

safewise

Safest Cities in California

2026

2026 Safest Cities in California

Summary

Everyone wants to feel safe at home. Whether you're checking in on your current city or scouting out a new one, we've crunched the numbers on crime rates across the country.[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'll get exclusive access to complete data tables for every city that qualified in your state — not just the top-ranked ones featured on our website. Using the latest FBI-submitted statistics, we've calculated crime rates for all cities that met our population and data reporting criteria.

If you don't find your city, it is likely due to incomplete data or not meeting the state's median population threshold (using FBI population data). This report gives you a broader view of safety trends, helping you see where your community stands.

A closer look at the safest cities in the U.S.

Each year, we analyze crime data to provide a clearer picture of safety across the country. While the nationwide crime rate estimates from the FBI have been inconsistent in recent years, we still look at the most reliable data available to identify trends.

National Crime Trends: 2026

- Property crime rate: 22.9 per 1,000 people (20% increase year over year)
- Violent crime rate: 4.4 per 1,000 people (22% increase year over year)

Even with overall increases in both violent and property crime (26 states followed suit), not all states followed the trend:

- 7 states saw **decreases** in both violent crime and property crime
- 11 states saw a **decrease** in violent crime and an increase in property crime
- 2 states saw a increase in violent crime and a **decrease** in property crime
- 1 state saw no change in violent crime and a **decrease** in property crime
- 1 state saw no changes year over year

While these numbers provide a broad perspective, it's important to remember that crime trends can vary significantly by location. By focusing on city-level crime data, we aim to give a more accurate and actionable look at safety in communities across the U.S.

How to make your community safer

Community safety improves when residents take proactive steps to secure their homes. Learn more at SafeWise.

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2026 Safest Cities in California

Rank	City	Population	VC per 1,000*	PC per 1,000**
1	Danville	42,814	0.58	5.91
2	Rancho Santa Margarita	45,633	0.81	5.33
3	Lincoln	56,152	0.89	5.79
4	Moorpark	35,312	0.99	7.22
5	Yorba Linda	65,469	0.96	7.77
6	Calexico	38,106	1.44	5.43
7	Poway	47,808	1.38	5.96
8	Laguna Niguel	62,363	1.2	8.98
9	San Ramon	84,452	0.81	11.05
10	Thousand Oaks	122,363	1.01	10.35

- 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	Aliso Viejo	49,674	1.35	8.74
12	Lake Forest	85,811	1.46	8.33
13	Simi Valley	124,707	1.28	9.21
14	Oakley	46,548	1.4	9.6
15	Rocklin	74,048	1.51	9.13
16	Mission Viejo	89,699	0.98	11.87
17	Menifee	117,055	1.82	8.16
18	San Marcos	93,974	2.19	6.69
19	Santee	59,351	2.49	5.75
20	Camarillo	69,115	1.22	12.05

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21	Irvine	316,764	0.81	14.03
22	Murrieta	112,125	1.76	9.49
23	San Juan Capistrano	34,620	1.68	10.89
24	Pacifica	35,759	1.37	13.2
25	Beaumont	60,294	1.96	10.47
26	Encinitas	60,461	2.15	9.64
27	Elk Grove	179,074	1.86	12.51
28	San Clemente	61,692	1.82	12.77
29	Orange	137,970	2.24	11.65
30	Folsom	86,152	1.74	14.63

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31	Rohnert Park	44,573	2.42	12.03
32	Hollister	45,626	3.22	8.46
33	Central Marin	34,703	1.21	18.33
34	Vista	98,290	3.19	8.8
35	Roseville	162,841	2.06	14.46
36	Petaluma	58,493	2.63	11.8
37	Morgan Hill	44,083	1.86	15.61
38	Fontana	217,605	2.62	12.27
39	Martinez	36,132	2.6	12.45
40	Carlsbad	113,023	1.96	15.61

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41	El Centro	43,550	3.21	10.13
42	Novato	51,258	2.52	13.71
43	Cathedral City	52,602	2.79	12.39
44	Fountain Valley	54,975	1.75	18.01
45	Dublin	68,099	1.54	19.34
46	Delano	52,061	3.3	11.2
47	Los Banos	49,549	1.96	18.18
48	Woodland	61,177	2.75	14.4
49	West Sacramento	56,536	2.87	13.88
50	Azusa	47,647	2.67	15.09

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51	Lathrop	44,277	2.87	14.39
52	Clovis	127,560	2.36	16.9
53	Napa	76,888	2.86	14.49
54	Glendora	49,136	1.71	20.47
55	Santa Rosa	175,147	3.26	13.19
56	Corona	161,174	2.47	17.07
57	Chula Vista	273,843	3.73	11.48
58	Cypress	48,367	2.89	16
59	South San Francisco	62,229	2.96	15.91
60	Tracy	99,519	2.92	16.15

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61	San Mateo	99,929	2.34	19.15
62	Madera	68,607	3.82	11.97
63	Manteca	93,538	3.26	14.88
64	Sunnyvale	150,893	2.42	19.02
65	Watsonville	50,340	3.89	11.84
66	Garden Grove	167,041	2.71	18.01
67	Davis	65,483	1.8	22.45
68	Tustin	76,985	2.09	21.04
69	Newport Beach	81,811	2.54	18.92
70	Vacaville	102,672	2.81	17.61

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Rank	City	Population	VC per 1,000*	PC per 1,000**
71	San Bruno	40,553	2.52	19.78
72	Placentia	52,034	3.52	15.05
73	Covina	47,940	3.48	15.44
74	Daly City	98,217	2.93	18.41
75	West Covina	104,467	2.34	21.36
76	Fremont	224,820	1.96	23.5
77	Bell Gardens	36,850	3.74	14.82
78	Porterville	62,891	3.75	14.82
79	Baldwin Park	67,791	3.94	14.59
80	Santa Clara	131,901	1.74	25.49

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81	Glendale	184,180	2.81	20.47
82	La Mesa	60,352	4.18	14.17
83	Hanford	60,208	4.7	11.91
84	Monterey Park	56,904	2.78	21.4
85	Livermore	81,316	2.3	23.73
86	Upland	78,584	3.58	17.61
87	Chino	93,818	2.88	21.34
88	Alhambra	78,840	2.19	24.86
89	Buena Park	81,334	2.43	23.98
90	Brentwood	65,352	2.37	24.39

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91	Desert Hot Springs	33,749	4.92	12.06
92	El Cajon	101,983	4.29	15.27
93	Redlands	72,331	2.96	21.76
94	Escondido	147,170	4.36	15.03
95	San Diego	1,389,024	4.09	16.8
96	Ceres	48,107	3.76	18.6
97	Yuba City	68,200	4.13	17.16
98	Hemet	93,212	4.24	16.7
99	Lompoc	42,607	4.72	14.48
100	Monrovia	36,365	3.02	23.32

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101	Redondo Beach	66,593	2.49	26.37
102	La Habra	60,335	3.51	21.89
103	Oceanside	168,725	4.53	16.97
104	Redwood City	80,060	4.66	16.5
105	Brea	48,901	2.11	29.08
106	Arcadia	53,397	2.23	28.75
107	Colton	53,153	3.88	21.09
108	Santa Ana	310,304	4.73	17.35
109	Palo Alto	65,079	2.03	30.61
110	Fairfield	121,082	4.89	17.02

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111	Citrus Heights	85,809	4.29	20.38
112	El Monte	102,088	4.2	20.88
113	Rancho Cordova	83,622	4.23	21.02
114	Turlock	71,886	4.66	18.99
115	Mountain View	81,461	2.81	28.17
116	Salinas	158,233	5.15	16.99
117	Ventura	108,543	4	22.77
118	Stanton	39,059	5.15	17.23
119	Visalia	146,090	4.24	21.74
120	Fullerton	137,942	4.52	20.46

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121	Walnut Creek	68,808	2.73	29.39
122	Torrance	136,899	3.02	28.28
123	Union City	63,976	4.13	22.93
124	Claremont	35,139	4.89	19.38
125	Gilroy	57,877	4.42	21.91
126	Pittsburg	75,621	4.54	21.69
127	Tulare	71,689	5.54	18.12
128	Westminster	88,026	4.28	25.23
129	Milpitas	76,523	3.06	32.26
130	Redding	92,468	6.22	17.52

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131	Whittier	83,186	4.93	23.92
132	Oxnard	197,361	5.92	19.3
133	Santa Barbara	85,758	6.37	18.44
134	Pasadena	131,966	4.77	26.49
135	Anaheim	338,488	5.89	21.35
136	Burbank	101,377	3.9	31.07
137	Bakersfield	416,120	5.41	24.16
138	Montebello	59,231	4.95	26.51
139	Santa Maria	110,056	6.52	19
140	San Rafael	59,037	5.52	24.61

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141	Chico	100,831	6.73	19.1
142	Pleasant Hill	33,539	2.33	40.73
143	Concord	121,341	4.71	29.12
144	Campbell	41,029	4.87	29.78
145	National City	54,915	7.12	19.72
146	Santa Cruz	61,346	6.02	25.41
147	San Jose	956,840	5.88	26.09
148	Modesto	218,990	6.4	24.43
149	Riverside	320,148	5.79	28.58
150	Newark	46,736	3.79	40.03

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151	Hayward	153,419	4.75	36.74
152	Hawthorne	81,941	7.24	25.32
153	Palm Springs	45,406	5.77	33.26
154	Antioch	117,675	5.97	32.39
155	Sacramento	526,670	7.43	25.46
156	Pomona	143,726	7.07	28.37
157	Costa Mesa	107,235	7.42	28.29
158	Merced	96,077	7.5	28.23
159	Gardena	57,584	6.98	31.05
160	Alameda	74,458	3.12	49.92

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Rank	City	Population	VC per 1,000*	PC per 1,000**
161	Long Beach	444,232	6.72	35.05
162	Montclair	37,414	6.41	36.99
163	Fresno	546,722	7.27	33.43
164	Inglewood	101,399	6.62	36.63
165	Richmond	113,418	9.33	27.96
166	Vallejo	121,795	7.31	42.82
167	Stockton	319,069	11.63	26.75
168	Berkeley	117,400	6.32	53.12
169	Culver City	38,514	6.67	59.2

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About Safewise.com

What is our mission?

Our mission is to help people understand safety through research, turn their homes into sanctuaries, and strengthen their communities.

Who is Safewise?

We are a research and review organization dedicated to helping people understand safety at home and in their communities. We publish safety and security insights, product testing, and expert recommendations. By analyzing national crime and safety trends, SafeWise shows how these issues affect people locally — at home and in their neighborhoods.

What do we do?

Our homes and families deserve informed, proactive protection.

We identify, research, and study crime and safety issues to understand how they affect communities.

Through independent analysis and hands-on testing of best practices and safety technology, we evaluate what works and recommend practical solutions people can rely on to keep their families safe.



How do we do it?

We do more than analyze data — we test home security systems, smart devices, and safety best practices in-house to evaluate what works, what doesn't, and what reduces risk. SafeWise brings research, testing, and analysis together in one place.

Safewise Expertise

Real Experience: Our expert team brings 70+ years of combined safety experience and has spent thousands of hours testing hundreds of safety products and services.

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

Prominently Featured: Our expert insights, recommendations, and proprietary safety research have been featured by: Good Morning America, the Today Show, PBS NewsHour, 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 active across the platforms you use most. Watch 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:

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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 2026 reporting year, the most recent FBI data was released in August 2025 for crimes reported in 2024. 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.

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