Swiss-State Comparison Methodology

Ranking the states:

- Twenty states most similar to Switzerland by personal income were identified.
- These states were then ranked in terms of their similarity to Switzerland based on income, ethnicity, health status and education (sources below). An average rank across the four variables was calculated.
- The ranking was repeated by instead measuring the % difference between each state and Switzerland, across the four variables, and in turn computing an average % difference.
- The four states most similar to Switzerland, by rank and by % difference were selected for the study.

Definitions and sources:

Income (Personal disposable income (US$) per capita)

- States: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2009
- Switzerland: OECD Statistics, www.oecd.org, 2009

Ethnicity (% Caucasian, 2000-2010)

- States: U.S. Census Bureau, "Demographic Profiles: Census 2000," and Data for 2000 to 2009: "Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and One Group with Two or more Race Groups) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009," June 2010. Data for 2010: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.
- Switzerland: CIA World Factbook, www.cia.gov

Health status

- Health status was computed using the an adaptation of the health-ranking methodology devised by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (*Rohan AM, Booske BC, Remington PL. Using the Wisconsin County Health Rankings to catalyze community health improvement. J Public Health Manag Pract. 2009 Jan- Feb;15(1):24-32.*)
- An aggregate score for each state and Switzerland was calculated using:
    - % Smoking (*33% weight*): defined as % of adults who reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes per week, and currently smoke
    - % Obese (*33% weight*): defined as % of adults with a BMI ≥30
    - % Alcohol use (*16.5% weight*), defined as an equally weighted combination of:
        a] motor vehicle deaths (all types) per 100,000 population
        b] % of adults that report binge drinking in the past 30 days
    - % Unsafe sex (*16.5% weight*), defined as an equally weighted combination of:
        a] chlamydia rate per 100,000 population
        b] teen birth rate per 1000 female population, ages 15-19
- These figures were computed for States using 2010 data from http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
- These figures were computed for Switzerland using:
    - % smoking: 2010, from: www.tabakmonitoring.ch.
    - % obese: 2007, from: Schneider H., Venetz W., Gallani-Berardo C, *HealthEcon*, Overweight and obesity in Switzerland, April 29, 2009
    - % alcohol use: 2007, from: http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber/message/attachments/26458.pdf and Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Alcohol consumption in Switzerland
    - % unsafe sex: 2009, from: Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Sexually transmitted diseases, in http://www.bag.admin.ch/hiv_aids/05464/05465/12491/index.html?lang=en, and http://www.svss-uspda.ch/de/schweiz/teenager.htm

- For each variable, the % difference between a state and Switzerland was calculated. The % difference for each of the variables were aggregated using the above weighting, calculating an overall, weighted % difference between each state and Switzerland

Education (% graduating from high school or more, averaged across 2000, 2006/07/08/09)

- States: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population, P37. "Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over," using American FactFinder; 2009 American Community Survey, R1501, "Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency)", http://factfinder.census.gov
- Switzerland: Education at a Glance 2011, OECD, www.oecd.org