



# 2016 Safest Places in Indiana

by Susan Gulliford

The 6.6 million people who call Indiana home care about safety so the team at ValuePenguin analyzed the latest FBI Crime Report to determine the safest places in the Hoosier State. These 90 cities with populations of at least 5,000 have crime scores that range from 298 to 5,840. The average crime score for the state is 1,874.

The major takeaway is that suburbs dominate the safest places. Interestingly, these suburbs are not necessarily small, bedroom communities. Two suburbs with populations of over 75,000 made it into the top five. The full report is below.

## 5 Safest Places in Indiana

These cities have an average final crime score of 383, which is 80% lower than their typical peer in the state. The team at ValuePenguin determined that these five are the safest cities in the Indiana.

### 1. Zionsville

This Indianapolis suburb comes in at number one. The population grew almost 12% from the 2010 census, yet this town stayed safe. It had the lowest rate of property crime of any community in this research. The police department runs a “Teen Academy” that educates young people on topics such as identity theft and internet usage. This community is very affluent. The median household income for Zionsville was 2.1 times the state’s median, and nearly 70% of the adult residents held at least a bachelor’s degree.

### 2. New Whiteland

With a population of 5,793, New Whiteland is the smallest community in the top five. It is approximately a 27-minute drive south of Indianapolis. New Whiteland had only two violent crimes reported in 2014, and it had the fourth-lowest rate of property crime for any community in this research. The residents had a median household income of \$50,757, which was only \$2,000 above the state's median.

### **3. St. John**

The top community in the mid-size category comes in at number three overall. St. John is in northwest Indiana, approximately 24 miles southeast of Chicago. It had the second lowest rate of property crime in addition to a low rate of violent crime. This town had a low rate of poverty and a median household income 92% higher than the state's median.

### **4. Carmel**

With a population of 87,555, Carmel is the largest city in the top five. This suburb north of Indianapolis reported a mere 12 violent crimes in 2014 and had the sixth-lowest rate of property crime. The police department offers a number of programs such as Business Watch and Neighborhood Crime Watch to keep the city safe. Carmel is an affluent suburb with a median household income 2.2 times the state's median, a very low poverty rate and a high percentage of adults (nearly 69%) with at least a bachelor's degree.

### **5. Fishers**

This large (population of 85,597) Indianapolis suburb comes in at number five. It had low rates of both violent and property crime. In addition to traditional programs, the Fishers police department offers a safety link program for seniors. Fishers is another town with a high median household income -- 88% above Indiana's median -- as well as low poverty rate and a highly educated population.

## **Population Breakdown**

Although we adjusted for population in our crime rankings, it is still difficult to compare a small town to a large city. To account for this fact, we separated the safest cities into three categories: towns with populations between 5,000 and 10,000, midsize cities with populations between 10,000 and 25,000, and larger cities with populations greater than 25,000. Here are our findings:

# Safest Places in Indiana (2016)

Large	OVER 25K	Mid-sized	10K - 25K	Small	5 - 10K
1	Zionsville	1	St. John	1	New Whiteland
2	Carmel	2	Dyer	2	North Manchester
3	Fishers	3	Greensburg	3	Tell City
4	West Lafayette	4	Jasper	4	Nappanee
5	Westfield	5	Munster	5	Alexandria
6	Valparaiso	6	Auburn	6	Danville
7	Portage	7	Greenfield	7	Bargersville
8	Plainfield	8	Brownsburg	8	Columbia City
9	Goshen	9	Cedar Lake	9	Sellersburg
10	Bloomington	10	New Haven	10	Decatur

Data supplied by

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## Full List of Places in Indiana

Below is the entire list of places that we included in our “Safest Places in Indiana” study. They are listed from the safest to the least safe, according to our analysis. The calculation for the crime scores can be found in the methodology section below. Take a look at the graph and see where your hometown ranks.

Rank	City	Crime Score
1	Zionsville	298
2	New Whiteland	299

Rank	City	Crime Score
3	St. John 320	
4	Carmel 488	
5	Fishers 511	
6	North Manchester 580	
7	Dyer 656	
8	West Lafayette 687	
9	Greensburg 690	
10	Westfield 749	
11	Tell City 762	
12	Nappanee 770	
13	Jasper 787	
14	Alexandria 825	
15	Danville 848	
16	Bargersville 850	
17	Columbia City 855	
18	Sellersburg 873	
19	Munster 885	
20	Decatur 890	
21	Auburn 969	
22	Greenfield 970	
23	Elwood 981	
24	Brownsburg 995	
25	Cedar Lake 1,047	

Rank	City	Crime Score
26	Valparaiso 1,057	
27	New Haven 1,060	
28	Plymouth 1,077	
29	Lowell 1,090	
30	Charlestown 1,125	
31	Portland 1,204	
32	Garrett 1,208	
33	Portage 1,273	
34	Highland 1,275	
35	Hartford City 1,300	
36	Lawrenceburg 1,340	
37	Mooresville 1,397	
38	Bluffton 1,417	
39	Gas City 1,470	
40	Kendallville 1,529	
41	Linton 1,532	
42	Griffith 1,611	
43	Plainfield 1,624	
44	Angola 1,741	
45	La Porte 1,743	
46	Bedford 1,753	
47	Peru 1,807	
48	Rushville 1,848	

Rank	City	Crime Score
49	Cumberland 1,864	
50	Goshen 1,930	
51	Warsaw 1,949	
52	Mount Vernon	1,959
53	Boonville	1,964
54	Beech Grove	2,076
55	Rensselaer	2,098
56	Logansport	2,114
57	Bloomington	2,157
58	Merrillville	2,175
59	Columbus	2,202
60	Franklin	2,259
61	Kokomo	2,275
62	Scottsburg	2,312
63	Greenwood	2,339
64	Frankfort	2,341
65	Lake Station	2,363
66	Marion	2,434
67	Fort Wayne	2,444
68	Avon	2,454
69	Jeffersonville	2,537
70	Michigan City	2,544
71	Speedway	2,615

Rank	City	Crime Score
72	Mishawaka	2,711
73	Seymour	2,712
74	Muncie	2,761
75	Anderson	2,776
76	Washington	2,859
77	Shelbyville	2,959
78	Terre Haute	2,980
79	New Albany	3,013
80	Hobart	3,250
81	Lafayette	3,311
82	Crawfordsville	3,313
83	Hammond	3,359
84	East Chicago	3,404
85	South Bend	3,725
86	Evansville	3,957
87	Gary	4,327
88	Clarksville	4,439
89	Elkhart	4,463
90	Indianapolis	5,840

## Year-over-year Change

The top five was remarkably consistent. Four out of the five cities made the safest places list both years. Interestingly, the lone new entrant, St. John, replaced another northwest Indiana community, Dyer.

There were other consistencies as well. In both 2015 and 2016, the top five consisted of three cities from the large category, one city from the mid-size category and one city from the small category. Four Indianapolis suburbs and one Chicago suburb made up the safest places.

There was consistency at the other end of the survey. Indianapolis had the highest crime score for both years. Overall, three of the five least safest cities from 2015 were in the bottom five for 2016.



## Methodology

To rank these places, we collected data from the 2014 FBI crime statistics by city, which provides the most recent crime data available. Not every town participates in this report and we also excluded towns with fewer than 5,000 residents because towns with small populations are more sensitive to crime score fluctuations for fewer crimes committed. The raw data report included property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson), and violent crimes (murder/manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) from all law enforcement agencies that chose to partake in the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting program.

We standardized the data to reflect violent and property crimes per 100,000, to account for population. Then, we aggregated a “crime score” by weighting violent crime at 80% and property crime at 20%. Though property crime is more prevalent, we figured that violent crime is more concerning to town residents. Then we adjusted the crime score for population size, giving more slack to larger cities. Finally, we ranked the cities based on their crime scores.

Here is an alphabetical table of all cities included with their ranks, making it easier to compare different cities. See where your city lies!

Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
14	Alexandria	5,075	20	2,148	825
75	Anderson	55,545	342	4,483	2,776
44	Angola	8,661	46	4,237	1,741
21	Auburn	12,797	63	2,110	969
68	Avon	14,009	378	4,404	2,454



Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
16	Bargersville	6,554	46	2,045	850
46	Bedford	13,372	112	3,799	1,753
54	Beech Grove	14,536	172	4,300	2,076
57	Bloomington	83,075	354	2,968	2,157
38	Bluffton	9,959	10	3,504	1,417
53	Boonville	6,198	629	2,662	1,964
24	Brownsburg	23,539	187	1,529	995
4	Carmel	87,555	14	932	488
25	Cedar Lake	11,736	170	1,892	1,047
30	Charlestown	8,091	12	2,830	1,125
88	Clarksville	21,858	554	8,015	4,439
17	Columbia City	8,816	136	1,622	855
59	Columbus	46,196	97	4,332	2,202
82	Crawfordsville	16,017	1,261	2,834	3,313
49	Cumberland	5,386	316	3,732	1,864
15	Danville	9,519	263	1,082	848
20	Decatur	9,419	53	2,028	890
7	Dyer	16,244	98	1,164	656
84	East Chicago	29,089	856	4,201	3,404
89	Elkhart	51,366	1,258	4,445	4,463
23	Elwood	8,493	141	1,931	981
86	Evansville	120,372	518	5,718	3,957
5	Fishers	85,597	21	951	511

Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
67	Fort Wayne	257,172	317	3,248	2,444
64	Frankfort	16,205	123	5,066	2,341
60	Franklin	24,310	309	3,916	2,259
32	Garrett	6,290	48	2,989	1,208
87	Gary	78,013	913	5,194	4,327
39	Gas City	6,075	280	2,765	1,470
50	Goshen	32,337	111	3,835	1,930
22	Greenfield	21,381	136	1,698	970
9	Greensburg	11,800	263	644	690
63	Greenwood	54,345	351	3,535	2,339
42	Griffith	16,552	254	2,803	1,611
83	Hammond	78,526	811	3,618	3,359
35	Hartford City	6,053	17	3,370	1,300
34	Highland	23,179	65	2,662	1,275
80	Hobart	28,389	292	6,129	3,250
90	Indianapolis	858,238	1,255	4,823	5,840
13	Jasper	15,370	234	943	787
69	Jeffersonville	46,117	579	3,125	2,537
40	Kendallville	9,904	273	2,736	1,529
61	Kokomo	56,904	285	3,645	2,275
45	La Porte	22,002	155	3,395	1,743
81	Lafayette	70,749	496	4,842	3,311
65	Lake Station	12,170	181	5,062	2,363

Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
36	Lawrenceburg	5,027	219	2,745	1,340
41	Linton	5,326	56	3,887	1,532
56	Logansport	17,973	89	4,612	2,114
29	Lowell	9,403	468	872	1,090
66	Marion	29,475	299	4,251	2,434
58	Merrillville	35,714	333	3,444	2,175
70	Michigan City	31,508	317	4,386	2,544
72	Mishawaka	47,933	221	4,907	2,711
37	Mooresville	9,636	52	3,300	1,397
52	Mount Vernon	6,566	-	5,133	1,959
74	Muncie	70,347	394	4,121	2,761
19	Munster	23,187	91	1,665	885
12	Nappanee	6,705	75	1,715	770
79	New Albany	36,908	244	5,622	3,013
27	New Haven	15,635	102	2,117	1,060
2	New Whiteland	5,793	35	656	299
6	North Manchester	5,989	67	1,269	580
47	Peru	11,101	315	3,207	1,807
43	Plainfield	30,727	179	2,903	1,624
28	Plymouth	10,036	139	2,132	1,077
33	Portage	36,805	163	2,136	1,273
31	Portland	6,275	127	2,661	1,204

Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
55	Rensselaer	5,874	340	4,205	2,098
48	Rushville	6,173	81	4,552	1,848
62	Scottsburg	6,720	551	3,839	2,312
18	Sellersburg	6,167	114	1,849	873
73	Seymour	19,050	336	4,992	2,712
77	Shelbyville	19,278	1,001	2,900	2,959
85	South Bend	100,853	685	4,704	3,725
71	Speedway	12,120	322	5,116	2,615
3	St. John	15,870	32	636	320
11	Tell City	7,298	14	1,918	762
78	Terre Haute	61,085	324	4,931	2,980
26	Valparaiso	32,382	108	1,912	1,057
51	Warsaw	14,160	381	3,171	1,949
76	Washington	11,982	451	5,208	2,859
8	West Lafayette	31,192	103	1,119	687
10	Westfield	34,214	105	1,230	749
1	Zionsville	25,574	23	583	298