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City Crime Rankings 2008-2009: Crime in Metropolitan America

Now available from CQ Press.

**RAMAPO, NEW YORK, THE LOWEST U.S. CRIME RATE RANKING;
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, HAS THE HIGHEST CRIME RATE RANKING IN
EXPANDED ANNUAL PUBLICATION FROM CQ PRESS**

Washington, D.C., November 24, 2008: With the annual publication that brings the discussion of crime in U.S. cities and metropolitan areas into the national spotlight, CQ Press has released [*City Crime Rankings 2008-2009: Crime in Metropolitan America*](#).

Ramapo, New York tops the list for the first time with the lowest city crime rate ranking in the United States, while at the opposite end, New Orleans, Louisiana has the highest. The new edition of *City Crime Rankings* features a significantly expanded introduction by criminologist Rachel Boba (Florida Atlantic University) that explains the formula used to compile the rankings and offers new 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.

Ramapo earned the lowest city crime rate ranking with only 688 incidences of reported crime and no murders in 2007. Joining Ramapo among the lowest rankings are Mission Viejo California, which had the lowest ranking last year; Lake Forest, Chino Hills, and Thousand Oaks, California; and Newton, Massachusetts. New Orleans has the highest crime rate ranking, with 19,034 incidences of reported crime, 209 murders, and a percent change in violent crime rate of 199.1% across the past year. Behind New Orleans with the highest crime rate ranking are Camden, New Jersey; Detroit, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; and Oakland, California. The Logan region of Utah and Idaho tops the list for lowest crime rate ranking among U.S. metropolitan areas, while the Pine Bluff, Arkansas region has the nation's highest crime rate ranking for metropolitan areas.

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 2007. In the most recent survey, 356 metropolitan areas and 397 cities were considered using statistics released by the Uniform Crime

Reporting Program of the FBI on September 15, 2008. More information on methodology is available on the CQ Press Web site.

City Crime Rankings 2008-2009 offers a thorough collection of data presented in ninety tables that allow for easy comparison of crime numbers, rates, and trends throughout the United States. A full report containing the complete rankings of all 356 metropolitan areas and 397 cities is available online from the [CQ Press Web site](#).

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 2008-2009: Crime in Metropolitan America

Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan

November 2008 | 8 ½ x 11 | 416 pages

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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 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. Boba 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.

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