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Fishers, Indiana, Flint, Michigan Top List for Lowest, Highest Crime Rate Ranking in Annual Publication

City Crime Rankings 2011-2012: Crime in Metropolitan America
now available from CQ Press

Washington, DC (December 8, 2011) CQ Press released its annual report on city crime rankings, *City Crime Rankings 2011-2012: Crime in Metropolitan America*, with Fishers, IN and Flint, MI topping the list for lowest and highest crime rate ranking.

Fishers, IN boasts the nation's lowest rate for violent crime in the nation for cities with 75,000 or more population. The city reported no murders and a mere 4 aggravated assaults in 2010. Joining Fishers in the top five for lowest crime rate rank include O'Fallon, MO; Mission Viejo, CA; Ramapo, NY; and Newton, MA.

Flint, MI caps the other end of the list of 405 cities with the highest crime rate rank. Flint tops the list with the highest rate of reported aggravated assaults for cities with 75,000 or more population. It ranks second in the nation for rates of murder and violent crime. Camden, NJ; Detroit, MI; St. Louis, MO; and Oakland, CA follow Flint on the rankings list.

The Logan, Utah metropolitan district tops the list for lowest crime rate ranking among the 354 U.S. metropolitan areas that are ranked, while the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, Michigan region has the nation's highest crime rate ranking for metropolitan areas.

Published annually, *City Crime Rankings* is a staple resource for researchers, city and law enforcement officials, and the news media that follow trends in crime. An introduction by criminologist Rachel Boba Santos (Florida Atlantic University) explains the formula used to compile the rankings and offers insight into the methodology used by the editors. Dr. Boba also offers statistical analysis of the rankings, a comparative analysis of cities and metropolitan areas, and additional information and caveats regarding the analyzed data.

METHODOLOGY

The crime rate rankings of the cities and metropolitan areas are calculated using six crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. These categories have been used for determining city crime rate ratings since 1999. The rankings include all cities of at least 75,000 residents that reported crime data to the FBI in the categories noted for calendar year 2010.

More information on methodology is available on the CQ Press Web site.



City Crime Rankings 2011-2012 offers a thorough and valuable collection of data presented in more than 90 tables that allow for easy comparison of crime numbers, rates, and trends throughout the United States.

A WORD ABOUT CRIME RANKINGS

CQ Press's annual rankings of crime in cities, states, and metropolitan areas 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, citizen's attitudes toward crime, cultural factors, education levels, and 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.

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 AND CITY RANKING SERIES

City Crime 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 states using data on health care, education, crime, and social and economic conditions.

TITLE AND EDITOR INFORMATION

City Crime Rankings 2011-2012: Crime in Metropolitan America
Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan
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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 Santos 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 as well as conducts research in the areas of problem solving, problem analysis, crime analysis, regional data sharing,



and technology in policing. From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Santos 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.

ABOUT CQ PRESS

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