

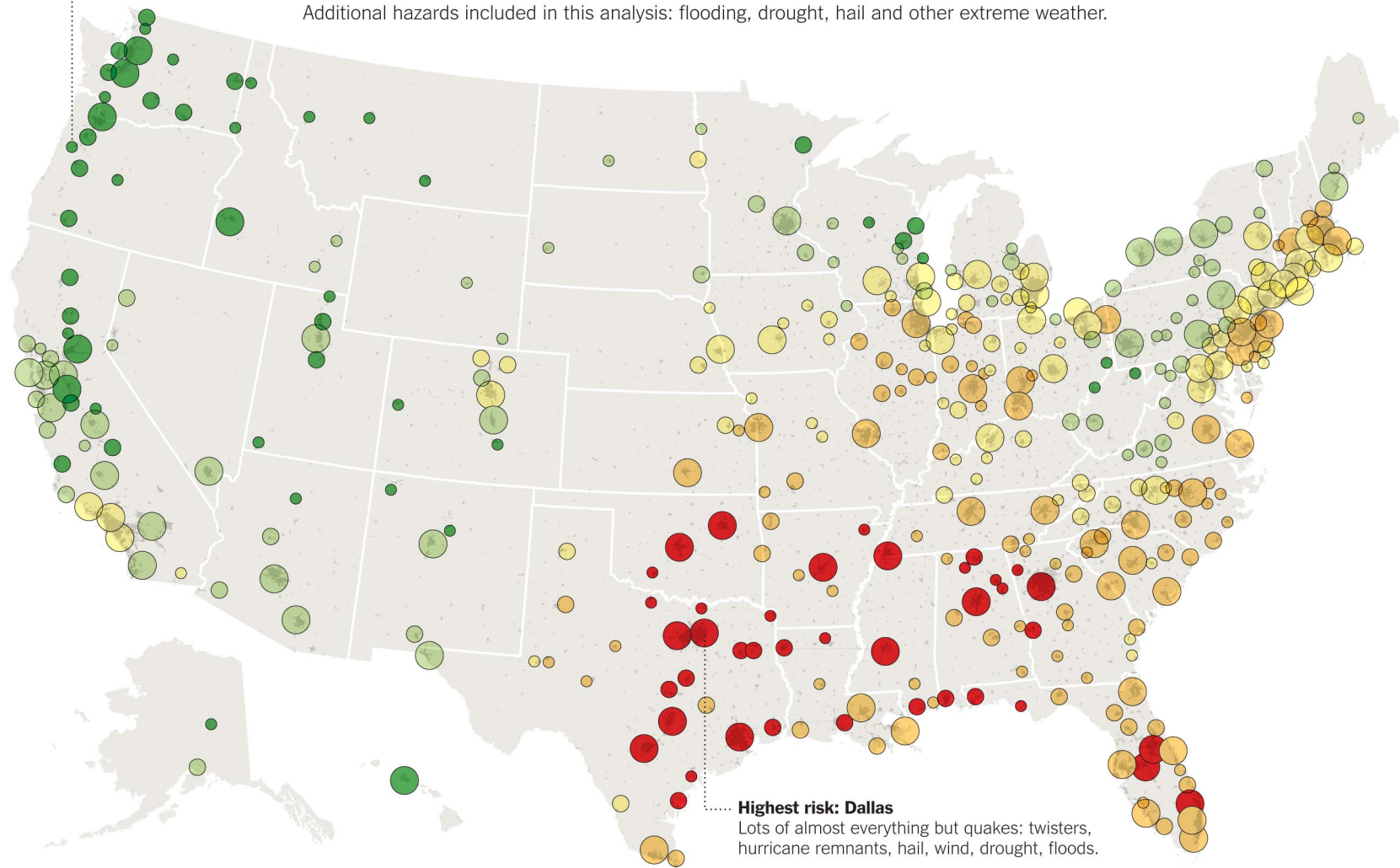
Some Places Are Riskier Than Others

Weather disasters and quakes: who's most at risk? The analysis below, by Sperling's Best Places, a publisher of city rankings, is an attempt to assess a combination of those risks in 379 American metro areas.

Lowest risk: Corvallis, Ore.
Small quake and drought risk;
little extreme weather.

Risks for twisters and hurricanes (including storms from hurricane remnants) are based on historical data showing where storms occurred. Earthquake risks are based on United States Geological Survey assessments and take into account the relative infrequency of quakes, compared with weather events and floods.

Additional hazards included in this analysis: flooding, drought, hail and other extreme weather.



Highest risk: Dallas
Lots of almost everything but quakes: twisters, hurricane remnants, hail, wind, drought, floods.

Metro area population

- Less than 175,000
- 175,000 to 500,000
- More than 500,000

Scale of hazards

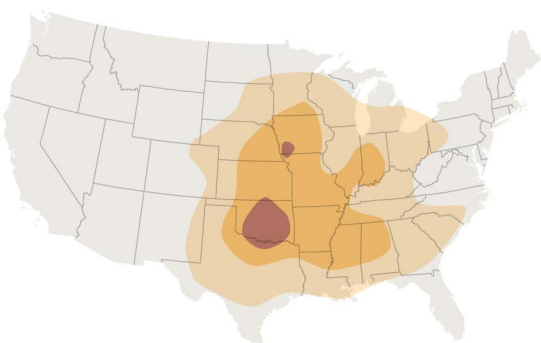
Lower → Higher

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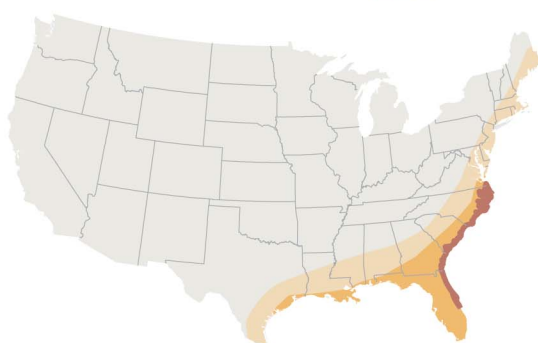
- Metro areas with lowest risk:**
1. Corvallis, Ore.
 2. Mt. Vernon-Anacortes, Wash.
 3. Bellingham, Wash.
 4. Wenatchee, Wash.
 5. Grand Junction, Colo.
 6. Spokane, Wash.
 7. Salem, Ore.
 8. Seattle

- Highest risk:**
1. Dallas-Plano-Irving, Tex.
 2. Jonesboro, Ark.
 3. Corpus Christi, Tex.
 4. Houston
 5. Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex.
 6. Shreveport, La.
 7. Austin, Tex.
 8. Birmingham, Ala.

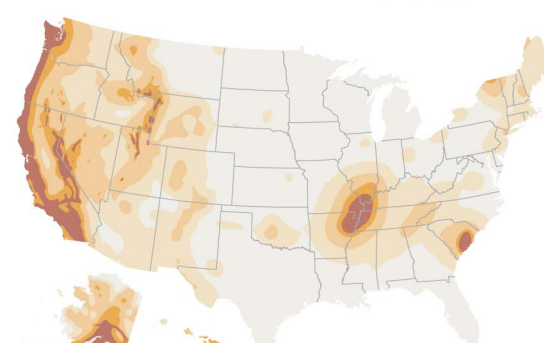
Tornado Risk Lower Higher



Hurricane Risk Lower Higher



Earthquake Risk Lower Higher



Sources: Sperling's Best Places; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (tornado map); University of Miami (hurricane map); U.S. Geological Survey (earthquake map)