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## Looking for love in all the right places in New Jersey

Single? Looking for that special someone? Tired of the bar scene? Maybe you should move.

If you're a guy, the best place to live in New Jersey is Somerset County, where women outnumber men 10 to nine. For gals, it's definitely Sussex County, where there's 13 men for every 10 women.

A study by Trulia found that among unmarried adults, 62 percent prefer to date someone who lives alone — not at home with their parents or with roommates. The real estate company compiled county-by-county data for The Star-Ledger to find out where those single men and women lived in New Jersey.

“Of course, we're only talking about the quantity of men and women, not whether they're your idea of a great date,” said Jed Kolko, Trulia's chief economist.

“We looked at the ratio of men living alone to women living alone in order to assess the dating scene,” he said.

He ruled out anyone over 65 because that skews the numbers, as women generally live longer than men.

“We also subtracted estimates of the gay and lesbian population in order to focus on men and women interested in dating someone of the opposite sex.”

Statewide, women slightly outnumber men, according to the U.S. Census Bureau: For every 100 women, there's 94.8 men. But that doesn't take into account age or living arrangements.

At the county level, the story changes a bit. In only four New Jersey counties do single women living alone outnumber their male counterparts: Camden, Essex, Somerset and Mercer.

“Somerset has a pretty strong white collar job base,” said James Hughes, dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. “Women may be tied to that economic base. In Sussex, which is a more rural environment, people with skilled occupations such as carpenters may find life more compatible there.”

Apparently, where the jobs are, so are the single women.

“It's a combination of economic and social factors,” said Yasemin Besen-Cassino, an associate professor of sociology at Montclair State University. “After the recession, men lost their jobs and many moved back home. But women are strongly entrenched now in the economy.”

She said Camden, Essex and Mercer counties, along with Hudson, offer urban experiences.

“It used be ‘cities aren’t safe; suburbs are great,’ ” but all that has changed,” she said. If true love isn’t to be found in New Jersey, those seeking better odds can focus elsewhere.

Women looking for single men should take a gamble on Las Vegas, according to Trulia, where there’s four men for every three women. Want a better shot? Men outnumber single women 2 to 1 in Williston, N.D., and Gillette and Rock Springs in Wyoming.

Men don’t have to travel as far. Women outnumber men in Washington, D.C., Boston and New York, Trulia found. And in Manhattan, the best place for a guy to be is on the Upper East Side - ZIP code 10021 - which has almost two women living alone for every single guy living by himself.

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