New York city with the most spyware

No one disputes the far-reaching scourge of spyware and adware, but few have studied who is most likely to be targeted in the USA. Until now.

Folks in the New York/Northern New Jersey/Long Island and Los Angeles/Long Beach/Santa Ana metropolitan areas are most prone to spyware problems, according to analysis by Enigma Software Group, makers of anti-spyware SpyHunter.

When findings were adjusted for each state's population, Alaska, Colorado and New Hampshire had the highest rates of infection. California had the most infections, but it also has the most people and PCs.

The numbers come from a city-by-city and state-by-state analysis of new customer sales data in the U.S. since 2007, says Enigma President Alvin Estevez.

The Top 25 Infected U.S. Metropolitan Areas (2007 to present):
1: New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island
2: Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana
3: Chicago-Naperville-Joliet
4: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington
5: Washington-Arlington-Alexandria
6: Boston-Cambridge-Quincy
7: Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington
8: Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown
9: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta
10: Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach
11: San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont
12: Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue
13: Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale
14: Detroit-Warren-Livonia
15: Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington
16: Denver-Aurora
17: San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos
18: Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater
19: Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario
20: Baltimore-Towson
21: St. Louis
22: Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton
23: Pittsburgh
24: Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown
25: Providence-Fall River-Warwick

© USA TODAY
24: Orlando-Kissimmee
25: Kansas City

By Jon Swartz
Photo: AP

To report corrections and clarifications, contact Standards Editor Brent Jones. For publication consideration in the newspaper, send comments to letters@usatoday.com. Include name, phone number, city and state for verification. To view our corrections, go to corrections.usatoday.com.