



Safest Cities in California



2024

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Summary

We all want a safe place to call home. Whether you want to know how your current hometown ranks or you're looking to move, we've calculated the per capita crime rates of cities in each state.¹ [Our rankings](#) are based on the number of reported violent crimes and property crimes per 1,000 people in each city. The "safest" cities rankings are intended to highlight cities with low crime rates and ignite conversation and action around how to make all cities and communities safer.²

In this report, you will find data tables for all cities that qualified for ranking in a state rather than just the top cities published on our website. We calculated crime rates for every city with sufficient crime data that met our population threshold based on the state's median population (as per FBI-submitted population data). If you don't see your city listed, it could be due to not meeting the population threshold, incomplete data, or the failure to submit a report by your local jurisdiction.

A closer look at the safest cities in the US

This year, violent crime once again held at 4.0 incidents per 1,000 people and property crime rose from 19.3 incidents per 1,000 to 20.7 nationwide.

We calculated per capita crime rates for 44 states that submitted sufficient data to the FBI to calculate statewide rates. Here's a look at how crime rates trended across the US:

- Violent crime rates held steady or decreased in 66% of states.
- 34% of states saw a jump in violent crime year over year—last year it was 41%.
- Property crime rates held steady or decreased in 64% of states.
- 36% of states saw a jump in property crime rates—last year it was 34%.
- 16 states saw a dip in both violent and property crime rates year over year.
- 9 states saw both violent and property crime rates rise year over year.
- 45% of Americans surveyed told us they feel safe in their state, down from 50% last year.³
- 73% of Americans surveyed think overall crime is increasing, up from 71% last year.

How to make your community safer

Whether your city made our list or not, we encourage everyone to be proactive about home security. Over 6 in 10 Americans surveyed don't have a home security system, despite over 50% of all burglaries being residential. Unfortunately, a majority of people who have a security system added it after they had a break-in. One of the best ways to stop a burglary before it happens—and get immediate help if a break-in is detected—is to add a monitored [home security system](#). For more safety news and tips on making your community safer, visit our [News page](#).

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Rank	City	Population	VC* per 1,000	PC* per 1,000
1	Rancho Santa Margarita	46,889	0.4	4.8
2	Aliso Viejo	51,477	0.9	6.8
3	Yorba Linda	67,550	0.5	10.2
4	Laguna Niguel	64,119	0.9	10.5
5	Mission Viejo	91,382	0.8	11.4
6	Lake Forest	85,480	1.2	10.6
7	Lincoln	51,456	1.7	9
8	Poway	48,011	1.7	9.8
9	Rocklin	74,168	1.1	13
10	Irvine	311,696	0.7	15.1

• PC= Property crime; VC = Violent crime.

Property crime includes: burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Violent crime includes: aggravated assault, murder, rape, and robbery.

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Rank	City	Population	VC* per 1,000	PC* per 1,000
11	Santee	59,351	2.6	9.1
12	San Marcos	94,879	2.2	10.8
13	San Clemente	63,449	1.8	12.3
14	Elk Grove	180,372	2	13.4
15	Encinitas	61,488	1.8	15.3
16	Murrieta	114,655	2.7	12.7
17	Fontana	212,730	2.8	13
18	Menifee	109,673	2.8	14
19	Cypress	49,588	1.2	19.9
20	Clovis	125,348	1.8	17.8

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21	Beaumont	57,067	3.5	12.3
22	Novato	52,412	2.3	16.5
23	Chula Vista	277,976	3.5	13.1
24	Carlsbad	115,531	2	18.1
25	Morgan Hill	45,134	3.1	14.6
26	Tracy	97,219	2.9	15.3
27	Placentia	50,764	2.3	18.1
28	Vista	98,802	3.8	15.1
29	Hanford	58,990	4.2	13.8
30	Escondido	150,072	3.4	18.1

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31	Baldwin Park	69,205	4.5	15.6
32	Madera	69,395	4.5	15.9
33	La Mesa	60,333	3	21.4
34	Sunnyvale	148,739	2.1	24.6
35	Upland	79,430	3.3	20.5
36	El Monte	104,695	3.8	19
37	El Cajon	104,693	4.6	16.4
38	Garden Grove	169,157	3	22.1
39	Delano	52,484	3.3	21.1
40	Covina	49,590	3.3	21.5

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41	San Diego	1,377,838	4.2	18.3
42	Alhambra	79,703	2	26.1
43	Woodland	61,883	3.5	22.3
44	La Habra	62,082	4.1	20.3
45	Citrus Heights	86,896	3.9	21.1
46	Tustin	78,841	3.2	25.2
47	Torrance	140,499	2.7	27
48	Chino	94,611	2.8	27.2
49	Davis	66,939	2.4	28.4
50	Hemet	91,046	4.6	20.9

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51	Oceanside	171,844	4.8	20.4
52	West Covina	104,739	4	23.4
53	Colton	54,597	4.1	22.9
54	Palo Alto	64,922	2	30.3
55	Porterville	62,865	4.8	21.5
56	Burbank	103,516	3.1	27.7
57	Brea	47,617	1.8	32.9
58	Arcadia	54,202	2.5	30.7
59	Mountain View	80,588	2.7	29.9
60	Redlands	73,554	2.8	30.8

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61	Yuba City	69,122	5.3	22.8
62	Visalia	144,137	4.9	24.2
63	Tulare	72,303	6	21.6
64	Antioch	114,338	6.1	22.2
65	National City	55,676	6.1	22.5
66	Santa Clara	126,877	3.1	35.7
67	San Rafael	60,386	5.2	30.6
68	Modesto	219,083	7.5	24.4
69	Santa Maria	109,518	6.5	28.2
70	Concord	122,982	6.4	28.8

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Rank	City	Population	VC* per 1,000	PC* per 1,000
71	Alameda	74,441	3.1	43
72	Anaheim	344,795	7.6	27.9
73	Newark	46,861	3.1	43.8
74	Gardena	58,535	6.4	32.5
75	Richmond	115,043	8.7	27.4
76	Fresno	546,871	8.6	35.2
77	Stockton	323,501	11.7	27.7

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About Safewise.com

What is our mission?

Our mission is to inspire people to embrace safety as a lifestyle, turn their homes into sanctuaries, and invest in their communities.

Who is Safewise?

SafeWise is an online resource that provides tools and information to help people make their life safer at home and in their community. SafeWise experts have decades of experience as journalists, product testers, safety and compliance officers, homeowners, and community advocates.

What do we do?

We believe that our homes—and the people (and pets) we share them with—are what really matter. Protecting the “where” and “who” in our lives gives us more time to enjoy it all. We contextualize national crime and safety trends to show how they affect you and your neighborhood. We use this knowledge to examine safety and security products and find out whether they’re worth your time. When we find flaws, gaps in coverage, or a practice that makes us raise our eyebrows, we let brands and consumers know.

How do we do it?

We do more than conduct research—we test home security systems and smart devices in-house to report on the good, the bad, and the ugly. SafeWise streamlines it for you by putting reviews, videos, & articles in one place.

Safewise Expertise

Real Experience: Our expert team has 65+ years of combined safety experience and has spent thousands of hours testing hundreds of safety products and services.

Respected Authority: Safewise experts are actively sought by publications, broadcast journalists, non-profit organizations, community groups, podcasts, and more.

Prominently Featured: Our expert tips, recommendations, and proprietary safety studies have been featured by: Good Morning America, the Today Show, USA Today, NPR Marketplace, The Washington Post, MSNBC, Real Simple, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, Reader's Digest, and more.

Let's connect!

We're everywhere you want to be online. Catch our informative [YouTube videos](#), chat with us in our [Ask SafeWise Facebook group](#), and laugh and learn with our [TikTok channel](#).

Follow us on social:



Endnotes

1. We rely on voluntary, self-reported information that cities and jurisdictions across the country report through the FBI Summary Reporting System (SRS) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). For our 2024 reporting year, the most recent FBI data was released in October 2023 for crimes reported in 2022. Read more in our [methodology](#).
2. For the purposes of city ranking reports, the terms “dangerous” and “safest” refer explicitly to crime rates as calculated from FBI crime data—no other characterization of any community is implied or intended.
3. The SafeWise State of Safety survey collects data from 5,000 Americans (at least 100 from every state) each year since 2018.