

Hibbs Brief

Hibbs Institute for Business & Economic Research

The Hibbs Institute Health Index: A Useful Way to Examine Health Conditions in Tyler and Compare the Results with Other Metro Areas in the Region

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In this issue of the Hibbs Brief, we discuss the recently completed Hibbs Institute Health Index. The Index is a weighted index¹ developed by the Hibbs Institute and used to compare the health conditions and health status performance of 38 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in our region. Our region (Region-6) is defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and it includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas (Figure 1). For a more equitable comparison we only include MSAs with populations between 100,000 and 1 million inhabitants in this analysis. The 38 selected MSAs are shown in Figure 2.

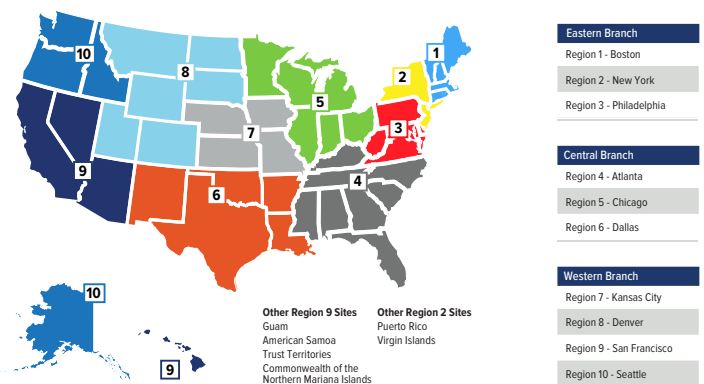
The Health measures serve as an effective means to examine health conditions and health performance at the local level. These measures are used by recognized health organizations and institutions, such as the County Health Rankings (CHR).

The Hibbs Institute Health Index utilizes data from the CHR to produce weighted indexes as a tool to standardize and compare health measures. Health measures may be classified in five categories:

- Health Outcomes
- Health Behavior Factors
- Clinical Care Factors
- Socio-Economic Factors
- Physical Environment Factors

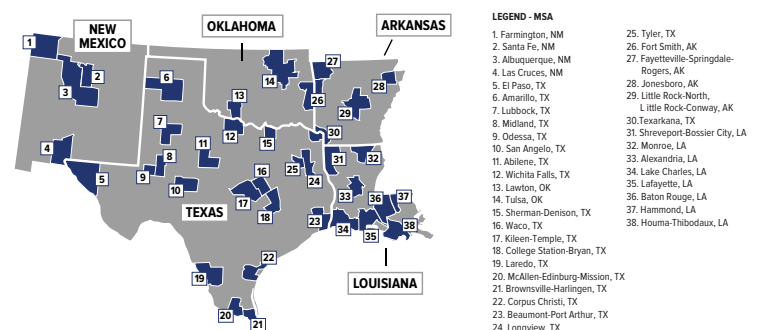
These health categories are the framework of our five-component Hibbs Institute Health Index.

Figure 1. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry - Regional Offices



Source: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Figure 2. Selected Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)



Source: The Hibbs Institute

¹In a weighted index each component accounts for a predetermined portion of the overall index.

The Hibbs Institute Health Index gives equal weight (20%) to each one of its five components that correspond to the five health categories. The sum of the five components' weights totals 100. Each component is calculated using one or more health measures. The values of each health measure for each MSA are converted into a standardized number between 0 and 100 using the worst and best MSA values (minimum or maximum). Those values are then multiplied by the corresponding weight in percentages.

We used nine health measures contained in five health categories to produce the Hibbs Institute Health Index:

- Premature Death Rate
- Life Expectancy
- Adult Obesity
- Adult Smoking
- Uninsured Individuals
- Educational Attainment
- Income Inequality
- Median Household Income
- Air Pollution

Table 1 depicts the Hibbs Institute Health Index top 15 MSAs rankings, arranged by their total scores (last two columns). The remaining columns show the ranking obtained by those MSAs for each health measure (1 is best, 38 is worst). The MSA with the highest total score, out of the 38 examined, was Santa Fe, NM with a score of 81.9 points. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR MSA scored the second highest with 69.0, followed by Albuquerque, NM with 66.8, Midland, TX with 65.6 points and Killeen-Temple, TX with 64.6 points.

Tyler resulted on the first third of the list! With a total score of 55.4, Tyler ranked 12th, 26.5 points less than Santa Fe, NM, the highest score. Out of the nine measures examined in the Hibbs Institute Health Index, Income Inequality and Median Household Income depicted the highest scores for Tyler, ranking 10th and 11th, respectively. In contrast, the measures where Tyler got the lowest scores were Air Pollution and Uninsured Individuals, ranking 26th and 28th, respectively. This Hibbs Brief is a shortened version of a white paper completed by The Hibbs Institute. The detailed methodology, MSA lists per health measure and the total scores with rankings of the complete list of 38 MSAs can be downloaded in [The Hibbs Institute Health Index](#).

Table 1. Hibbs Institute Health Index, Top 15 Ranking Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Health Outcomes		Health Behavior		Clinical Care	Socio-Economic			Physical Environment	Overall Totals	
	Premature Death Rate	Life Expectancy	Adult Obesity	Adult Smoking	Uninsured Individuals	Educational Attainment	Income Inequality	Median Household Income	Air Pollution	Total Score	Ranking
Santa Fe, NM	10	2	1	1	14	6	17	4	5	81.9	1
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	6	8	16	24	3	10	2	2	23	69.0	2
Albuquerque, NM	16	10	2	2	2	7	22	12	28	66.8	3
Midland, TX	8	9	25	4	25	27	6	1	18	65.6	4
Killeen-Temple, TX	11	15	10	20	16	1	1	8	14	64.6	5
College Station-Bryan, TX	1	3	4	5	20	17	37	28	12	64.4	6
San Angelo, TX	13	12	5	10	26	23	3	14	9	63.9	7
Las Cruces, NM	7	6	3	7	13	31	28	36	17	62.7	8
Corpus Christi, TX	15	14	28	3	27	29	19	6	1	62.4	9
Lubbock, TX	17	17	17	12	18	19	16	17	8	59.4	10
El Paso, TX	3	5	6	6	33	33	15	29	20	57.6	11
Tyler, TX	14	13	18	15	28	20	10	11	26	55.4	12
Waco, TX	12	16	13	16	29	24	25	24	21	54.8	13
Sherman-Denison, TX	19	22	12	13	31	9	9	7	15	54.0	14
Lafayette, LA	9	11	21	33	11	13	32	5	29	53.7	15

Source: Indexes calculated by The Hibbs Institute.

