

The Best Cities for Singles - According to Hard Data!



by [Marie Claire](#), on Thu Jun 11, 2009 9:08am PDT

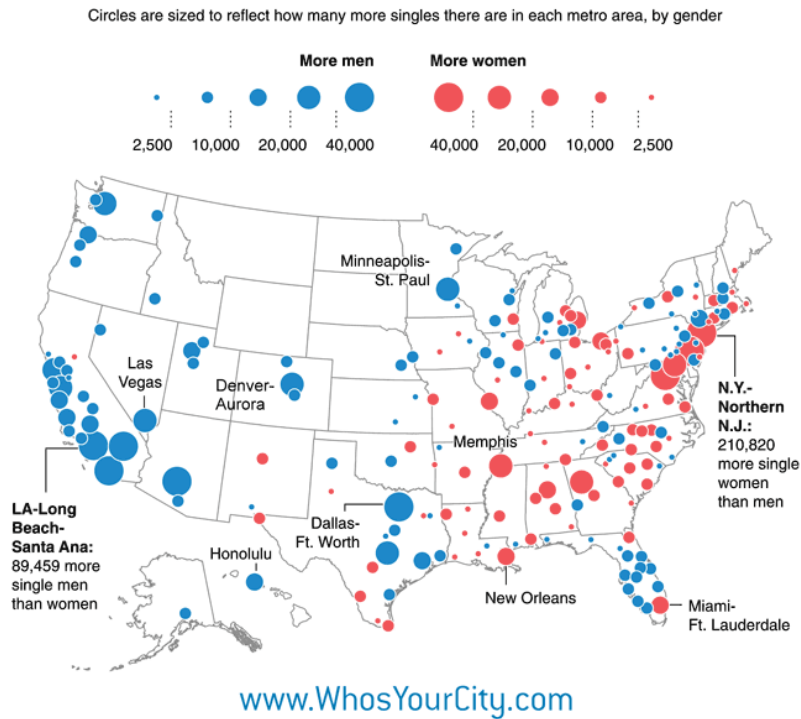
By [Maura Kelly](#)

The other day, I was emailing with my adorably baby-faced friend, who moved to San Fran recently. He was telling me he thinks meeting women out west is harder than in New York. "You people in the Big Apple have the best singles scene!" he said.

It sure doesn't feel that way to me. And I wondered if there was any truth to King's take on things ...

After researching it a bit, I found out he's half-right and half-wrong, according to the amazing map below constructed by the team at [THE CREATIVE CLASS GROUP](#). **It tells you almost exactly how many more single men than women there are in certain**

parts of the country ... and how many more women than men in



NOTE: ONLY INCLUDES SINGLES AGES 20-64

SOURCE: 2006 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ADAPTED FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, FEB 2007

others!

THE SINGLES MAP

As you can see, there are ****200,000+ more single women than men in the Manhattan area!**** ([Sheesh! Ladies: if it feels especially hard here in Gotham, now we know why](#)). The map also makes it clear why my friend thought dating in NYC was such a breeze as compared to SF: There are A LOT more single men out there --and in all of California, for that matter--than there are women.

I wonder how *your* city measures up ...

After finding this amazing map, I decided to interview the urban expert behind it: Richard Florida, author of the international bestseller [THE RISE OF THE CREATIVE CLASS](#) as well as a new book called [WHO'S YOUR CITY?](#). He explains some of the reasons there are such crazy differences in the dating pool across the country--and talks about which regions are best for men and women.

BEST CITIES FOR SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN

ME: Where should single women move to meet men? What about the single guys?

RICHARD: If you are a single man or a single woman the odds of meeting a significant other vary dramatically across the country. [Generally, women tend to have an advantage](#)

[in the American West and](#) Southwest, while men fare better in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. Many regions in the American West have grown substantially over the past two or three decades, offering jobs in everything from the high-tech industry to construction. And as numerous studies show, men are initially more likely to move long distances for economic opportunity-out west, for example-while women are more likely to stay closer to home and family. As a reader of my blog put it, "The West still holds a 'Gold Rush' mentality for young men."

ME: Oh, I see. So because men are leaving certain regions-like the Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast-to head west, they're creating a gender imbalance. Is that right?

RICHARD: Yes.