

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Safest and Most Dangerous State rankings are determined using rates for six crime categories—murder, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, and motor vehicle theft—by calculating a state’s position relative to the national average for each category. Crime categories are weighted equally, so that state comparisons are based purely on how states performed against the national average. The weighted, aggregate scores are totaled, and a state is assigned a final score. The farther below the national average a state’s crime rate is, the safer it ranks; the farther above the national average, the more dangerous.