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NEW HAMPSHIRE IS THE MOST LIVABLE STATE IN THE 2008 EDITION OF STATE RANKINGS FROM CQ PRESS

Washington DC, March 26, 2008—For the fifth consecutive year, New Hampshire has been named the Most Livable State. The Granite State excels in a number of important quality-of-life measures, boasting low crime, low poverty, and high income levels, as well as a well-educated population. Joining New Hampshire at the top of the rankings are Utah, Wyoming, Minnesota, and Iowa.

At the opposite end of the Most Livable State rankings, Mississippi holds on firmly to last place. It has held this position for nine of the last ten years. Preceding Mississippi are South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

The rankings are contained in ***State Rankings 2008: A Statistical View of America***. Formerly published by Morgan Quitno Press, *State Rankings* and the Most Livable State Award are now published by Washington-based CQ Press, the reference and textbook-publishing division of Congressional Quarterly. The content in *State Rankings 2008* both replaces and expands upon the content in the *State Fact Finder* annual reference book that CQ Press customers have come to know. *State Rankings 2008* is the flagship title in a new and improved line of state rankings books that make up the new *State Fact Finder Series*.

METHODOLOGY

The 2008 Most Livable State award is based on the same forty-four factors used to determine last year's award, factors the editors believe reflect a state's basic quality of life. It takes into account a broad range of economic, educational, health-oriented, public safety, and environmental statistics to determine a state's "Livability Rating." Each state's rankings for the forty-four categories were averaged to yield its final score. Data used are for the most recent year in which comparable numbers are available from most states. All factors are given equal weight, and states with no data available for a given category are ranked based only on the remaining factors.

THE STATE FACT FINDER SERIES FROM CQ PRESS

The Most Livable State Award is one of six annual honors announced in conjunction with the publication of books in the new *State Fact Finder Series* from CQ Press. The Healthiest State Award is based on factors derived from *Health Care State Rankings*. The Safest and Most Dangerous State designations are announced with *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.

TITLE AND AUTHOR INFORMATION

State Rankings 2008: A Statistical View of America

Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan

March 2008 | 8 ½ x 11 | 625 pages

Hardcover | ISBN 978-0-87289-926-1 | \$105.00

Paperback | ISBN 978-0-87289-927-8 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF) | ISBN 978-1-60426-267-4 | \$65.00

CD-ROM (PDF + Database) | ISBN 978-1-60426-266-7 | \$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*.

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