

PLACE OF MASSACHUSETTS IN NATIONAL
CRIME RATE STATISTICS FOR 1966

Compiled from the Uniform Crime Reports
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

by the

Division of Research and Statistics
Massachusetts Department of Correction

John A. Gavin, Commissioner

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The "Crime Index" of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is the sum of the frequency rates of seven selected crimes. These crimes are: 1) Murder (including non-negligent manslaughter), 2) Forcible Rape, 3) Robbery, 4) Aggravated Assault, 5) Burglary, 6) Larceny (of \$50 or over) and 7) Auto Theft (including both joy-riding and stealing cars for resale). The rate used is the number of crimes per hundred thousand population.

As was explained in last year's monograph¹, the F.B.I. "Crime Index" is not considered a valid indication of the amount of "serious" crime. This is because this index is heavily overweighted by large numbers of less serious offenses. Of the seven selected offenses the three less serious crimes against property (Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft) occur over ten times as frequently as the four more serious crimes against the person (Murder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault). For example, the effect of a hundred percent increase (a jump from 5 to 10 per hundred thousand) in the rate of Murder would be blotted out by as little as a one percent decrease (a drop from 700 to 693) in the rate of Burglary. Consequently again we are not using the aggregated "Crime Index" in this report.

However, taken separately, the rates for each individual crime are the best available standardized measures for showing the differing frequencies of offenses in different areas.

To compare the local frequencies of each of these seven selected crimes with their frequencies in other areas, we rank ordered the rates of each state and each region for each offense. The state with the lowest rate was ranked number one, the next lowest ranked second and so on. Obviously this system resulted in the state having the highest rate being ranked fiftieth at the bottom of the list.

1. Place of Massachusetts in National Crime Rate Statistics for 1965

The table attached at the end of this paper shows each state and nine United States regions² arranged in rank order for each of the seven selected offenses.

In comparing New England with the eight other regions of the United States note that New England has the lowest rate of any region in the country for each of the four serious crimes against the person. Especially in regard to Murder note that the New England rate (2.1 per 100,000) is over four times less than the rates (8.6, 8.8, 9.1) for three southern regions of the country. The New England area also ranks well for two property crimes, being in third place for both Burglary and Larceny. However, New England is in the next to last rank for Auto Larceny.

Closer examination of the grouping of rank orders of the several New England states reveals that the more rural states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont consistently have low rates for both crimes against the person and crimes against property. Although the more urban states of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island also have low rates for Murder, Rape and Aggravated Assault, these states usually rank nearer the United States median in regard to Robbery, Burglary and Larceny, but, in regard to Auto Theft, far below the median.

The 1966 rankings of Massachusetts considered separately vary little from it's 1965 rankings. In regard to Murder it ranks thirteenth in 1966 as compared with fourteenth the previous year. In regard to Forcible Rape it ranks tenth in 1966 compared with twelfth in 1965. For Robbery, Massachusetts ranks thirty-second in 1966 and ranked thirtieth in 1965. In regard to Aggravated Assault, Massachusetts ranked fifteenth in both 1966 and 1965. For Burglary,

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2. New England - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts,
Rhode Island, Connecticut
Mid Atlantic - New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
East North Central - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
West North Central - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,
North and South Dakota
South Atlantic - Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North and
South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
East South Central - Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
West South Central - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
Mountain - Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico,
Wyoming
Pacific - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

Massachusetts also maintained the same rank in 1966, thirty-second, as it had in 1965. For Auto Larceny, Massachusetts again has the unsavory distinction of having the highest rate per hundred thousand of all fifty states of the Union. In fact Massachusetts had 551.3 Auto Thefts per hundred thousand in 1966 compared with 533.5 in 1965 - an indication that this bad situation is getting worse.

However, it should be kept in mind that, bad as we are in regard to Auto Theft, this is the only offense in which Massachusetts has more offenses per hundred thousand than the average for the country. Although Massachusetts falls below the median in two other offenses (Robbery and Burglary), observe that for each of these offenses the rate per hundred thousand is nevertheless still better than the United States average.

Despite occasional local scare headlines that imply that Massachusetts is one of the worst dens of iniquity in the country we can state accurately that the Bay State has much lower rates of crime than the United States average for all compared offenses except Auto Theft. In fact, in regard to the more serious and violent crimes of Murder, Forcible Rape and Aggravated Assault, Massachusetts averages better than about three-fourths of the states.

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Mass. Dept. of Correction
September, 1967

STATES and REGIONS RANK ORDERED by CRIME RATES

1966 Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

Rank	S E L E C T E D C R I M E S													
	Murder & non-negligent manslaughter		Forcible Rape		Robbery		Aggravated Assault		Burglary		Larceny \$50 and over		Auto Theft	
	Area	Rate	Area	Rate	Area	Rate	Area	Rate	Area	Rate	Area	Rate	Area	Rate
	United States	5.6	United States	12.9	United States	78.3	United States	118.4	United States	699.6	United States	456.8	United States	284.4
1	New Eng	2.1	New Eng	5.9	New Eng	30.7	New Eng	50.2	E. So. Central	484.4	E. So. Central	299.6	E. So. Central	160.7
2	W. No. Central	3.1	E. So. Central	9.4	E. So. Central	32.0	W. No. Central	64.4	W. No. Central	539.8	W. No. Central	332.1	W. No. Central	203.5
3	Mid Atlantic	4.1	W. No. Central	9.9	Mountain	44.4	Mountain	92.2	New Eng	576.2	New Eng	336.2	W. So. Central	213.0
4	Pacific	4.2	Mid Atlantic	11.5	W. No. Central	58.6	E. No. Central	103.0	E. No. Central	603.0	W. So. Central	378.9	So. Atlantic	227.6
5	Mountain	4.7	W. So. Central	12.6	W. So. Central	52.6	Mid Atlantic	113.1	So. Atlantic	653.4	E. No. Central	391.2	Mountain	280.5
6	E. No. Central	4.9	So. Atlantic	12.7	So. Atlantic	69.1	E. So. Central	119.7	W. So. Central	658.2	So. Atlantic	416.7	Mid Atlantic	300.5
7	W. So. Central	8.6	E. No. Central	13.9	Mid Atlantic	78.2	W. So. Central	136.7	Mountain	726.6	Mid Atlantic	536.0	E. No. Central	309.1
8	E. So. Central	8.8	Mountain	14.1	Pacific	98.9	W. So. Central	137.4	Mid Atlantic	733.6	Mountain	563.3	New Eng	389.3
9	South Atlantic	9.1	Pacific	20.6	E. No. Central	113.4	South Atlantic	179.1	Pacific	1146.2	Pacific	729.6	Pacific	412.6
10	Rhode Is	1.4	Wisconsin	3.6	Vermont	4.0	Vermont	7.4	No. Dakota	221.5	Vermont	130.5	Mississippi	59.6
11	Vermont	1.5	No. Dakota	4.3	Maine	5.9	New Hamp.	21.4	Miss.	238.4	Miss.	138.5	West Va.	77.5
12	So. Dakota	1.5	New Hamp.	4.4	No. Dakota	6.2	No. Dakota	23.2	West Va	259.3	West Va	164.3	Arkansas	77.8
13	Iowa	1.6	Iowa	4.8	Idaho	7.8	Iowa	25.0	So. Dakota	319.0	New Hamp.	190.3	No. Dakota	87.3
14	No. Dakota	1.8	Maine	4.9	So. Dakota	10.0	Wisconsin	29.2	Maine	320.6	Maine	191.1	So. Dakota	90.6
15	Nebraska	1.8	Hawaii	4.9	New Hamp.	10.3	Nebraska	31.3	Arkansas	325.0	Penna.	212.3	Maine	102.1
16	Wisconsin	1.9	Rhode Is	5.0	Iowa	12.8	Maine	33.0	Iowa	336.6	No. Dakota	216.2	New Hamp	102.5
17	New Hamp.	1.9	West Va.	5.1	Wisconsin	12.9	Delaware	33.8	Wisconsin	344.8	Nebraska	228.8	Idaho	103.2
18	Conn.	2.0	MASS	6.0	Miss.	13.3	Montana	42.6	New Hamp.	349.7	No. Car.	260.6	Vermont	116.9
19	Utah	2.0	Nebraska	6.4	Montana	17.8	Minn.	44.4	Wyoming	383.9	Arkansas	265.6	No. Car.	126.4
20	Maine	2.2	Vermont	6.7	West Va.	19.1	Wyoming	45.0	Idaho	389.9	So. Dakota	282.7	Alabama	130.9
21	Minn.	2.2	Conn.	6.9	Conn.	20.9	Conn.	45.8	No. Car.	409.6	Ohio	293.0	Iowa	131.9
22	MASS	2.4	Minn.	7.3	Wyoming	21.0	Idaho	46.1	Penna.	419.9	Iowa	301.4	Kansas	147.8
23	Wash.	2.5	Miss.	8.0	Hawaii	21.6	Hawaii	53.9	Nebraska	420.1	Wisconsin	307.5	Wyoming	150.8
24	Oregon	2.7	Kent.	8.3	No. Car.	22.8	MASS	60.5	Vermont	428.4	Virginia	315.0	So. Car.	153.5
25	Montana	2.8	Delaware	8.6	Nebraska	24.9	West Va.	61.5	Kansas	476.1	Tenn.	321.7	Nebraska	133.8
26	Hawaii	2.9	So. Dakota	8.9	Rhode Is.	25.4	Rhode Is	62.7	So. Car.	476.5	Kansas	326.9	Georgia	181.7
27	Idaho	3.0	Kansas	8.9	So. Car.	28.7	So. Dakota	62.9	Kentucky	482.6	Alabama	329.3	Wisconsin	171.6
28	Penna.	3.2	Montana	9.0	Arkansas	29.4	Penna.	63.3	Ohio	490.7	So. Car.	355.1	Tenn.	193.1
29	Kansas	3.5	N. Jersey	9.3	Kansas	29.6	Utah	65.2	Montana	496.0	Kentucky	357.6	Okla.	194.0
30	N. Jersey	3.5	Ohio	9.3	Alabama	32.0	Oregon	65.2	Alabama	518.4	Conn.	364.4	Virginia	144.5
31	Indiana	4.0	Idaho	9.5	Tenn.	34.4	Indiana	66.0	Virginia	546.6	Missouri	366.1	Penna.	206.8
32	Colorado	4.0	Indiana	9.5	Georgia	34.9	Ohio	67.8	Georgia	551.3	Okla.	367.1	Texas	224.7
33	West Va.	4.2	Alabama	9.7	Alaska	36.0	Kansas	69.9	Illinois	560.5	MASS	368.2	Kentucky	227.7
34	Ohio	4.5	Arkansas	9.8	Utah	36.5	Wash.	72.4	La.	578.6	Indiana	371.6	Montana	232.6
35	Calif.	4.6	Utah	10.2	Wash.	36.7	Kentucky	73.5	Minn.	579.2	Georgia	372.6	Ohio	235.5
36	Michigan	4.7	Penna.	10.4	Okla.	40.6	Okla.	81.2	Okla.	580.9	Minn.	388.7	Oregon	240.2
37	Wyoming	4.9	Virginia	10.8	Kentucky	42.8	Alaska	82.0	Indiana	581.8	Illinois	389.1	Wash.	240.4
38	New York	4.8	Tenn.	10.8	Virginia	42.9	N. Jersey	85.4	Alaska	593.0	N. Jersey	392.8	Florida	243.3
39	Missouri	5.4	No. Car.	10.5	N. Mex.	43.8	Colorado	93.8	Tenn.	602.5	Montana	393.8	Minn.	246.3
40	Okla.	5.5	Nevada	11.5	Oregon	45.8	Nevada	98.5	Conn.	616.6	Texas	395.0	Conn.	250.3
41	N. Mex.	6.1	Wash.	11.6	MASS	46.0	Tenn.	105.2	MASS	619.0	Idaho	400.0	Indiana	262.4
42	Arizona	6.1	Texas	11.6	Penna.	49.0	Arkansas	116.6	Wash.	669.8	La.	406.6	Delaware	263.7
43	Virginia	6.5	Wyoming	12.2	Minn.	49.4	Missouri	118.5	Oregon	685.0	Delaware	408.2	Utah	264.2
44	Illinois	6.9	Oregon	12.6	Colorado	53.8	Miss.	119.6	Utah	689.7	Rhode Is.	415.7	La.	264.8
45	Kentucky	7.0	So. Car.	13.0	Texas	54.7	Arizona	122.4	Delaware	706.7	Wyoming	462.3	N. Mex.	265.0
46	Maryland	7.0	New York	13.1	Arizona	53.5	Virginia	132.9	Rhode Is.	707.8	N. Mex.	498.1	Missouri	284.6
47	Arkansas	7.1	N. Mex.	13.1	Delaware	56.6	Michigan	136.3	Colorado	711.0	Colorado	540.1	Colorado	298.3
48	Tenn.	7.8	Okla.	13.7	Indiana	61.2	Georgia	142.6	N. Jersey	712.9	Hawaii	545.0	Hawaii	319.2
49	Delaware	8.2	Georgia	14.6	N. Jersey	63.7	N. Mex.	145.9	Maryland	754.3	Wash.	545.8	N. Jersey	332.0
50	No. Car.	8.7	Florida	14.7	La.	66.8	La.	147.9	Texas	763.1	Wash.	566.8	New York	348.1
51	Texas	9.1	Maryland	15.3	Ohio	70.0	Texas	149.2	Missouri	782.2	Maryland	567.9	Michigan	349.6
52	Miss.	9.7	Illinois	16.6	Nevada	96.9	New York	153.2	New Mex.	875.6	Oregon	572.6	Arizona	312.3
53	La.	9.9	La.	16.6	Florida	99.9	Illinois	156.4	Arizona	931.2	Utah	574.5	Nevada	385.3
54	Florida	10.3	Colorado	17.3	Missouri	105.8	Calif.	159.1	Nevada	931.5	Florida	641.2	Illinois	415.3
55	Nevada	10.6	Missouri	17.6	Calif.	118.0	Maryland	164.9	Michigan	935.7	Alaska	681.6	Maryland	430.2
56	Alabama	10.9	Arizona	18.3	Maryland	123.7	So. Car.	172.0	New York	940.4	Arizona	710.0	Alaska	441.6
57	Georgia	11.3	Alaska	19.5	New York	142.5	Alabama	177.7	Florida	1057.7	Calif.	782.5	Calif.	460.7
58	So. Car.	11.6	Calif.	23.4	Michigan	156.0	Florida	213.0	Hawaii	1129.6	New York	785.5	Rhode Is.	514.2
59	Alaska	12.9	Michigan	23.9	Illinois	184.9	No. Car.	248.2	Calif.	1272.4	Nevada	826.0	MASS	551.8

Taken from Table 3. UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS 1966 issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Aug. 10, 1967

N.M.C.