Keeping Track of the Health of the State: Social Index – A Proposal

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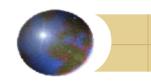


- What and why?
- What's gone before
- An index for New Mexico
- Neighborhood Applications
- Discussion

What IS a social index?



- From a height, an overlook
- A composite of single indicators of issues of societal concern
- Many particulars ———— global condition



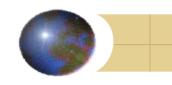
Why have a Social Index?

- Why do we have daily/ weekly reports of:
 - ✓ Dow-Jones Average
 - ✓ Gross Domestic Product
 - ✓ Consumer Confidence Index
 - ✓ Consumer Price Index . . .
 - ✓ etcetera, etcetera



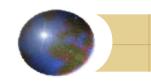
'and now for the financial news'

- The condition of our economy:
 - ✓ Told in vivid precise terms
 - ✓ Through a highly developed monitoring system of economic indicators and indexes
 - Story of dynamics & change regularly summarized
 - ✓ Forms basis for debate, discussion, policy intervention throughout society



Social / health monitoring

- Where to go for regular summary of social health of nation, state, county
- Social / health indicators infrequently released, assessed
- No generally accepted index of agreed upon indicators re social conditions' improvement & worsening



Social / health monitoring

- Context typically missing or inadequate
 - many issues often seen as crises
 - too often portrayed as individual's problem or isolated events
 - difficult to place relative importance in larger picture
- What becomes society's basis for debate, dialogue & intervention?



What has gone before ...

- United Nations
 - UN Development Programme: addressing human development matters

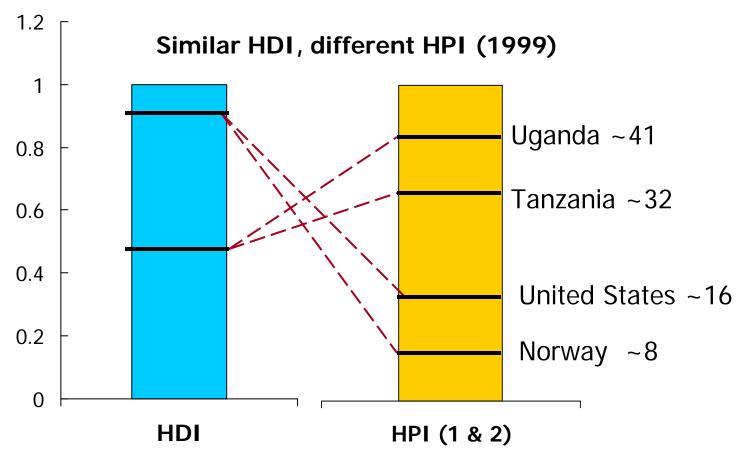
Connecticut



Human Development Indices

- Human Development Index
- Overall achievement in a country of longevity, knowledge, decent standard of living
- Human Poverty Index-2 (for high income countries)
- HDI plus social exclusion/ participation
- Both indices include resource & outcome indicators

Current Applications



No automatic link between human development and human poverty



Components of Indices

Human Development Index

- Life expectancy, adult literary rate, primary to tertiary school enrollment ratio, GDP per capita
- Data series since 1975 for countries, by regions; analysis of index & its components

Human Poverty Index-2

Probability of not surviving to age 60; adult functional literacy rate, percent living below poverty, unemployment



Index of Social Health of Connecticut

- Index includes indicators about:
 - Children (infant mortality, child abuse)
 - Adults (unemployment, average weekly wages, health care costs)
 - Youth (suicide, high school completion, teen births)
 - All Ages (violent crime, affordable housing)
- State, counties from 1970 on
- Trend of index & its components



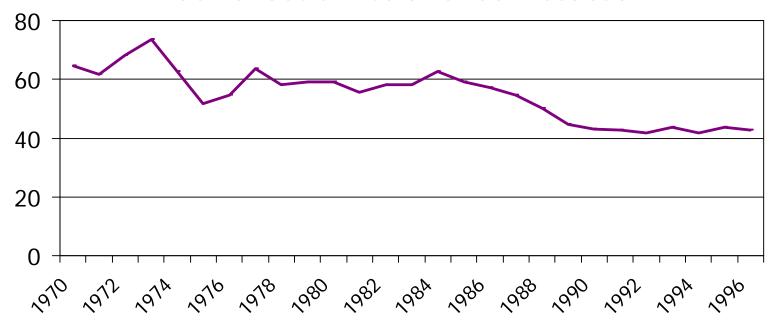
Index of Social Health of Connecticut

Indicators:

- Children (infant mortality, child abuse)
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Current Applications

Index of Social Health of Connecticut

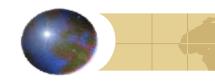


- Analyzed individual indicators & counties to understand
- Published in The Social State of Connecticut



A Proposed Social Index for New Mexico

 First approach - determine if combining Vision of Health Indicators into a "Vision of Health Index" represents a Social Index for NM



Vision of Health Indicators Used

- Teen birth rate
- Child abuse rate
- Homicide rate
- Alcohol-related death rate
- Drug-related death rate
- Adult abuse rate
- Suicide rate
- Hepatitis B rate
- Motor vehicle injury death rate

Calculating a rate ratio

- Cibola County drug-related death rate divided by the New Mexico drug-related death rate
 - 10.9/15.6 = 0.7

Calculating mean rate ratio

- Plugging rate ratios into the index formula
 - mean RR =
 [(RR1+RR2+RR3+RR4+RR5+RR6+RR7+R
 R8+RR9)]/9
 - mean rate ratio = index



Vision of Health Index County Values

Lowest (Best)

Los Alamos 0.33

■ Union 0.53

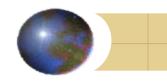
■ DeBaca 0.63

Highest (Worst)

Rio Arriba 1.91

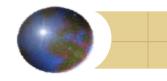
■ Sierra 1.63

■ Quay 1.59



Advantages to this Index Method

- The index number actually means something
 - Chavez County's value of 1.51 means that on average Chavez County's rates for these 9 indicators are 51% higher than average NM rates for the same indicators
 - Allows for comparison to NM's rates



A Proposed Social Index for New Mexico

- Comparison of Vision of Health Index to socioeconomic indicators
 - Indicators used included:
 - Child poverty
 - Income inequality (Gini coefficient)
 - High school dropout
 - Unemployment
 - Household vacancy



Assessed the correlation of Vision of Health Index county values with those for rate ratios for each socioeconomic indicator

•	Child poverty	0.14
•	Income inequality (Gini coefficient)	0.41
•	High school dropout	0.22
•	Unemployment	0.03
•	Household vacancy	0.17



Index to Socioeconomic Index

- Combined first four indicators into "socioeconomic index"
 - Correlation with Vision of Health Index
 - 0.28



Socioeconomic Index County Values

Lowest (Best)

Los Alamos	0.28
	0.20

Highest (Worst)

Luna	2.32	2
	·	_



A Proposed Social Index for New Mexico

- What should we do now?
- How about combining a health index with a socioeconomic index?
- Proposal: try out the Connecticut Social Index Indicators for NM using the NM rate ratio based method



A Social Index for City Neighborhoods

<u>INDICATOR</u> <u>MEAN FOR ALBUQUERQUE ZIP CODES</u>

Unemployed 3.6% (Census)

Family Households in Poverty 6.3% (Census)

Children Not Enrolled in School 11.2% (Census)

Rental Occupancy 42.9% (Census)

Housing Vacancy (not used) 10.9% (Census)

Infant Mortality 5.92 per 1000 (VRHS)

Teen Birth Rate 61.2 per 1000 (VRHS)

Vice-Related Crime 13.1 per 1000 (APD)

SOCIAL INDEX = (mean of 7 indicators' ratios to county rates)

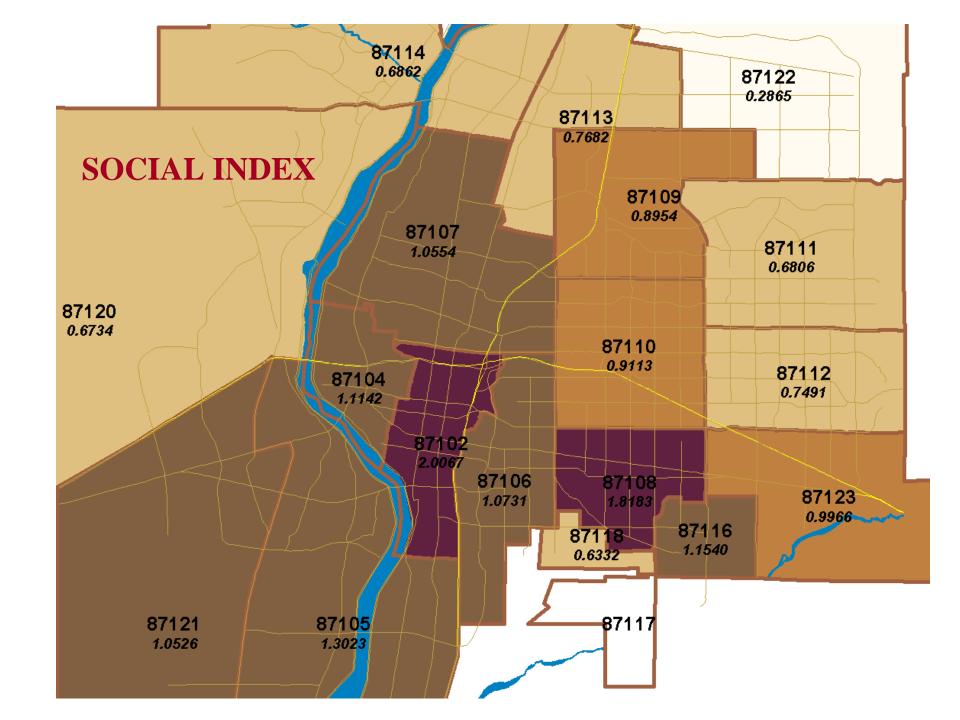


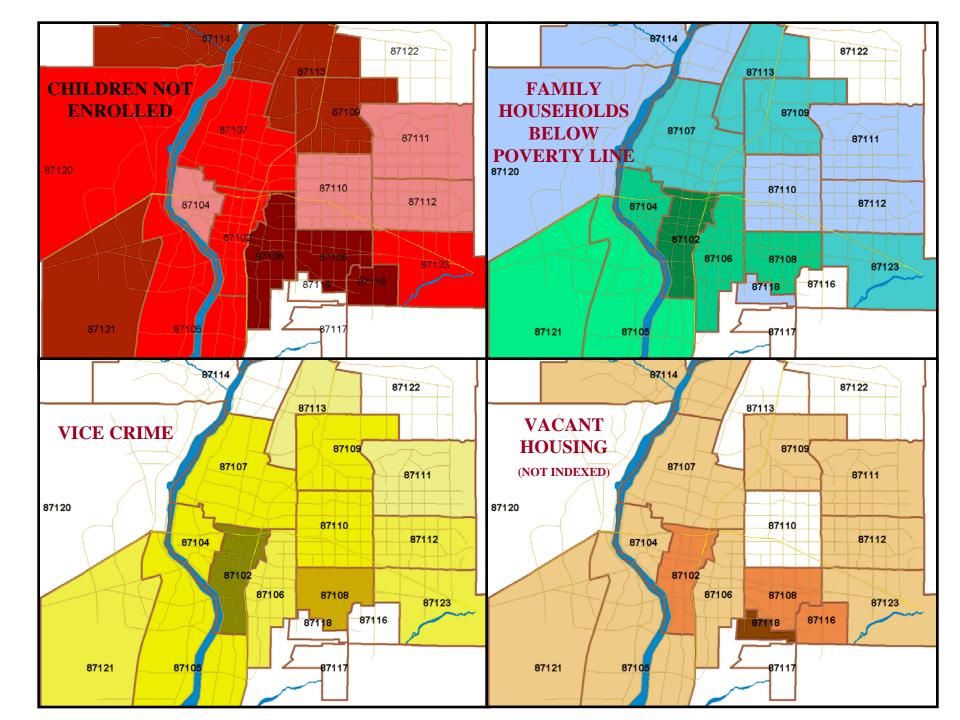
Ranking of Zip Codes

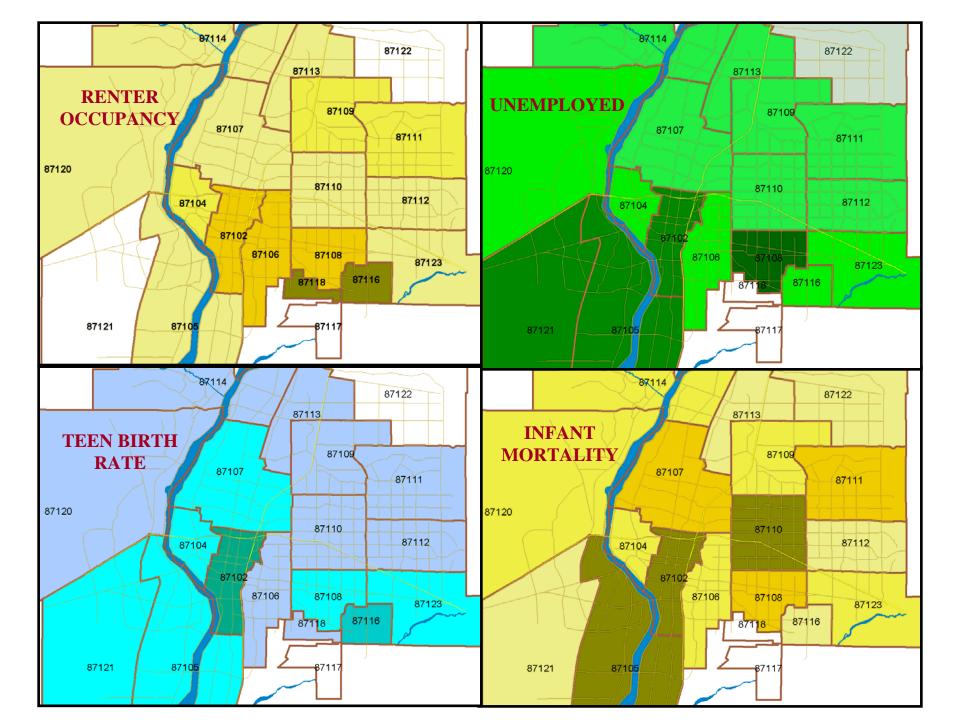
Zip Code	Place	Social Index
87102	East Downtown &	2.0067
	South Broadway	210001
87108	SE Heights	1.8183
87105	South Valley (SW)	1.3023
87116	KAFB	1.1540
87104	Old Town	1.1142
87106	UNM & South (SE)	1.0731
87107	North Valley	1.0554
87121	West Mesa	1.0526
87123	SEH to 4 Hills	0.9966
87110	Near NEH	0.9113
87109	NE	0.8954
87113	Far North Valley	0.7682
87112	NE Heights	0.7491
87114	North Valley &	0.0000
	Paradise Hills NW	0.6862
87111	NE Heights	0.6806
87120	West Side	0.6734
87118	KAFB	0.6332
87122	Sandia Foothills	0.2865

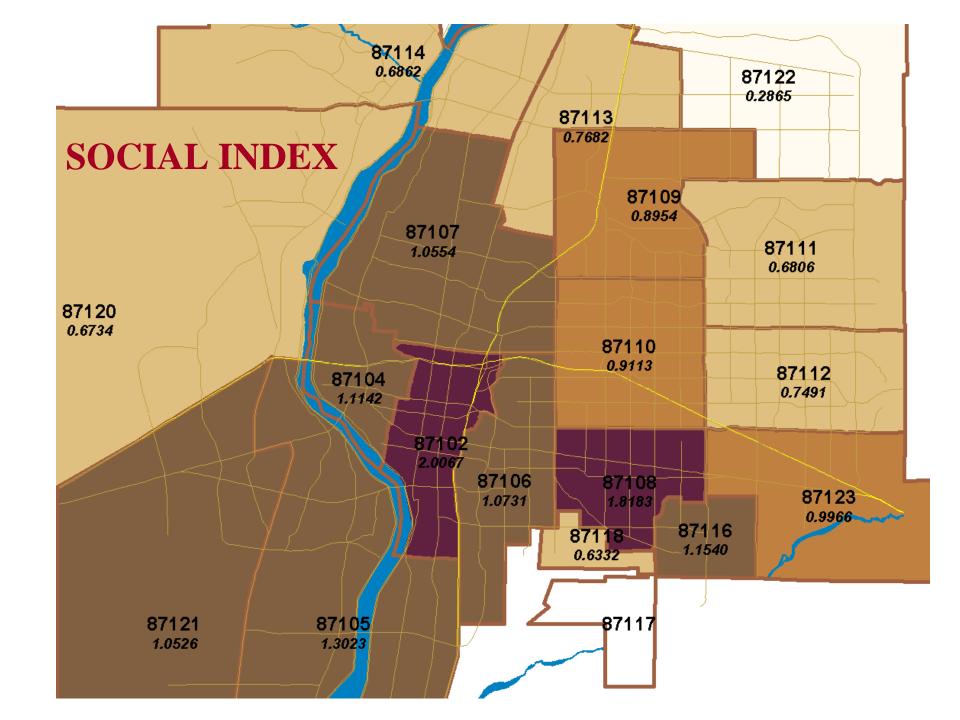
WORST

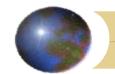
BEST





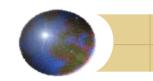






Comments and Conclusions . . .

- Social Indices invite comparison.
- The 'mean rate ratio' can highlight disparities.
- Neighborhoods may not agree on a definition of 'neighborhood.'
- Neighborhoods may not agree on the mix of indicators.
- Indicators useful to neighborhoods; index useful to agencies.
- Trending will enhance meaning; comparison across time is more relevant than comparison across neighborhoods.
- How would you compose and use a social index?



References

Human Development Report

United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report Office, various years. http://hdr.undp.org/

The Social State of Connecticut

Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy, various years. http://www.cga.state.ct.us/coc/socindex/index.htm