

Announcing Neighborhood Metrics

The DataPlace Team has been working hard to bring you new ways to explore data about places, and is now proud to announce [Neighborhood Metrics](http://neighborhoodmetrics.com) (<http://neighborhoodmetrics.com>). Neighborhood Metrics simplifies the task of finding how places rank across several measures. You select up to ten indicators, and the Metrics builder will generate a ranked list of places in the U.S. based on your indicator choices. You can then view the results on maps, charts, histograms, tables, and simple ranked lists. It's easy to use, and powerful.

For example, if you are assessing risk of foreclosure in different neighborhoods in your county, you might want to look at more than one indicator at a time, perhaps high interest lending rates for both home purchase as well as for refinance. Instead of looking at the two indicators separately, Metrics allows you to select both indicators, and [view the results](#) on maps, charts, and more.

So, what is a "Metric"? Metrics are a type of index, but differ from a typical index in that Metrics can aggregate different years of indicators into a single indicator. For example, the Metric "[Homeownership by Same Gender Couples](#)" generates a single ranked list from loans made in 2004-2006. For now, this ability to lump together different years limits Metrics from automatically tracking change over time.

Behind the scenes, the metric builder creates a normalized value for each indicator based on a standard deviation between the lowest and highest value. The normalized value is multiplied by a weight that a user selects when he or she builds a metric. The weighted scores are then summed and divided by the total of all the weights. As you can see in the example below, the resulting scores range between 0 and 100; these are not percents, just scores between 0 to 100.

So, you want to rank places using multiple indicators? No problem. Give Neighborhood Metrics a try, and [let us know what you think](#).

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