



A Division of Congressional Quarterly Inc.

NEWS FROM CQ PRESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information please contact:

PRINT: Ben Krasney

bkrasney@cqpress.com

202-729-1846

TV/RADIO: Janet Donovan

creative.enterprises.int@gmail.com

202-822-9318

NEW HAMPSHIRE DECLARED THE SAFEST STATE IN THE 2008 EDITION OF CRIME STATE RANKINGS FROM CQ PRESS;

NEVADA IS NAMED THE MOST DANGEROUS

Washington DC, March 17, 2008—New Hampshire has been declared the Safest State Award winner for 2008. The Granite State displaces North Dakota, which held this title for ten consecutive years. New Hampshire boasts the nation's lowest murder rate and second-lowest rates for aggravated assault and burglary. Maine, North Dakota, Vermont, and South Dakota round out the top five safest cities.

At the opposite end of the rankings, Nevada ranks as nation's most dangerous state for the fifth consecutive year. The nation's fastest growing state, Nevada recorded rate increases for each violent crime category from 2005 through 2006. Joining Nevada at the bottom of the list are Louisiana, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Arizona.

The rankings are contained in [Crime State Rankings 2008: Crime Across America](#). Formerly published by Morgan Quitno Press, *Crime State Rankings* and the Safest and Most Dangerous State Awards are now published annually by Washington, D.C.-based CQ Press, the reference and textbook-publishing division of Congressional Quarterly. *Crime State Rankings 2008* is part of the new *State Fact Finder Series*.

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.

A WORD ABOUT CRIME RANKINGS

CQ Press's annual rankings of crime in states, metro areas, and cities are considered by some in the law enforcement community as controversial. The FBI, police and many criminologists caution

against rankings 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, citizens' 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 largely based on the fact that there are reasons for the differences in crime rates, not that the rates are incompatible. This would be somewhat akin to deciding not to compare athletes on their speed in the 100-yard dash because of physical or training differences. Such differences help explain the different speeds but do not invalidate the comparisons. To be sure, crime-ranking information must be considered carefully. However, the rankings tell not only an interesting but also very important story regarding the incidence of 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. *Crime State Rankings* helps concerned Americans learn how their communities fare in the fight against crime. The first step in making our cities and states safer is to understand the true magnitude of their crime problems. This will only be achieved through straightforward data that all of us can use and understand.

THE STATE FACT FINDER SERIES FROM CQ PRESS

The Safest and Most Dangerous State Awards are announced annually. Other annual awards are announced in conjunction with the publication of books in the new *State Fact Finder Series* from CQ Press. The Most Livable State Award is announced in the flagship title in the series, *State Rankings*. The Healthiest State Award is based on factors derived from *Health Care State Rankings*. The safest City and Metro Area Awards are based on data from *City Crime Rankings*. The Smartest State Award is determined using data from *Education State Rankings*. The Most Improved State Award is based on statistics from *State Trends*.

Available in print paperback, the books in the *State Fact Finder Series* can also be purchased on CD-ROM containing either a PDF of the book, or a PDF along with databases in Microsoft Excel, ASCII, and .dbf formats. Data and rankings pertaining to individual states are also available from CQ Press on our Web site at www.cqpress.com/reference.

TITLE AND AUTHOR INFORMATION

Crime State Rankings 2008: Crime Across America

Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan

March 2008 | 8 ½ x 11 | 553 pages

Paperback | ISBN 978-0-87289-929-2 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF) | 978-1-60426-088-5 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF plus Database) | 978-1-60426-089-2 | \$99.95

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. Bob Dole's 1988 presidential campaign.

ABOUT CQ PRESS

CQ Press (www.cqpress.com) publishes reference works, textbooks, directories, and online resources on government, politics, and world affairs that educate and inform readers about government and democracy. It is a division of Congressional Quarterly Inc. (CQ), a private, independent news-gathering and publishing firm based in Washington, D.C. CQ produces content renowned for its objectivity, breadth, depth of coverage, and high standards of journalistic and editorial excellence. Founded in 1945, CQ is owned by the Florida-based Times Publishing Company, a leading independent media organization and publisher of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Page 3 of 3

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Print: Ben Krasney – CQ Press – 2300 N Street NW – Suite 800 – Washington, DC 20037
202-729-1846 – bkrasney@cqpress.com – <http://www.cqpress.com/>

Radio/TV: Janet Donovan: 202-822-9318 – creative.enterprises.int@gmail.com