide with test scores falling behind state-average scores by 13% in math and 12% in reading/language arts. Sahuarita schooling has 61% minority enrolled students and 46% proficiency in both reading and math sees a clear difference. An even larger difference though can be seen with Vail schooling, with only 45% minority students but 73% proficiency in english and math shows the incredible difference between the white suburbs and minority-majority city of Tucson.

The desegregation of my city of Tucson, Arizona has definitely shown some success. This achievement is to the point where many see that Tucson is not a segregated place, although the truth is more complex than that. Even to this day, Tucson has once again undergone a time of white flight, though to a lesser extent which has in turn undermined many schools in Tucson. Although not completely unheard of, segregation in my city of Tucson has brought about many divides and differences in my community.