

*A Quality of Life Index for Counties in the USA: 2010*

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A quality of life index is constructed for all counties in the contiguous USA. This index is based on 4 sub-indices (Safety; Health; Education; Economics) with a total of 15 components that are averaged into one overall index. The statistical analysis of the data for 2010 includes a univariate purely spatial cluster analysis in addition to a multivariate cluster analysis in 4 dimensions with the disease surveillance software SaTScan. A factor analysis is also used to reduce the dimensionality, followed by analyzing the factor scores with SaTScan for a cluster analysis. This work was done as group work by 11 graduate students under my supervision during the Fall 2014 semester at the University of West Florida.