

## Four Texas Cities Top 2011 List of Physician's Offices per Capita

By Julie Rabinowitz

WOOLWICH, Maine—As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas, and that also seems to be true about the number of doctors' offices in major cities. A San Antonio neighborhood and three other Texas neighborhoods have the highest number of physician's offices per capita, according to new 2011 forecast data released by Pinpoint Demographics. Other cities placing in the top five, broken down by zip code, include Atlanta, Newport Beach, Calif., and the Upper East Side of New York City.

In addition to San Antonio, the Texas neighborhoods making the top ten list include Dallas, Austin, and Amarillo. A number of reasons influence Texas' high rankings. John Wisniewski, CEO of the Bexar County Medical Society, pointed out that the neighborhood of San Antonio topping the list serves as the home of the San Antonio Medical Foundation, which runs the South Texas Medical Center. The medical center's research, education and treatment programs employ more than 26,000 people combined. This employment figure represents about 7% of San Antonio's workforce.

"The cities mentioned all have academic medical centers, that likely contributes to a higher doctor/population ratio," confirmed Dr. Stephen Ozanne, immediate past president of the Dallas County Medical Society. Stephanie Triggs, director of community and government relations at the Travis County Medical Society, agreed that the academic relationship is important, noting that, "Dallas and Houston are just some of the Texas cities with medical schools and although Austin does not have medical school, it does have large teaching hospitals with residency programs. Physicians tend to stay where they do their residencies."

Other factors besides the medical centers attract physicians to Texas. Dr. Ozanne explained, "Texas has become a popular place for physicians to practice as a result of tort reform passed in 2003, which has greatly lowered the cost of malpractice insurance and provided a less adversarial medico-legal climate."

Ms. Triggs noted that the "favorable tort climate is important. We have seen some doctors come in from out of state." But she adds that, "Central Texas has seen an influx of people in all sectors." All of the cities in Texas on this list have grown in population since 2000, according to 2009 U.S. Census Bureau data.

One might wonder with all those doctors, do Texans have a greater need for medical services than the rest of the United States? Dr. Ozanne noted that, "People in Texas do not seem any more concerned about their health than elsewhere—many still smoke, drink, are obese, etc.!"

Although the neighborhood of zip code 78229 in San Antonio had a 2010 population of 33,133, it had 366 doctor's offices, giving it a per capita ratio of about .011 doctors per person. In contrast, the Upper East Side, with more than three times San Antonio's population at more than 105,000, the New York City neighborhood only had about twice the number of doctor's offices, 722. This puts the Upper East Side's ratio of doctors per capita at about .007. Despite the

smaller population and the fewer number of actual doctors, the San Antonio neighborhood's 2010 revenue, at \$4.2 billion, also ranked higher than that of the Upper East Side's, at \$3.7 billion. This may in part be explained by the presence of the South Texas Medical Center facility in that particular zip code.

Pinpoint Demographics, a division of Barnes Reports, is a leading demographics research firm located in Woolwich, Maine. Pinpoint Demographics provides the most current, accurate and cost-effective data population demographics, consumer spending, retail business and services businesses estimates for each of the 30,000+ U.S. zip codes. Pinpoint's proprietary economic model uses exponential regression analysis to annually estimate 2011 and five year forecast 2016 populations, broken down by race, age, income, educational attainment and occupation.

Pinpoint Demographics' databases are available in a number of products. The "America's Neighborhoods" series are annual print handbooks of population and consumer spending databases by zip code or U.S. county. Pinpoint's zip code databases are broken out by U.S. state and available for immediate purchase and download on its website [www.pinpointdemographics.com](http://www.pinpointdemographics.com). Free sample zip code data is available on [www.uszipcodedemographics.com](http://www.uszipcodedemographics.com).

#### Top Ten Cities by Number of Physicians' Offices per Capita, 2011

1. San Antonio, Texas 78229
2. Atlanta, Ga. 30342
3. Dallas, Texas 75230
4. Newport Beach, Calif. 92660
5. New York, N.Y. 10021
6. Chicago, Ill. 60611
7. Austin, Texas 78705
8. Brentwood, Tenn. 37027
9. Torrance, Calif. 90505
10. Amarillo, Texas 79106