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*Crime State Rankings 2009: Crime Across America*  
Now Available from CQ Press

## **New Hampshire Cited as State with Lowest Crime Ranking in Annual Nationwide Study**

*Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC (March 23, 2009)* — CQ Press has released *Crime State Rankings 2009*, the newest edition of the annual volume comparing the fifty states in more than 500 crime-related categories.

New Hampshire received the lowest crime rate ranking again this year, followed by Vermont and Maine. The state reported only 15 murders out of a population of 1.3 million—the lowest rate in the country. New Hampshire was also below the national average for rape, and had the second lowest rate for aggravated assault with only 78 cases per 100,000 citizens in 2007. Ranked least favorably among the states was Nevada, followed by Louisiana and South Carolina. Nevada's murder rate was nearly seven times higher than New Hampshire's, and the Silver State reported a rape rate of 43 cases per 100,000 people compared to the national average of 30. Nevada also tops the list for robbery rate, with an average 270 reported cases per 100,000 citizens versus the national average of 148, and New Hampshire's rate of 33.

The new edition of *Crime State 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 the states, and additional information and caveats regarding the analyzed data.

### **METHODOLOGY**

A significant amount of the data featured in *Crime State Rankings 2009* comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which provides national standards for the uniform classification of crimes and arrests. The methodology used to produce the statistics presented in this book is fairly straightforward and involves a multistep process. First, the reported crime rates across the six categories—murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft—are compared to the national reported crime rates and then indexed to create a summary score and ranking across six areas of reported violent and property crime. The rest of the analyses are simple calculations of frequency, percent, rate, and percent change of reported crime and other criminal justice information. In each analysis, the states are presented in alphabetical as well as rank order by their values of the variable under examination from highest to lowest.

*Crime State Rankings* serves as a resource for state and local government, law enforcement officials, and community members. Every governor, mayor, and concerned citizen needs access to straightforward, organized criminal justice information in order to address public safety issues in their

own states and communities. This book provides answers to hundreds of questions researchers might ask about crime and criminal justice across America.

## **A WORD ABOUT CRIME RANKINGS**

CQ Press's annual rankings of crime in states, cities, and metropolitan areas are considered controversial by some in the law enforcement community. The FBI, police, and many criminologists caution against ranking 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, crime reporting practices of citizens, and family cohesiveness. Accordingly, crime rankings often are deemed "simplistic" or "incomplete." However, this criticism is based largely 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**

*Crime State 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 the fifty states and the District of Columbia using data on health care, education, city crime, and social and economic conditions.

## **TITLE AND EDITOR INFORMATION**

### **Crime State Rankings 2009: Crime Across America**

Edited by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan, with an introduction by Rachel Boba  
March 2009 | 8 ½ x 11 | 560 pages | Paperback | ISBN 978-1-60426-525-5 | \$68.00

**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. She also 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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