

The SafeWise Report

The 50 Safest Cities in Indiana

by Alexia Chianis, Jul 28, 2014

"Chief Executive" magazine recently surveyed more than 500 chief executives and asked them to evaluate states based on a number of business and livability related factors. Indiana ranked as the sixth best state to do business in and its high quality living environment was one reason why.

Indiana's recent good news has people from across the country contemplating a move to the Hoosier state. If you're one of them you'll want to read on as we reveal the 50 safest cities to call home in Indiana.

Here's how we compiled our list. We used FBI Crime Report data from 2012 as the foundation for our report and paired it with our own thorough research. We then trimmed down the list to cities with a population of 5,000 or above. We analyzed the number of Violent Crimes, consisting of aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery, as well as Property Crimes, consisting of arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Then, we calculated the chance of these crimes happening out of one thousand in order to create a level the playing field.

The FBI Crime Report is one of the most well respected sources for comprehensive crime statistics, however not all cities have reported complete data to the FBI and that could be why you don't see your Indiana city on our list.

1. Zionsville

Zionsville residents have a lot to boast about. Not only do they call Indiana's safest city home, they're also members of one of the state's most highly educated communities. In fact, 66 percent of Zionsville residents have attained their Bachelor's Degree or higher.

Zionsville offers an enviable, well rounded lifestyle. Commuters will appreciate that it's only eight miles northwest of Indianapolis, and convenient to two major highways. And those who want to launch a business of their own will be welcomed with open arms, and a wealth of support. Focus on Zionsville, The Zionsville

Economic Development Commission, and Boone County Economic Development Corporation are just three organizations that help boost small business in Zionsville.

Zionsville is also a relatively young community, so those with children will make friends fast. Nearly half of the household's in this safe city have kids below the age of 18. If you're thinking about packing your bags for Zionsville you'll be happy to hear the town puts safety and recreation at the top of its priority list. The Nancy Burton/Dave Brown Trail is the heart of an ever expanding pathway system that safely connects parks, schools, and the local Boys and Girls Club.

We were not the least surprised to discover Zionsville's population has bloomed over the last decade, growing 61 percent from the 2000 Census to the 2010 Census.

Violent Crimes per 1,000: 0.00

Property Crimes per 1,000: 1.93



2. Bargersville

The Town of Bargersville measures only 1.1 square miles, but don't let its diminutive size fool you. This small town boasts loads of character, a bustling economy, and

it's decidedly safe. We were impressed to find no property crimes were reported to law enforcement in 2012.

Located in Johnson County, Indiana, Bargersville is perfectly positioned for those commuting to Indianapolis, Nashville, and Bloomington. When the weekend rolls in you'll want to explore the treasures in your own backyard, one of which is Bargersville's infamous Flea Market. Operating for more than four decades, every member of your family is sure to uncover a treat. Tasty fresh food, a farmers' market, and vendors that range from local artists to those selling plants, antiques, and even cars are just a few of the items you'll find at this 10 acre family friendly market.

Head to Bargersville and your kids will be rewarded with a great education. Bargersville's youth are served by the 4-star, Center Grove Community School Corporation. Center Grove's reputation for educational excellence is one reason why the town is growing at an astonishing rate. Bargersville's population has nearly tripled since the 2000 Census, proving what locals have known for decades: Bargersville is a beautiful place to raise a family.

Violent Crimes per 1,000: 1.65

Property Crimes per 1,000: 0.00

3. Decatur

Dedicated to community prosperity, Decatur's future looks bright. One organization committed to enhancing citizen's health and happiness is Greater Decatur, a group formed two years ago under direction of the mayor. Its mission is to "attract, retain and engage citizens through quality of life and economic prosperity" by establishing long-term priorities for the greater community.

Greater Decatur programs and projects are guided by "6 Livability Principles" including promoting equitable, affordable housing and placing greater value on communities and neighborhoods by embracing their individual characteristics and creating safe, walkable streets. Business development, community marketing and recreational opportunities are additional focal points.

Make the move to Decatur and it won't be long before you discover the River Greenway Trail. Perfect for summer bike rides, and especially popular with active

families who appreciate its eye catching terrain and high marks for safety, the four mile trail will delight you time and again.

Violent Crimes per 1,000: .74

Property Crimes per 1,000: 6.99

4. Carmel

James Brainard has the honor of being mayor of one of Indiana's safest and fastest growing communities. Carmel, Indiana has earned copious kudos over the last decade, including being named the Number One Place to Live in America by "Money" magazine and named a Top 10 Best City for Kids, 2014 by Livability.com.

Strong fiscal management, low residential tax rates, superior schools and an unbeatable parks and recreation department make working, living and playing in Carmel an attractive proposition. Carmel's Center for The Performing Arts, and its fun, funky and community inspired Arts and Design District, will please all of your sense and spark your inner creative genius. The heart of Old Town Carmel is the place to turn for eclectic boutiques, innovative eateries, and a wide variety of specialty programs such as live jazz.

Boasting more than 80,000 residents, Carmel is by far the most populated city on our Safe Cities of Indiana list, which makes its fourth place finish especially impressive.

Violent Crimes per 1,000: .13

Property Crimes per 1,000: 9.85

5. Westville

In addition to being perfectly located to a number of cities and activities, Westville exudes small town charm that isn't easy to find these days. Plus, it's safe.

Home to Purdue University North Central, this northern Indiana community is located just 15 minutes from Lake Michigan and only 45 minutes from downtown Chicago. Situated in La Porte County, the unofficial festival capital of northern Indiana, those who call Westville home will never run out of things to do. From the LaPorte Sunflower Fair to the annual Mill Pond Festival in Union Mills, no matter

what the season, you'll discover a festival that puts a smile on every family member's face.

Thanks to Westville's semi-rural location, agriculture hasn't been lost. Pack a picnic and take the kids out for a drive through colorful fall leaves and pick perfect pumpkin at the local pumpkin patch, or head to the farmers' market for the freshest vegetables and fruit. Pairing the best of quiet living with access to any amenity you could want, it's no wonder those who call Westville home rarely leave.

Violent Crimes per 1,000: 1.87

Property Crimes per 1,000: 6.47