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Crime State Rankings 2010: Crime Across America
Now Available from CQ Press

New Hampshire Cited as State with Lowest Crime Ranking in Annual Nationwide Study

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC (April, 2010) # CQ Press has released *Crime State Rankings 2010*, the newest edition of the annual volume comparing the fifty states in more than 500 crime-related categories. New Hampshire received the lowest crime rate ranking again this year, followed by Vermont and North Dakota. New Hampshire reported only 13 murders out of a population of 1.3 million. The state had the second lowest rate for aggravated assault with only 94.7 cases per 100,000 citizens in 2008. Ranked least favorably among the states was Nevada, followed by New Mexico and Louisiana. Nevada's murder rate was just over six times higher than New Hampshire's, and the Silver State reported a rape rate of 42.4 cases per 100,000 people compared to the national average of 29.3. Nevada also tops the list for robbery rate, with an average 248.9 reported cases per 100,000 citizens versus the national rate of 145.3, and New Hampshire's rate of 31.8

The new edition of *Crime State Rankings* features an introduction by criminologist Rachel Boba (Florida Atlantic University) that explains the formula used to compile the rankings and offers new insight into the methodology used by the editors. Dr. Boba also offers statistical analysis of the rankings, a comparative analysis of the states, and additional information and caveats regarding the analyzed data.

METHODOLOGY

A significant amount of the data featured in *Crime State Rankings 2010* comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which provides national standards for the uniform classification of crimes and arrests. The methodology used to produce the statistics presented in this book is fairly straightforward and involves a multistep process. First, the reported crime rates across the six categories—murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft—are compared to the national reported crime rates and then indexed to create a summary score and ranking across six areas of reported violent and property crime. The rest of the analyses are

simple calculations of frequency, percent, rate, and percent change of reported crime and other criminal justice information. In each analysis, the states are presented in alphabetical as well as rank order by their values of the variable under examination from highest to lowest.

Crime State Rankings serves as a resource for state and local government, law enforcement officials, and community members. Every governor, mayor, and concerned citizen needs access to straightforward, organized criminal justice information in order to address public safety issues in their A Division of SAGE own states and communities. This book provides answers to hundreds of questions researchers might ask about crime and criminal justice across America.

A WORD ABOUT CRIME RANKINGS

CQ Press's annual rankings of crime in states, cities, and metropolitan areas are considered controversial by some in the law enforcement community. The FBI, police, and many criminologists caution against ranking according to crime rates. They correctly point out that crime levels are affected by many different factors, such as population density, composition of the population (particularly the concentration of youth), climate, economic conditions, strength of local law enforcement agencies, citizen's attitudes toward crime, cultural factors, education levels, crime reporting practices of citizens, and family cohesiveness. Accordingly, crime rankings often are deemed "simplistic" or "incomplete."

However, this criticism is based largely on the fact that there are reasons for the differences in crime rates, not that the rates are incompatible. The rankings tell an interesting and an important story regarding crime in the United States. Annual rankings not only allow for comparisons among different states and cities, but also enable leaders to track their communities' crime trends from one year to the next. *City Crime Rankings* helps concerned Americans learn how their communities fare in the fight against crime by providing accessible, straightforward data which citizens can use and understand.

THE CQ PRESS STATE FACT FINDER SERIES

Crime State Rankings is one of five annual reference books published by CQ Press that analyze and rank states and cities in various categories. Other books rank the fifty states and the District of Columbia using data on health care, education, city crime, and social and economic conditions.

TITLE AND EDITOR INFORMATION

Crime State Rankings 2010: Crime Across America Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan, with an introduction by Rachel Boba March 2010 | 8 ½ x 11 | 416 pages | Paperback | ISBN 9781604266184 | \$70.00

Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and **Scott Morgan** have compiled state and city rankings books for almost two decades. Kathleen O'Leary Morgan holds a master's degree in public administration and has served in a number of media and legislative liaison positions with the U.S. Department of Transportation, where she also served as deputy director of Congressional Affairs. Scott Morgan is an attorney who served as chief counsel to Sen. Robert Dole's 1988 presidential campaign.

Dr. Rachel Boba is an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. At FAU, she teaches methods of research, criminal justice systems, crime prevention, problem solving, and analysis in policing. She also conducts research in the areas of problem solving, problem analysis, crime analysis, regional data sharing, and technology in policing. From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Boba was Director of the Police Foundation's Crime Mapping Laboratory, where she directed federally funded grants in the areas of crime analysis and crime mapping, problem analysis, and school safety. Prior to her position at the Police Foundation, she worked as a crime analyst at the Tempe, Arizona, Police Department for five years, where she conducted a wide variety of crime analysis and crime mapping work as well as applied research and evaluation. She holds a PhD and an MA in sociology from Arizona State University and a BA in English and sociology from California Lutheran University.

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