

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 its 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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Supervisor of Research
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 | 50.6 | 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. No. 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 | 98.2 | 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 | Pacific | 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 |
| 1 | Rhode Is. | 1.4 | Wisconsin | 3.6 | Vermont | 4.0 | Vermont | 7.4 | No. Dakota | 221.5 | Vermont | 130.5 | Mississippi | 59.6 |
| 2 | Vermont | 1.5 | No. Dakota | 4.3 | Maine | 5.9 | New Hamp. | 21.4 | Miss. | 238.4 | Miss. | 138.5 | West. Va. | 77.5 |
| 3 | 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 |
| 4 | Iowa | 1.6 | Iowa | 4.8 | Idaho | 7.8 | Iowa | 25.0 | So. Dakota | 319.0 | New Hamp. | 190.3 | No. Dakota | 87.3 |
| 5 | No. Dakota | 1.8 | Maine | 4.9 | So. Dakota | 10.0 | Wisconsin | 29.2 | Maine | 320.6 | Maine | 191.1 | So. Dakota | 90.6 |
| 6 | Nebraska | 1.8 | Hawaii | 4.9 | New Hamp. | 10.3 | Nebraska | 31.3 | Arkansas | 335.0 | Penna. | 212.3 | Maine | 102.1 |
| 7 | Wisconsin | 1.9 | Rhode Is. | 5.0 | Iowa | 12.8 | Maine | 33.0 | Iowa | 336.6 | No. Dakota | 216.2 | New Hamp. | 102.5 |
| 8 | New Hamp. | 1.9 | West Va. | 5.1 | Wisconsin | 12.9 | Delaware | 33.8 | Wisconsin | 344.8 | Nebraska | 228.8 | Idaho | 103.2 |
| 9 | Conn. | 2.0 | Conn. | 6.0 | Miss. | 13.3 | Montana | 42.6 | New Hamp. | 349.7 | No. Car. | 260.6 | Vermont | 116.9 |
| 10 | Utah | 2.0 | MASS | 6.4 | Montana | 17.8 | Minn. | 44.4 | Wyoming | 383.9 | Arkansas | 265.6 | No. Car. | 126.4 |
| 11 | Maine | 2.2 | Nebraska | 6.7 | West Va. | 19.1 | Wyoming | 45.0 | Idaho | 389.9 | So. Dakota | 282.7 | Alabama | 130.9 |
| 12 | Minn. | 2.2 | Vermont | 6.9 | Conn. | 20.9 | Conn. | 45.8 | No. Car. | 409.6 | Ohio | 293.0 | Iowa | 131.9 |
| 13 | MASS | 2.4 | Minn. | 7.3 | Wyoming | 21.0 | Idaho | 46.1 | Penna. | 419.9 | Iowa | 301.4 | Kansas | 147.8 |
| 14 | Wash. | 2.5 | Miss. | 8.0 | Hawaii | 21.6 | Hawaii | 53.9 | Nebraska | 420.1 | Wisconsin | 307.5 | Wyoming | 150.8 |
| 15 | Oregon | 2.7 | Kent. | 8.3 | No. Car. | 22.8 | MASS | 60.5 | Vermont | 428.4 | Virginia | 315.0 | So. Car. | 153.5 |
| 16 | Montana | 2.8 | Delaware | 8.6 | Nebraska | 24.9 | West Va. | 61.5 | Kansas | 476.1 | Tenn. | 321.7 | Nebraska | 133.8 |
| 17 | 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 |
| 18 | Idaho | 3.0 | Kansas | 8.9 | So. Car. | 28.7 | So. Dakota | 62.9 | Kentucky | 482.6 | Alabama | 329.3 | Wisconsin | 191.6 |
| 19 | Penna. | 3.2 | Montana | 9.0 | Arkansas | 29.4 | Penna. | 63.3 | Ohio | 490.7 | So. Car. | 355.1 | Tenn. | 193.1 |
| 20 | Kansas | 3.5 | N. Jersey | 9.3 | Kansas | 29.6 | Utah | 65.2 | Montana | 496.0 | Kentucky | 357.6 | Okla. | 194.0 |
| 21 | N. Jersey | 3.5 | Ohio | 9.3 | Alabama | 32.0 | Oregon | 65.4 | Alabama | 518.4 | Conn. | 364.4 | Virginia | 144.5 |
| 22 | Indiana | 4.0 | Idaho | 9.5 | Tenn. | 34.4 | Indiana | 66.0 | Virginia | 546.6 | Missouri | 366.1 | Penna. | 266.8 |
| 23 | Colorado | 4.0 | Indiana | 9.5 | Georgia | 34.9 | Ohio | 67.8 | Georgia | 551.3 | Okla. | 367.1 | Texas | 224.7 |
| 24 | West Va. | 4.2 | Alabama | 9.7 | Alaska | 36.0 | Kansas | 69.9 | Illinois | 560.5 | MASS | 368.2 | Kentucky | 227.7 |
| 25 | Ohio | 4.5 | Arkansas | 9.8 | Utah | 36.5 | Wash. | 72.4 | La. | 578.6 | Indiana | 371.6 | Montana | 232.6 |
| 26 | Calif. | 4.6 | Utah | 10.2 | Wash. | 36.7 | Kentucky | 73.5 | Minn. | 579.2 | Georgia | 372.6 | Ohio | 235.5 |
| 27 | Michigan | 4.7 | Penna. | 10.4 | Okla. | 40.6 | Okla. | 81.2 | Okla. | 580.9 | Minn. | 388.7 | Oregon | 240.2 |
| 28 | Wyoming | 4.9 | Virginia | 10.8 | Kentucky | 42.8 | Alaska | 82.0 | Indiana | 582.8 | Illinois | 389.1 | Wash. | 240.4 |
| 29 | New York | 4.8 | Tenn. | 10.8 | Virginia | 42.9 | N. Jersey | 85.4 | Alaska | 593.0 | N. Jersey | 392.8 | Florida | 243.3 |
| 30 | Missouri | 5.4 | No. Car. | 10.5 | N. Mex. | 43.8 | Colorado | 93.8 | Tenn. | 602.5 | Montana | 393.8 | Minn. | 246.3 |
| 31 | Okla. | 5.5 | Nevada | 11.5 | Oregon | 45.8 | Nevada | 98.5 | Conn. | 616.6 | Texas | 395.0 | Conn. | 250.3 |
| 32 | N. Mex. | 6.1 | Wash. | 11.6 | MASS | 46.0 | Tenn. | 105.2 | MASS | 619.0 | Idaho | 400.0 | Indiana | 262.4 |
| 33 | Arizona | 6.1 | Texas | 11.6 | Penna. | 49.0 | Arkansas | 116.6 | Wash. | 609.8 | La. | 406.6 | Delaware | 263.7 |
| 34 | Virginia | 6.5 | Wyoming | 12.2 | Minn. | 49.4 | Missouri | 118.5 | Oregon | 685.0 | Delaware | 408.2 | Utah | 264.2 |
| 35 | Illinois | 6.9 | Oregon | 12.6 | Colorado | 53.8 | Miss. | 119.6 | Utah | 687.7 | Rhode Is. | 415.7 | La. | 264.8 |
| 36 | Kentucky | 7.0 | So. Car. | 13.0 | Texas | 54.7 | Arizona | 122.4 | Delaware | 706.7 | Wyoming | 462.3 | N. Mex. | 265.0 |
| 37 | Maryland | 7.0 | New York | 13.1 | Arizona | 53.5 | Virginia | 132.9 | Rhode Is. | 707.8 | N. Mex. | 498.1 | Missouri | 284.6 |
| 38 | Arkansas | 7.1 | N. Mex. | 13.1 | Delaware | 56.6 | Michigan | 136.3 | Colorado | 711.0 | Colorado | 540.1 | Colorado | 298.3 |
| 39 | Tenn. | 7.8 | Okla. | 13.7 | Indiana | 61.2 | Georgia | 142.6 | N. Jersey | 712.9 | Hawaii | 545.0 | Hawaii | 319.2 |
| 40 | Delaware | 8.2 | Georgia | 14.6 | N. Jersey | 63.7 | N. Mex. | 145.9 | Maryland | 754.3 | Wash. | 545.8 | N. Jersey | 332.0 |
| 41 | No. Car. | 8.7 | Florida | 14.7 | La. | 66.8 | La. | 147.9 | Texas | 763.1 | Maryland | 566.8 | New York | 348.1 |
| 42 | Texas | 9.1 | Maryland | 15.3 | Ohio | 70.0 | Texas | 149.2 | Missouri | 762.2 | Michigan | 567.9 | Michigan | 349.6 |
| 43 | Miss. | 9.7 | Illinois | 16.6 | Nevada | 96.9 | New York | 155.2 | New Mex. | 875.6 | Oregon | 572.6 | Arizona | 312.3 |
| 44 | La. | 9.9 | La. | 16.6 | Florida | 99.9 | Illinois | 156.4 | Arizona | 931.2 | Utah | 584.5 | Nevada | 385.3 |
| 45 | Florida | 10.3 | Colorado | 17.3 | Missouri | 105.8 | Calif. | 159.1 | Nevada | 931.5 | Florida | 641.2 | Illinois | 415.3 |
| 46 | Nevada | 10.6 | Missouri | 17.6 | Calif. | 118.0 | Maryland | 164.9 | Michigan | 935.7 | Alaska | 681.6 | Maryland | 430.2 |
| 47 | Alabama | 10.9 | Arizona | 18.3 | Maryland | 123.7 | So. Car. | 172.0 | New York | 940.4 | Arizona | 710.0 | Alaska | 441.6 |
| 48 | Georgia | 11.3 | Alaska | 19.5 | New York | 142.5 | Alabama | 177.7 | Florida | 1057.7 | Calif. | 782.5 | Calif. | 460.7 |
| 49 | So. Car. | 11.6 | Calif. | 23.4 | Michigan | 156.0 | Florida | 213.0 | Hawaii | 1129.6 | New York | 795.5 | Rhode Is. | 514.2 |
| 50 | Alaska | 12.9 | Michigan | 23.9 | Illinois | 184.9 | No. Car. | 248.2 | Calif. | 1277.4 | 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.