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## NEWS FROM CQ PRESS

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### **MINNESOTA DECLARED THE HEALTHIEST STATE IN THE 2008 EDITION OF HEALTH CARE STATE RANKINGS FROM CQ PRESS**

**Washington DC, March 26, 2008**—For the first time since 1999, Minnesota is the Healthiest State in America. The North Star State ousts long-time winner Vermont, which held the title for six of the last seven years. Following Minnesota are New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts. At the opposite end of the rankings, Mississippi falls to last place. Joining Mississippi on the less healthy end of the rankings scale are Louisiana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Florida.

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

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The Healthiest State designation is awarded based on 21 factors chosen from the 2008 edition of *Health Care State Rankings*. These factors reflect each state's access to health care providers, emphasis on preventative care, affordability of health care, and the general health of its population. The 21 factors selected for this year's award remain unchanged from those used last year. The factors are divided into two groups: those that are "negative" for which a high ranking would be considered bad for a state, and those that are "positive" for which a high ranking would be considered good for a state. Rates for each of the 21 factors are processed through a formula that measures how a state compares to the national average for a given category. The factors are weighted equally. The weighted scores are added together to determine a state's final score. This way, states are assessed based on how they stack up against the national average. The end result is that the farther below the national average a state's health ranking is, the lower (and less healthy) it ranks. The farther above the national average, the higher (and healthier) it ranks.

Without a doubt, this award will promote a vigorous discussion among citizens and state leaders. While the selection of factors clearly affects the final rankings, they provide a solid measurement of how states are faring in regard to health care. Congratulations to the very healthy citizens and leaders of Minnesota!

## **THE STATE FACT FINDER SERIES FROM CQ PRESS**

The Healthiest State Award is 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 series' flagship title, *State Rankings*. The Safest and Most Dangerous State Awards are based on factors derived from *Crime 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](http://www.cqpress.com/reference).

### **TITLE AND AUTHOR INFORMATION**

#### **Health Care 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 978-0-87289-928-5 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF) | 978-1-60426-113-4 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF plus Database) | 978-1-60426-114-1 | \$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](http://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*.

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