

2008 The Most Challenging Places to Live with Fall Allergies

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(Columns/factors are not weighted equally)

2008 Fall Rank	Overall	Rank Last Year	Metropolitan Area	Total Score (Avg. 48.44)	Pollen Score (Avg. 300 Grains Per Cubic Meter Air)	Medicine Utilization (Avg. 1.07 Per Patient)	Access to Board Certified Allergists (Avg. 1.28 Per 1,000 Patients)
1	●	37	Greensboro, NC	100.00	●	●	●
2	●	45	Greenville, SC	97.33	●	●	●
3	●	14	Little Rock, AR	83.96	●	●	●
4	●	56	Raleigh-Durham, NC	76.27	●	●	●
5	●	23	Jackson, MS	76.05	●	●	●
6	●	53	Knoxville, TN	75.79	◐	●	●
7	●	71	Grand Rapids, MI	73.44	●	●	●
8	●	33	Wichita, KS	72.60	●	◐	◐
9	●	3	Oklahoma City, OK	70.40	●	●	◐
10	●	57	Madison, WI	69.03	◐	●	●
11	●	10	Tulsa, OK	66.90	●	◐	◐
12	●	43	Chattanooga, TN	64.54	◐	●	◐
13	●	32	Birmingham, AL	63.62	◐	●	◐
14	●	40	New Orleans, LA	63.05	◐	●	◐
15	●	88	Harrisburg, PA	63.03	●	◐	●
16	●	18	Augusta, GA	62.57	◐	●	●
17	●	61	Louisville, KY	60.10	◐	●	◐
18	●	2	San Antonio, TX	58.05	◐	◐	◐
19	●	29	Columbia, SC	57.38	◐	◐	◐
20	●	26	Charlotte, NC	56.84	●	◐	○
21	●	31	Memphis, TN	55.75	◐	◐	◐
22	●	72	Des Moines, IA	54.86	◐	●	○
23	●	90	Scranton, PA	54.74	◐	◐	◐
24	●	6	St. Louis, MO	54.13	◐	◐	◐
25	●	n/a	Bridgeport, CT	54.11	◐	◐	●
26	●	60	Nashville, TN	53.98	◐	●	◐
27	●	21	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	53.89	◐	◐	◐
28	●	8	El Paso, TX	53.80	◐	◐	◐
29	◐	66	Milwaukee, WI	53.43	◐	◐	●
30	◐	81	Buffalo, NY	53.15	◐	◐	●

KEY TO ICONS

- Worse than Average
- ◐ Average
- Better than Average



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31	☐	84	Syracuse, NY	52.30	☐	●	☐
32	☐	n/a	New Haven, CT	51.90	☐	☐	☐
33	☐	13	Tampa, FL	51.78	●	☐	☐
34	☐	77	Dayton, OH	51.54	☐	●	○
35	☐	9	McAllen, TX	51.54	●	☐	○
36	☐	n/a	Oxnard, CA	50.86	●	○	●
37	☐	50	Indianapolis, IN	50.33	☐	☐	☐
38	☐	67	Omaha, NE	50.18	☐	●	☐
39	☐	4	Lakeland, FL	50.17	●	○	☐
40	☐	58	Philadelphia, PA	50.01	☐	☐	○
41	☐	1	Austin, TX	49.79	☐	☐	☐
42	☐	35	Charleston, SC	49.42	☐	☐	☐
43	☐	42	Baton Rouge, LA	49.40	☐	●	☐
44	☐	20	San Francisco, CA	49.32	●	○	☐
45	☐	19	Palm Bay-Melbourne, FL	49.12	●	○	☐
46	☐	n/a	San Jose, CA	48.98	●	○	☐
47	☐	83	Hartford, CT	48.48	☐	☐	☐
48	☐	15	Jacksonville, FL	47.80	☐	☐	☐
49	☐	85	Lancaster, PA	47.20	☐	☐	○
50	☐	44	Fresno, CA	47.16	☐	☐	☐
51	☐	87	Toledo, OH	46.82	☐	☐	☐
52	☐	5	Orlando, FL	46.62	●	○	○
53	☐	36	Albuquerque, NM	45.81	☐	○	○
54	☐	11	Los Angeles, CA	45.47	●	○	☐
55	☐	17	Houston, TX	45.10	☐	☐	☐
56	☐	n/a	Poughkeepsie, NY	44.93	☐	☐	☐
57	☐	n/a	Ogden, UT	44.81	●	○	○
58	☐	63	Salt Lake City, UT	44.73	●	○	☐
59	☐	n/a	Akron, OH	44.22	☐	☐	☐
60	☐	7	Tucson, AZ	43.97	☐	○	○
61	☐	64	Kansas City, MO	43.87	☐	☐	○
62	☐	80	Columbus, OH	43.23	○	☐	☐
63	☐	94	Cleveland, OH	42.89	☐	☐	☐
64	☐	n/a	Portland, ME	42.58	☐	☐	☐
65	☐	59	Allentown, PA	42.32	○	☐	☐
66	☐	n/a	Cape Coral, FL	41.97	☐	○	○
67	☐	78	Cincinnati, OH	41.04	○	☐	☐

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68	●	49	Denver, CO	41.03	●	○	●
69	●	n/a	Riverside, CA	40.48	●	○	○
70	●	51	Richmond, VA	40.32	●	●	○
71	○	47	Sacramento, CA	39.88	●	○	●
72	○	75	Pittsburgh, PA	39.56	●	●	●
73	○	89	Rochester, NY	39.28	○	●	●
74	○	69	New York, NY	39.17	●	●	○
75	○	74	Baltimore, MD	39.08	○	●	●
76	○	54	Virginia Beach-Norfolk, VA	38.53	●	●	●
77	○	70	Washington, DC	37.96	○	●	○
78	○	98	Albany, NY	37.80	○	●	●
79	○	92	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	37.77	○	●	●
80	○	28	Atlanta, GA	37.60	●	●	○
81	○	76	Colorado Springs, CO	36.73	●	○	●
82	○	95	Providence, RI	35.85	○	●	●
83	○	n/a	Worcester, MA	35.43	○	●	●
84	○	22	Daytona Beach, FL	35.39	●	○	●
85	○	30	Phoenix-Meza, AZ	35.13	●	○	○
86	○	79	Chicago, IL	34.61	○	●	●
87	○	86	Detroit, MI	34.50	○	●	○
88	○	16	Bakersfield, CA	34.25	●	○	○
89	○	25	Las Vegas, NV	33.22	●	○	○
90	○	96	Youngstown, OH	32.91	○	●	●
91	○	99	Boston, MA	32.86	○	●	●
92	○	27	Springfield, MA	32.82	○	●	○
93	○	12	Sarasota, FL	32.50	○	○	●
94	○	55	Boise City, ID	32.03	○	○	○
95	○	46	Stockton, CA	30.39	○	○	●
96	○	48	Modesto, CA	30.20	○	○	○
97	○	41	San Diego, CA	29.36	○	○	●
98	○	65	Miami, FL	25.45	○	○	○
99	○	100	Seattle, WA	22.64	○	○	●
100	○	97	Portland, OR	18.43	○	○	○

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2008 Rank - Rankings for the Fall Allergy Capitals™ are based on analysis of data for the 100 largest U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from 3 categories: Pollen Score (comprised of allergy prevalence data and local seasonal pollen count data), Allergy Medicine Utilization and the number of board certified Allergists. Different weights were applied to each factor based on expert opinion and a composite final score, the "Total Score," was calculated for each MSA.

Total Score - Final total scores and subtotals were rescaled assigning 100 points to the largest score and presenting all other scores as a percentage of the largest. The metro area with a total score of 100 points did not necessarily have the "most severe" score for all factors, but, rather, the highest total weighted final score overall.

Pollen Score - Quantitative analysis of average recorded pollen/mold spore levels and predicted prevalence for certain types of pollens/molds over the most recent previous fall season and the duration of the peak season for the most allergenic pollen types; this score also takes into consideration local prevalence statistics for people affected by allergies to pollen.

Medicine Utilization - Quantitative analysis of available pharmacy data for prescription (RX) and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines in each MSA during the most recent previous fall season, including oral, nasal and ocular allergy medications.

Board Certified Allergists - Quantitative analysis of the number of board certified allergy and immunology specialists per patient available during the most recent previous fall season.

GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES:

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Allergic Rhinitis Information (2008)

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census 2000, 2007 Updates

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Air Resources Laboratory (ARL), Air Stagnation Climatology for the U.S. (2007)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Status and Trends, Latest Findings on National Air Quality (2007)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES:

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, "Asthma and Allergy Answers" (2008)

American Board of Medical Specialties, Specialist Database (2008)

INDUSTRY SOURCES:

Surveillance Data Inc./Pollen.com (2007)

IMS Health (2007)