



RANKED: Alaska, New Mexico and Tennessee top the list of states with the highest rates of murder, rape and other violent crime, while Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have the lowest, study says

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Alaska, New **Mexico** and Tennessee have the highest rates of murder, rape and other violent crimes in the United States, while **Maine**, New Hampshire and Vermont have the lowest, according to a study released this week.

Alaska topped the list with 837.8 violent crimes committed per 100,000 people, according to a breakdown of **FBI** data from 2020 on rates for murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery and assault across the U.S.

It was followed by New Mexico, with 778.2 violent crimes per 100,000 people, then Tennessee, with 672.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people — all well above the national average of 398.5 crimes for every 100,000 people.

At the other end of the spectrum were three northern states — Maine, with just 108.6 violent crimes per 100,000 people, followed by New Hampshire (146.4 violent crimes per 100,000 people) and Vermont (173.4 violent crimes per 100,000 people).

The list was compiled by Texas-based firm Vela Law. A spokesman for the law firm said in a statement there were ‘considerable difference between the rates of recorded violent crime between the states that feature at the top and bottom of this list’.

Criminologists told DailyMail.com there were few surprises in the study.

Alaska has long had among the highest crime rates in the U.S. — an effect of men significantly outnumbering women, excessive alcohol consumption, and because lawmen are spread thin across the vast territory.

Clark Neily, a legal analyst at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, said Alaska also had a large indigenous population — 19.6 percent of the state’s total — according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

'When you have relatively large numbers of historically disenfranchised and economically depressed people, it's very uncommon for that marginalization not to be associated with social challenges like substance abuse and high crime rates,' said Neily.

Maine, Vermont and other northeastern states with relatively low rates of violent crime likely benefited from 'social safety nets' helping people combat drug addiction or flee violent partners, cutting the incidents of crime, added Neily.

Rafael Mangual, a scholar at the Manhattan Institute, a right wing think tank, and author of *Criminal (In)Justice*, said 'comparing state crime rates is of limited utility' due to the 'hyper-concentration of crime'.

'In many cases, a state's violent crime rate will be significantly driven by a small handful of neighborhood segments in the state's biggest cities,' Mangual told DailyMail.com.

Many of the states ranked poorly by the survey — such as New Mexico, Tennessee, and Arkansas — had at least one major city with a crime problem and a relatively low state-wide population, added Mangual.