

— NO. 1 • THE ANNUAL INDEX

Vermont *Safety* Report.

Population-adjusted public-safety rankings for cities in Vermont, sourced from FBI UCR and NIBRS data through 2024.



METHODOLOGY V1.0 • SAFETYATLAS.US

EDITION

2026 / VOL. I • NO. 1

CITIES RANKED

5 (POP ≥ 10,000)

SOURCE

FBI UCR / NIBRS

§ Executive Summary

This report ranks 5 cities in Vermont with population at or above 10,000 by a composite safety index derived from FBI-reported offenses across three domains: personal safety, property security, and community order. Each city's raw score is then adjusted by a logarithmic population factor that prevents very small towns from dominating the top of the rankings purely on the basis of low absolute counts.

At the top of the Vermont list this year, **Essex Junction** scores **93.5** on the adjusted index, followed by **Rutland Town** (83.7) and **South Burlington** (41.5). The full Top 25, with per-domain breakdowns, appears on the following pages.

The composite score is a heuristic, not a substitute for local context. The methodology page at the back of this report describes its construction, its weights, and the conditions under which it should and should not be used.

<i>By the numbers.</i>	5 CITIES RANKED	10,000 POPULATION FLOOR	18 OFFENSE CATEGORIES	93.5 TOP ADJUSTED SCORE
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How to read the scores

PERSONAL SAFETY

50% OF COMPOSITE

Homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping and human trafficking, compared against national per-capita rates. 100 means no reported offenses; 50 tracks the national rate; 0 is double the national rate or worse.

PROPERTY SECURITY

30% OF COMPOSITE

Burglary, larceny, motor-vehicle theft, arson, vandalism and stolen-property offenses. Scored on the same 0–100 scale, so a town can rank strong on personal safety and weak here — read the columns separately before comparing totals.

COMMUNITY ORDER

20% OF COMPOSITE

Simple assault, weapons and drug violations, sex offenses, DUI and disorderly conduct — the quality-of-life layer. The adjusted score then applies a logarithmic population factor so small towns don't dominate on low counts alone.

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Top 25 Safest Cities

VERMONT · POPULATION ≥ 10,000 · 2026 ADJUSTED SCORE, DESCENDING

RANKS 1–5

RANK	CITY	POPULATION	ADJ.	RAW	PERSONAL	PROPERTY	COMMUNITY
01	Essex Junction	10,111	93.5	91.9	99.5	77.8	94.3
02	Rutland Town	15,747	83.7	80.6	81.6	74.8	86.8
03	South Burlington	20,488	41.5	32.2	29.3	31.8	39.8
04	Rutland	15,747	36.9	24.8	8.1	58.5	15.9
05	Burlington	44,649	32.5	27.5	26.4	21.5	39.1

SCORES 0–100. 100 = NO REPORTED OFFENSES. 50 ≈ NATIONAL RATE. 0 = DOUBLE NATIONAL.

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Bottom 25 Most Dangerous Cities

VERMONT · POPULATION ≥ 10,000 · ADJUSTED SCORE, ASCENDING

RANKS 1-5 (FROM WORST)

RANK	CITY	POPULATION	ADJ.	RAW	PERSONAL	PROPERTY	COMMUNITY
01	Burlington	44,649	32.5	27.5	26.4	21.5	39.1
02	Rutland	15,747	36.9	24.8	8.1	58.5	15.9
03	South Burlington	20,488	41.5	32.2	29.3	31.8	39.8
04	Rutland Town	15,747	83.7	80.6	81.6	74.8	86.8
05	Essex Junction	10,111	93.5	91.9	99.5	77.8	94.3

RANKED FROM WORST. LOWER SCORE = HIGHER POPULATION-ADJUSTED CRIME RATE.

§ Watchlist · Cities Trending Worse

VERMONT · MEAN YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE ACROSS 18 OFFENSE CATEGORIES

TOP 5 TRENDING WORSE

RANK	CITY	POPULATION	ADJ. SCORE	RAW SCORE	MEAN YOY Δ
01	South Burlington	20,488	41.5	32.2	+21.8%
02	Burlington	44,649	32.5	27.5	+15.5%
03	Rutland	15,747	36.9	24.8	+11.1%
04	Essex Junction	10,111	93.5	91.9	-10.1%
05	Rutland Town	15,747	83.7	80.6	-23.7%

POSITIVE Δ = WORSENING TREND. VOLATILITY IN SMALL SAMPLES CAN INFLATE THIS FIGURE — READ ALONGSIDE POPULATION.

§ Per-Offense Leaderboards

VERMONT · TOP 10 CITIES BY PER-100K RATE

HOMICIDE & ROBBERY

Homicide HOM

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	2.2	1
02	Brattleboro	12.8	1
03	Barre	0.0	0
04	South Burlin...	4.9	1
05	Bennington	22.5	2
06	St. Albans	0.0	0
07	Rutland	12.7	2
08	Springfield	0.0	0
09	Milton	0.0	0
10	Montpelier	0.0	0

Robbery ROB

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	58.2	26
02	Brattleboro	77.0	6
03	Barre	35.5	3
04	South Burlin...	24.4	5
05	Bennington	33.8	3
06	St. Albans	57.9	4
07	Rutland	44.5	7
08	Springfield	25.8	1
09	Milton	114.0	4
10	Montpelier	12.4	1

§ Per-Offense Leaderboards, continued

VERMONT · TOP 10 CITIES BY PER-100K RATE

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT & BURGLARY

Aggravated Assault ASS

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	389.7	174
02	Brattleboro	744.3	58
03	Barre	401.8	34
04	South Burlin...	170.8	35
05	Bennington	877.6	78
06	St. Albans	434.2	30
07	Rutland	393.7	62
08	Springfield	437.9	17
09	Milton	398.9	14
10	Montpelier	236.4	19

Burglary BUR

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	295.6	132
02	Brattleboro	423.5	33
03	Barre	307.3	26
04	South Burlin...	68.3	14
05	Bennington	225.0	20
06	St. Albans	130.2	9
07	Rutland	139.7	22
08	Springfield	257.6	10
09	Milton	114.0	4
10	Montpelier	211.5	17

§ Per-Offense Leaderboards, continued

VERMONT · TOP 10 CITIES BY PER-100K RATE

Larceny / Theft LAR

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	3,549.9	1,585
02	Brattleboro	3,297.8	257
03	Barre	3,297.5	279
04	South Burlin...	4,754.0	974
05	Bennington	2,396.5	213
06	St. Albans	7,018.8	485
07	Rutland	2,889.4	455
08	Springfield	2,704.8	105
09	Milton	1,994.3	70
10	Montpelier	2,724.6	219

LARCENY / THEFT & MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Motor Vehicle Theft MVT

#	CITY	PER 100K	COUNT
01	Burlington	172.5	77
02	Brattleboro	128.3	10
03	Barre	70.9	6
04	South Burlin...	156.2	32
05	Bennington	56.3	5
06	St. Albans	28.9	2
07	Rutland	19.1	3
08	Springfield	77.3	3
09	Milton	85.5	3
10	Montpelier	12.4	1

§ Methodology

Every offense's per-100K rate is compared against the national figure. A city at the national average scores fifty.

01 COMPOSITE ANCHORING

At zero offenses, the score is one hundred. At twice the national rate, the score is zero. No proprietary weights, no curve fitting, no black-box scoring layer.

02 THREE DOMAINS, WEIGHTED

Personal (50%), property (30%), community (20%). The weights reflect what a reasonable buyer or relocater typically prioritises when reading these numbers.

03 POPULATION ADJUSTMENT

A logarithmic factor keeps very small towns from dominating the rankings purely on

FORMULA · v1.0

```
// per-offense score
offense_score = max(0, 100 - 50 × (city_per_100k / national_per_100k))

// domain composites
personal_safety = mean(HOM, RPE, ROB, ASS, 100, 64A)
property_security = mean(BUR, LAR, MVT, ARS, 23D, 23F)
community_order = mean(13B, 11A, 280, 290, 520, 35A)

// composite (raw)
safety_score = 0.50 × personal
              + 0.30 × property
              + 0.20 × community

// population-adjusted
pop_factor = clamp(log10(pop) / 5, 0.4, 1.0)
crime_penalty = 100 - safety_score
adjusted_score = 100 - (crime_penalty × pop_factor)
```

the basis of low
absolute counts.

04 SOURCE DATA

FBI Uniform Crime
Reporting (UCR) and
National Incident-
Based Reporting
System (NIBRS),
aggregated to the
city level via agency-
to-city mappings.
Public domain.

05 LIMITATIONS

NIBRS coverage is
not 100% nationally;
some agencies
report partial offense
sets. Reporting and
classification
practices differ
across agencies.
Year-over-year
comparisons within a
single agency are
more reliable than
cross-agency

§ Citation & Colophon

SUGGESTED CITATION



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SOURCE

FBI UCR / NIBRS · PUBLIC
DOMAIN

METHODOLOGY

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