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## **2016 Safest Places in New Jersey**

by Susan Gulliford

Nearly nine million Americans call New Jersey home and having a low crime community is important to them. The ValuePenguin team analyzed the most recent FBI Crime Report to determine the safest places in the Garden State. These 346 cities and townships with populations of at least 5,000 had crime scores that ranged from 24 to 6,790.

The key takeaway is that people in New Jersey have a number of low-crime communities. The state's average crime score was 897. When ValuePenguin conducted similar studies of North Carolina and Pennsylvania, it found average crime scores of 2,480 and 1,169, respectively. You can review the full report for more information.

### **5 Safest Places in New Jersey**

These cities had an average crime score of 78, which was 91% lower than their typical peer in the state. With some of its lowest total violent crime rates, these five are the safest places in the state.

#### **1. North Hanover Township**

The North Hanover Township Police Department states that its mission is to protect life and property while ensuring fair treatment to everyone. The results indicate that it meets that goal. In addition to a low rate of violent crime, the community had the lowest rate of property crime. Overall, the crime rate was a whopping 97% lower than its New Jersey peers. North Hanover Township is an eight-minute drive from Fort Dix and a 10-minute drive to McGuire Air Force Base. It also stands out for a commitment to farmland preservation and low-density development.

#### **2. Old Tappan**

This community, approximately 30 miles from New York City in Bergen County, has a police force with a core value to provide outstanding service and a safe place to live. Old Tappan tied for the lowest rate of violent crime, and it had the fifth-lowest rate of property crime in this research. It is an affluent community with a median household income approximately \$44,000 above the state's median, a low poverty rate, and a high percent of college graduates (55%).

### **3. River Vale Township**

It is the second Bergen County community to make the top five. River Vale Township offers residents close proximity to New York City and tree-lined suburban streets. It had only one violent crime reported in the year examined and the second-lowest rate of property crime. River Vale Township is another affluent community with a high median household income (\$131,764), high homeownership rate (90%), and a high percentage of college graduates (62%).

### **4. Norwood**

The smallest community in the top five is Norwood. It had only one violent crime reported in 2014, and Norwood had the fourth-lowest rate of property crime. Norwood is approximately 20 miles from Manhattan in New York City. The community has a median household income approximately \$26,000 above the state's median household income and a low poverty rate.

### **5. North Caldwell**

This Essex County community is the fourth New York City suburb to make the top five. North Caldwell tied Old Tappan for the lowest rate of violent crime, and it had the sixth-lowest rate of property crime in this study. North Caldwell is very affluent with a median household income 2.7 times the state's median household income. It also had a highly educated population: 68% of the population has a bachelor's degree.