

First, I will respond to each statement the parents made.

1. The job in NY does pay higher, this is found on the first page of information
2. Median home prices in Chicago are the least, not in NY as was stated in the case. There are more homes selling in New York, but at a higher price. What should also be taken into account would be the average age of a person in the state, as well as the average age of the home buyer, both of which are not given. If the average age of the home buyer is higher, it would explain why the costs of homes are more. Also, if the demand for the homes is more this will help drive the prices up. Either way, as a new graduate, I am not looking for a home, nor could I afford one yet.
3. The crime rates could only be compared across the board in the year 2009. In that year, NY did have the lowest crime rate. We could take the trends and apply it to Chicago and assume the numbers have lowered, but not nearly enough to be that of NY or LA. Therefore, NY does have the lowest crime rate.
4. Looking at the various documents, it appears that NY actually has MORE precipitation than Chicago or LA, not less as the parents stated. Also, Chicago (on average throughout the year) has cooler temperatures than NY or LA. Regardless, "cooler" and "less precipitation" does not necessarily have a significant change in whether or not I would move to that city.
5. Looking at the average Air Quality Index, NY is significantly lower than Chicago or LA (by at least 10 points)

Next, other factors that influence the decision

I broke down the cost of transportation in each city:

BUS: costs include only bus rides to and from work

City	Cost per Month	Cost per Year
NY	\$50	\$600
Chicago	\$152.55	\$1,830.60
LA	\$109	\$1,308

CAR: Cost per year would be just gas driving to and from work

City	Cost per year
NY	\$695.00
CHI	\$3,019.52
LA	\$2,912.00

It is clearly cheaper to ride the bus in NY than anything else, but the cost of driving would not be significantly more

City	Income	Rent/yr	Transportation/yr	Income Left
NY	100,000	2,900*12= 34,800	600	64,600
Chicago	80,000	2,400*12=28,800	1,830.6	49,369.40
LA	90,000	1,900*12=22,800	1,308	65,892

If you were simply looking at costs, LA is the best choice. LA also has the highest Health Care index.

I would personally choose the LA job. LA has the most "left over income" from just looking at the rent and transportation standpoint. I personally like the warmer temperatures, so that would be a good thing for me. I am currently not looking for a home, so in the immediate time frame, average cost of home does not have an effect. Crime rates in NY and LA are not very different and so I do not believe this would be a big issue. Air Quality is the worst in LA, but this personally does not bother me. Also, looking at document 5 and the happiness level compared with the income level, there are more deviations from the average after about \$80,000-\$90,000 and as we learn throughout our lives money does not equal happiness.