

The State of American Mahjong 2026

Topline: American mahjong is in a boom. Bam Good Time counted 730 unique clubs in 49 states in a cross-source snapshot of the U.S. mahjong community. The per-capita leaders are not the biggest states, and no single city dominates.

Five findings worth a story

- **Florida leads raw count (63 clubs), New Jersey leads per capita (5.17/M).** The top five states account for 36% of all known clubs.
- **The Northeast leads per capita.** New Jersey, Massachusetts (3.57/M) and Pennsylvania (3.47/M) top the states with at least 15 clubs. Among smaller states, Vermont (15.5/M) and Maine (8.6/M) are denser still.
- **Wednesday is "mahjong day" in America.** Of clubs that name a meeting day, Wednesday appears in 59 descriptions, 20% more than any other day. Afternoon is the dominant time slot.
- **No big-city winner.** No U.S. city has more than six listed clubs. The game lives in hundreds of cities and towns, each with a club or two.
- **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.

What's driving the boom

- Pandemic-era cohort. Thousands of players learned mahjong 2020–21 and came looking for in-person clubs when gatherings resumed.
- Aesthetic overhaul. A new generation of tile set designers has made the game Instagrammable. Modern sets reach younger players.
- Organizer tooling. Platforms like Bam Good Time handle RSVPs, waitlists, and payments, so more volunteers stay organizers.
- 65-and-over population growth. Active-adult communities compete on mahjong programming; retirement-heavy states punch above their weight.

By the numbers

730

Unique clubs across the United States

49

States with at least one listed club

5.17/M

Per-capita leader (New Jersey)

Wednesday

Most common meeting day

Methodology

We combined three public club listing sources, Modern Mahjong, Sloperama's legacy index and Meetup, with 173 first-party listings from the Bam Good Time public directory, as they stood on April 22, 2026. We filtered to active listings, deduped on lowercased (name, city, state) keys, and cross-referenced against U.S. Census 2023 state population and 2022 ACS city population estimates for per-capita figures. The report was rebuilt on October 19, 2026 from this smaller set of sources, and every figure here reflects that. 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, Maine, New Jersey), or local angles for specific cities. Email or call her and tell her your deadline.

Contact & assets

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- 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