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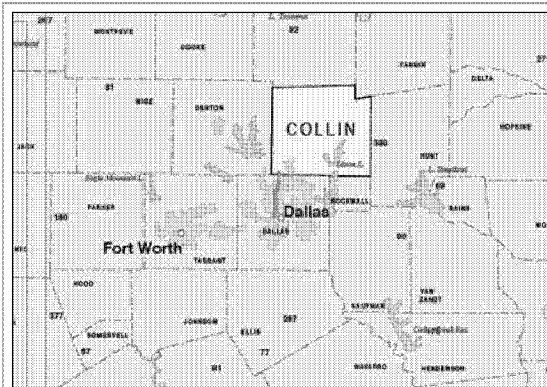
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14. Collin County, Texas

Population: 698,851

Home to the burgeoning northern suburbs of Dallas, Collin County is a great value play for families. An affordable median house price of \$191,000 means access to a school system that boasts a 1,103 average SAT score and a graduation rate of 93%. One caveat: a sub-par crime rate of 34.7 index crimes per 1,000 people. That's four times higher than Hunterdon County, N.J., the safest county on our list.

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