

The Safest Cities in America



We ranked 303 cities with populations over 100,000 people from most to least safe in this analysis. The following summaries show the safest cities overall, the safest large cities, and the most dangerous cities from the analysis and their total cost of crime. The full data set including the city's population, cost of crime, and crime rates by type of crime are included at the [end of this study](#).

There's an ongoing stereotype that larger cities are more dangerous. While no larger cities (population of 300,000 or more) made the overall safest list, fewer than half of the 15 least-safe cities in the U.S. were large cities. Four of the cities that are least safe also rank in the top 15 best cities to buy a home during the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that even cities that are not among the safest places to live can be attractive markets for homeowners.

The Safest Cities in America: The Cost of Crime in Our Communities

20 Safest Cities in America

City

Crime Cost per Capita

1. Arlington, VA

\$132

2. Thousand Oaks, CA

\$163

3. Allen, TX

\$176

4. Cary, NC

\$185

5. Irvine, CA

\$194

6. Sterling Heights, MI

\$222

7. Frisco, TX

\$237

8. Gilbert, AZ

\$240

9. Simi Valley, CA

\$278

10. Edison Township, NJ

\$279

11. Broken Arrow, OK

\$304

12. Lakewood Township, NJ

\$310

13. Santa Clarita, CA

\$315

14. Bend, OR

\$318

15. McAllen, TX

\$318

16. Sunnyvale, CA

\$326

17. Elk Grove, CA

\$327

18. Fremont, CA

\$332

19. Sandy Springs, GA

\$342

20. Temecula, CA

\$358

15 Safest Large Cities

City

Crime Cost per Capita

1. Raleigh, NC

\$531

2. Henderson, NV

\$601

3. Anaheim, CA

\$752

4. Honolulu, HI

\$784

5. Mesa, AZ

\$830

6. San Diego, CA

\$927

7. Virginia Beach, VA

\$946

8. San Jose, CA

\$1,044

9. Austin, TX

\$1,052

10. Santa Ana, CA

\$1,076

11. New York, NY

\$1,120

12. El Paso, TX

\$1,167

13. Arlington, TX

\$1,234

14. Riverside, CA

\$1,304

15. Seattle, WA

\$1,324

[15 Most Dangerous Cities](#)

[City](#)

Crime Cost per Capita

1. St. Louis, MO

\$9,334

2. Baltimore, MD

\$8,179

3. Detroit, MI

\$7,080

4. Jackson, MS

\$5,875

5. Memphis, TN

\$5,637

6. Kansas City, MO

\$5,109

7. Dayton, OH

\$5,081

8. New Orleans, LA

\$5,073

9. Baton Rouge, LA

\$4,604

10. Cleveland, OH

\$4,544

11. Birmingham, AL

\$4,453

12. Little Rock, AR

\$4,268

13. San Bernardino, CA

\$3,959

14. North Charleston, SC

\$3,917

15. Peoria, IL

\$3,799

Show less

Mass Shootings

Mass shootings are a particular scourge on American life. According to [Gun Violence Archive](#), which defines mass shootings as [any single incident in which four or more people are shot](#), there were 417 mass shootings in 2019 and 588 as of December 2020.

Mass shooting events are included in the safest and most dangerous cities rankings. Though they are relatively rare, we did not adjust our rankings for these events. The emotional impact of mass shootings is incalculable, traumatizing families and entire communities. To quantify the economic impact; however, MoneyGeek calculated the total cost of mass shootings in 2019 to be \$5.7 billion, which is 3% of the total cost of crime in the cities included in this analysis.

El Paso and Virginia Beach had the two largest mass shooting events in terms of social cost in our study, yet they still made the safest large cities list. El Paso's Walmart shooting represented 30% of El Paso's social cost of crime this last year. That one mass shooting event increased El Paso's cost of crime by 42%. Despite these horrific events, these cities remain relatively safe.

Location

Societal Cost

1. El Paso, Texas

\$236,146,998

2. Virginia Beach, Virginia

\$138,256,045

3. Dayton, Ohio

\$109,370,877

4. Odessa and Midland, Texas

\$87,925,921

5. Aurora, Illinois

\$64,334,868

Source: Moneygeek

YOUR MONEY, SMARTER