RESEARCH REPORT · PRESS KIT · FALL 2026 EDITION · OCTOBER 27, 2026

The State of American Mahjong 2026

> **Topline:** On October 27, 2026, Bam Good Time counted 1,336 mahjong clubs in its directory, with clubs in all 50 states. The per-capita leaders are not the biggest states, and no single city dominates.

Five findings worth a story

- **Texas leads raw count (127 clubs), Alabama leads per capita (8.22/M).** The top five states (Texas, Florida, California, New Jersey, Georgia) account for about 34% of clubs with a U.S. state.
- **The South is dense.** Massachusetts (8.00/M) is close behind Alabama, and six of the ten densest states with at least 15 clubs are Southern. Among smaller states, Vermont (15.5/M) is denser still.
- **Wednesday is "mahjong day," narrowly.** Of clubs that name a meeting day, Wednesday appears in 46 descriptions, Monday in 41. Weekdays far outnumber weekends, and afternoon is the dominant time slot.
- **No big-city winner.** Houston leads with 14 listed clubs. Only 29 cities have four or more; the rest of the game lives in more than 950 other cities and towns.
- **American (NMJL) variant dominates.** Of clubs naming a variant, about 90% play American. Riichi and Hong Kong mahjong appear in only a handful of listings.

By the numbers

1,336
Clubs counted in the directory on October 27, 2026

50
States with at least one listed club

8.22/M
Per-capita leader (Alabama)

Wednesday
Most common meeting day

Methodology

The Bam Good Time public directory listed 1,489 entries on October 27, 2026. The report leaves out 148 sign-ups with no games and no members besides the person who created them, and 5 test or demo accounts, and counts 1,336 clubs: 817 on Bam Good Time and 519 public listings collected from Modern Mahjong, Jewish Community Center programs, Sloperama and Meetup, after the directory's own removal of listings that duplicate a Bam Good Time club. State and city figures use the 1,327 clubs with a U.S. state, cross-referenced against U.S. Census 2023 state and 2022 city population estimates. This is a count of directory listings, not a measure of growth. Raw data tables are available on request.

Available for interview

Heather Cannon, founder of Bam Good Time, in Columbus, Georgia. Heather started out hosting and then teaching American mahjong, and Bam Good Time grew from there. Available to discuss regional trends, outliers (Vermont, Alabama, Massachusetts), or local angles for specific cities. Email or call her and tell her your deadline.

Contact & assets

- Press contact: Heather Cannon
- Email: mahjong@bamgoodtime.com
- Phone: (706) 250-0148
- Press kit, logos and photos: bamgoodtime.com/press
- Full report: bamgoodtime.com/blog/state-of-american-mahjong-2026
- Charts (SVG): bamgoodtime.com/images/reports/som-2026/
- Raw data (JSON + CSV): on request, by email

Bam Good Time: mahjong club management built for the 2026 community. Directory, registration, leagues, payments, and league scoring in one place. bamgoodtime.com