

2015 Safest Places in Colorado Study

When deciding where to live, safety is a top priority. Our team at ValuePenguin has analyzed the most recent FBI Crime Report to determine the safety of cities in Colorado. These 81 cities ranged in a crime score from 42 to 5,423, with an average of 1,525. In the expansive state known for its section of the grand Rocky Mountains, smaller turned out to be safer. Each member of our five safest places, while not completely immune from crime, enjoys the quiet of a population lower than 8,000 residents. Capital Denver, by contrast, with its approximately 650,000 people, ranked third-to-last in our crime score, which took into account both the amount of violent and property-related crimes per 100,000 people (more on our methodology below). For more insight, take a look at the report below:

Safest Places in Colorado by Population

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 3,000 and 8,000, midsize cities with populations between 8,000 and 20,000, and larger cities with populations greater than 20,000. Here are our findings:

Safest Places in Colorado					
Big Cities >20k		Midsize Cities 8-20k		Small Cities 3-8k	
1.	Windsor	1.	Erie	1.	Dacono
2.	Castle Rock	2.	Johnstown	2.	Fort Lupton
3.	Parker	3.	Firestone	3.	Rocky Ford
4.	Centennial	4.	Frederick	4.	Eaton
5.	Broomfield	5.	Trinidad	5.	Yuma
6.	Lafayette	6.	Louisville	6.	Cherry Hills Village
7.	Arvada	7.	Fruita	7.	Florence
8.	Fountain	8.	Golden	8.	Estes Park
9.	Littleton	9.	Steamboat Springs	9.	Berthoud
10.	Loveland	10.	Evans	10.	Brush

Methodology

To rank these places, we collected data from the 2013 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 3,000 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	Violent Crime per 100k	Property Crime per 100k	Crime Score
10	Firestone	2	91	360