

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST CITIES

In collaboration with the Humor Research Lab (HuRL), the co-authors of *The Humor Code* rank the funniest cities in the United States – and reveal the top cities' sense of humor.



As they travelled the world studying humor for their new book, *The Humor Code*, scientist Peter McGraw and journalist Joel Warner noticed that humor often has a local flavor. This observation led to the duo's latest and perhaps most controversial question:

What are the funniest cities in the United States?

To answer this question, McGraw and Warner turned to McGraw's Humor Research Lab (HuRL) at the University of Colorado Boulder. The HuRL team, helmed by Adrian Ward and Caleb Warren, created the Humor Algorithm (HA) to rank the 50 funniest cities in America – the most comprehensive humor analysis of cities ever attempted.



For more information about this study, please visit humorcode.com/funniest-cities

Over a nine-month period, HuRL mined the Internet and the comedy industry for a variety of objective measures. Once the cities were ranked, HuRL surveyed over 900 residents from the top ten cities, creating a humor profile for each one.

THE HUMOR ALGORITHM (HA)



DATA FROM CITIES

- Traveling comedians' quality ratings
- Comedy clubs per square mile
- Visits to funny websites
- Humor-related Internet searches
- Number of funny Twitter users
- Number of comedy radio stations
- Number of famous funny people



DATA FROM CITIZENS

- Favorite jokes
- Favorite movies and TV shows
- Live comedy attendance rates
- Preference for funny friends
- Preference for funny lovers
- News from Comedy Central
- Need for Levity personality test

PUT A BIRD ON IT

Portland, Oregon (5), was the *only* city in the study where respondents rated themselves more whimsical (spontaneous, unpredictable, quirky) than their surroundings.

BREVITY IS WIT

Chicago, Illinois (1), was our funniest city, but its residents spent less time per visit on comedy websites than any other city, consistent with its fast-paced, improv-oriented taste in comedy.

THE (MEDIA) HUB

Across all types of media (movies, television, books, and live entertainment), Boston, Massachusetts (2), prefers humorous content more than any other city

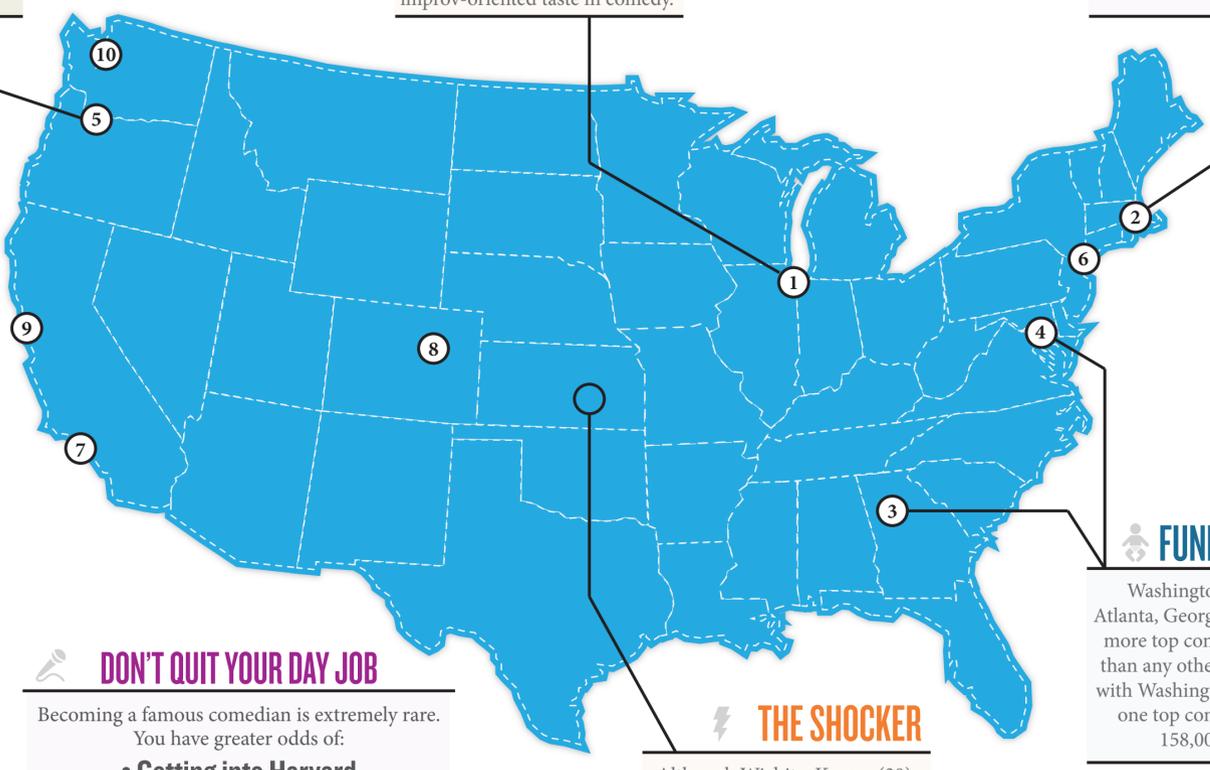
FRIENDS VS. LOVERS

Cities where residents want funny friends more than funny lovers:

- New York
- San Francisco
- Chicago
- Denver
- Boston

Cities where residents want funny lovers more than funny friends:

- Portland
- Atlanta
- Washington, DC



DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB

Becoming a famous comedian is extremely rare. You have greater odds of:

- Getting into Harvard
- Being struck by lightning
- Visiting the emergency room for a pogo stick injury

THE SHOCKER

Although Wichita, Kansas (30), didn't score high on our list and few touring comedians had visited the city, those who did ranked Wichita #1 for audience quality

FUNNY FACTORIES

Washington, DC (4), and Atlanta, Georgia (3), give birth to more top comedians per capita than any other cities on our list, with Washington, DC producing one top comedian for every 158,000 residents

THE 50 FUNNIEST CITIES IN AMERICA

<p>1. Chicago, IL The Home of Improv</p> <p>"Favorite joke? I don't have one. But let's go look for funny situations."</p>	<p>2. Boston, MA Balancing Brains & Booze</p> <p>"Two fish swim into a bar. The first fish says, 'I'll have some H₂O.' The second fish says, 'I'll have some H₂O, too.' The second fish died."</p>	<p>3. Atlanta, GA Where (Racial) Worlds Collide</p> <p>"What do you call a black pilot?"</p> <p>A pilot, you racist."</p>	<p>4. Washington, DC Politicians & Cynics</p> <p>"Knock, knock. Who's there? KGB. KGB who? (Knocker smacks the responder) We will ask the questions!"</p>	<p>5. Portland, OR Quirky, Absurd, and Just Plain Weird</p> <p>"If God dwells inside us like some people say, I sure hope He likes enchiladas, because that's what He's getting."</p>
<p>6. New York, NY High Speed & High Stress</p> <p>"I was at the library today. The guy at the desk was very rude. I said, 'I'd like a card.' He said, 'You have to prove you're a citizen of New York.' So I stabbed him."</p>	<p>7. Los Angeles, CA Show-Biz Satire</p> <p>"Have you heard of the movie, Constipated? It's not out yet."</p> <p>"How do you wake up Lady Gaga? Poker face."</p>	<p>8. Denver, CO Laid-back & High... on Life?</p> <p>"A piece of string walks into a bar. Bartender says, 'We don't serve string.' String leaves, ruffles his cut end, and returns to the bar. Bartender says, 'Aren't you the string that was just in here?' The string replies, 'No, I'm a frayed knot.'"</p>	<p>9. San Francisco, CA Liberal Zany Meets Smart Techy</p> <p>"What does a gay horse eat? Heeyyyyyy."</p> <p>"An electron and a positron walk into a bar. The positron says, 'This round's on me.' The electron says, 'Are you sure?' The positron says, 'I'm positive.'"</p>	<p>10. Seattle, WA Young Intellectuals</p> <p>"What does one computer say to the other? 0101010101010101"</p> <p>"Why does California have all the hazardous waste dumps? New Jersey got first choice."</p>

11 Minneapolis, MN	19 Mesa, AZ	27 Baltimore, MD	35 Nashville-Davidson, TN	43 Las Vegas, NV
12 Long Beach, CA	20 San Diego, CA	28 Kansas City, MO	36 Dallas, TX	44 Virginia Beach, VA
13 Philadelphia, PA	21 Oakland, CA	29 San Jose, CA	37 Houston, X	45 Tulsa, OK
14 Austin, TX	22 Louisville-Jefferson County, KY	30 Wichita, KS	38 Albuquerque, NM	46 Arlington, TX
15 Raleigh, NC	23 Sacramento, CA	31 Colorado Springs, CO	39 Detroit, MI	47 San Antonio, TX
16 Cleveland, OH	24 Columbus, OH	32 Omaha, NE	40 Fresno, CA	48 Miami, FL
17 Charlotte, NC	25 Indianapolis, IN	33 Oklahoma City, OK	41 El Paso, TX	49 Jacksonville, FL
18 Phoenix, AZ	26 Memphis, TN	34 Milwaukee, WI	42 Tucson, AZ	50 Fort Worth, TX