

1978 IOWA - NATIONAL CRIME RATE COMPARISON

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Iowa's index crime rate rose to 3,980.6 reported offenses per 100,000 population in 1978, an increase of 2.9 per cent over 1977. However, Iowa maintained a favorable position with regard to its index crime rate in comparison to the Nation as a whole and to most other states. The national index crime rate in 1978 was 5,109.3. Thus, Iowa's 1978 crime rate was 22% lower than the national rate. Put another way, reported index crime in Iowa was about three-quarters as common, on a per capita basis, than was true of the Nation as a whole.

Table 1 compares Iowa's 1978 rate of each category of index crime with the national rate, and also gives Iowa's rank of the 50 states in each category. In every category, Iowa's rate was lower than the national rate. The greatest percentage differences were in the four categories of violent crime. Among these categories, aggravated assault is the one in which Iowa was most like the country as a whole. Even here, however, Iowa's aggravated assault rate in 1978 was 60 per cent lower than the national rate. Iowa's overall violent crime rate in 1978 was 161.2 reported offenses per 100,000 population, which was less than one-third of the national rate. That is, reported violent crime, adjusted for population, was more than three times as frequent nationally in 1978 than it was in Iowa.

Iowa's property crime rates were closer to the national rates than were the violent crime rates. Nevertheless, Iowa's rates were still significantly lower than the national rates. Overall, Iowa's rate of property crime in 1978 was 3,819.4 per 100,000 population, which was 18.4 per cent lower than the national property crime rate of 4,622.4 reported offenses per 100,000 population.

Looking at individual categories of property crime, Iowa's larceny rate was 1.1 per cent lower than the national rate (2,713.5 per 100,000 population versus 2,743.9 per 100,000 population). Iowa's reported burglary rate was 38.8 per cent lower than the national rate, while the state's rate of reported motor vehicle thefts was 48.4 per cent lower than the national rate in 1978.

Table 2 shows complete rank-orderings of the 50 states for 1978 of total index, violent, and property crime rates. In overall index crime rate, Iowa ranked 36th in 1978. That is, 14 of the 50 states had lower index crime rates than did Iowa. Only three states had lower violent crime rates than did Iowa (North Dakota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin), while seventeen other states had lower property crime rates than did Iowa. These figures reinforce the view that Iowa is a relatively low-crime state, especially with regard to violent crimes. Another illustration of this is the fact that the four categories of violent crime accounted for only four per cent of Iowa's reported index crime in 1978. Nationally, 9.5 per cent of the 1978 reported index crime was violent crime.

Returning to Table 1, Iowa's ranking in each category of index crime are shown in the last column. With one exception, Iowa was one of the states with the lowest rates in each category of index crime in 1978. For example, only two other states had lower rates of reported rape, while four states had lower homicide rates. The exception to this pattern was Iowa's larceny rate, which was higher than thirty-one other states' larceny rates in 1978.

Tables 3, 4, and 5 illustrate long-term trends in Iowa's crime rate in comparison to the nation as a whole. Table 3 shows the Iowa and the U.S. total index crime rate for each year from 1969 through 1978, along with the Iowa rate for each year expressed as a percentage of the national rate. The

corresponding figures for violent crime are shown in Table 4, while Table 5 shows these figures for property crime rates. Figures from earlier years in these series should be interpreted cautiously, as great improvements in police record-keeping and crime reporting systems were realized in the early 1970's. Nevertheless, the figures are suggestive of changes in the relationship between Iowa and U.S. crime rates.

The pattern which emerges in each of these tables is that Iowa has retained significantly lower crime rates than the nation as a whole, throughout the ten years covered by this data. However, there has been a slow erosion in Iowa's relative position, in that Iowa's crime rate has been rising faster than the U.S. crime rate.

Table 6 depicts statewide and national clearance rates in 1978 for each category of index crime. Overall, Iowa's clearance rate for index crimes was lower than the national rate (16.8% versus 20.8%). This is entirely accounted for by a lower property crime clearance rate (Iowa's 15.2% versus the U.S. rate of 18.1%). Iowa's clearance rate for violent crime (54.0%) was higher than the national rate in 1978 (45.5%).

Finally, Table 7 compares Iowa figures for per cent juvenile of total arrest for index crimes in 1978 with national figures. Juveniles accounted for a larger proportion of the Iowa arrests in most categories than they did nationally. Overall, arrests of juveniles accounted for nearly one-half (49.7%) of all arrests for index crimes in Iowa during 1978, compared to approximately two-fifths (40.5%) of all national index crime arrests.

Both nationally and in Iowa, juveniles accounted for a much larger portion of the property crime arrests than of the arrests for violent crimes.

TABLE 1
 COMPARISON OF INDEX CRIME RATES
 (PER 100,000 POPULATION)
 IOWA VS. U.S., 1978

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Iowa Rate</u>	<u>National Rate</u>	<u>Iowa Rate as a Percentage of National Rate</u>	<u>Iowa's Ranking of the 50 States (1=Highest)</u>
Murder	2.5	9.0	27.8%	46
Rape	10.4	30.8	33.8%	48
Robbery	46.9	191.3	24.5%	42
Aggravated Assault	101.4	255.9	39.6%	44
Burglary	871.1	1,423.7	61.2%	42
Larceny	2,713.5	2,743.9	98.9%	19
Motor Vehicle Theft	234.7	454.7	51.6%	40
Violent Total	161.2	486.9	33.1%	47
Property Total	3,819.4	4,622.4	82.6%	33
Index Total	3,980.6	5,109.3	77.9%	36

TABLE 2

RANK - ORDERINGS OF THE FIFTY STATES
INDEX CRIME, VIOLENT CRIME,
AND PROPERTY CRIME RATES, 1978
(1=HIGHEST RATE, 50=LOWEST RATE)

Ranking	Index Crime	Violent Crime	Property Crime			
1	Nevada	8,286.8	New York	841.0	Nevada	7,506.1
2	Arizona	7,603.8	Nevada	780.8	Arizona	7,051.7
3	Hawaii	7,136.1	Florida	765.6	Hawaii	6,866.0
4	California	7,116.2	California	742.9	California	6,373.3
5	Florida	7,069.5	Maryland	732.0	Colorado	6,334.5
6	Colorado	6,832.4	South Carolina	637.6	Florida	6,303.9
7	Delaware	6,353.9	Louisiana	584.9	Delaware	5,913.2
8	Washington	6,115.6	Michigan	577.2	Washington	5,710.3
9	Oregon	6,075.4	Arizona	552.1	Alaska	5,604.2
10	Alaska	6,046.2	New Mexico	528.2	Oregon	5,573.0
11	Maryland	5,813.6	Oregon	502.4	Texas	5,121.5
12	New York	5,792.2	Colorado	498.0	Maryland	5,081.6
13	Michigan	5,594.1	Georgia	482.8	Michigan	5,016.9
14	Texas	5,556.8	Missouri	467.9	New York	4,951.2
15	Massachusetts	5,350.4	Illinois	465.7	Rhode Island	4,914.1
16	Rhode Island	5,262.2	Massachusetts	462.0	Massachusetts	4,888.5
17	New Jersey	5,207.2	Alaska	441.9	New Jersey	4,783.7
18	New Mexico	5,180.4	Delaware	440.7	Utah	4,707.1
19	Illinois	5,018.2	Texas	435.3	New Mexico	4,652.1
20	Utah	4,978.9	New Jersey	423.5	Connecticut	4,614.5
21	Connecticut	4,929.5	Alabama	419.1	Illinois	4,552.5
22	South Carolina	4,895.9	North Carolina	413.4	Georgia	4,288.5
23	Louisiana	4,792.3	Ohio	412.7	South Carolina	4,258.4
24	Georgia	4,771.3	Washington	405.3	Ohio	4,246.2
25	Ohio	4,658.8	Tennessee	382.6	Kansas	4,225.9
26	Kansas	4,544.1	Oklahoma	353.0	Wyoming	4,214.2
27	Missouri	4,527.4	Rhode Island	348.1	Louisiana	4,207.4
28	Wyoming	4,494.6	Arkansas	344.1	Missouri	4,059.5
29	Indiana	4,338.5	Indiana	323.5	Indiana	4,015.1
30	Minnesota	4,144.1	Mississippi	321.2	Minnesota	3,954.5
31	Maine	4,138.5	Kansas	318.2	New Hampshire	3,948.7
32	Oklahoma	4,129.8	Connecticut	315.0	Maine	3,930.8
33	Virginia	4,073.0	Pennsylvania	301.1	IOWA	3,819.4*
34	New Hampshire	4,067.5	Virginia	286.4	Virginia	3,786.6
35	Idaho	4,014.8	Wyoming	280.4	Idaho	3,778.4
36	IOWA	3,980.6*	Utah	271.8	Oklahoma	3,776.9
37	Alabama	3,938.8	Hawaii	270.1	Wisconsin	3,748.1
38	Montana	3,915.8	Montana	237.6	Montana	3,678.2
39	North Carolina	3,882.1	Idaho	236.4	Vermont	3,640.2
40	Wisconsin	3,880.2	Kentucky	223.2	Alabama	3,519.7
41	Vermont	3,806.6	Maine	207.7	North Carolina	3,468.7
42	Tennessee	3,690.4	Nebraska	190.5	Tennessee	3,307.8
43	Arkansas	3,461.7	Minnesota	189.6	Nebraska	3,250.7
44	Nebraska	3,441.3	West Virginia	167.7	Arkansas	3,117.6
45	Pennsylvania	3,184.7	Vermont	166.3	Pennsylvania	2,883.6
46	Kentucky	3,023.0	South Dakota	163.5	Kentucky	2,799.9
47	South Dakota	2,689.3	IOWA	161.2*	South Dakota	2,525.8
48	Mississippi	2,554.9	Wisconsin	132.2	North Dakota	2,338.3
49	North Dakota	2,405.4	New Hampshire	118.8	Mississippi	2,233.7
50	West Virginia	2,270.1	North Dakota	67.0	West Virginia	2,102.4

*Figures from 1978 IOWA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS. All other data from
CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES, 1978.

TABLE 3

IOWA - U.S. COMPARISON:
TOTAL INDEX CRIME RATE,
1969-1978TOTAL PART I

<u>Year</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Iowa as % of U.S.</u>
1969	2,251.9	3,680.0	61.2%
1970	2,505.9	3,984.5	62.9%
1971	2,627.2	4,164.7	63.1%
1972	2,531.7	3,961.4	63.9%
1973	2,831.6	4,154.4	68.2%
1974	3,413.7	4,850.4	70.4%
1975	3,908.7	5,281.7	74.0%
1976	4,046.2	5,266.4	76.8%
1977	3,867.6	5,055.1	76.5%
1978	3,980.6	5,109.3	77.9%

TABLE 4

IOWA - U.S. COMPARISON:
VIOLENT CRIME RATE, 1969-78VIOLENT CRIME RATE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Iowa Rate As % Of U.S. Rate</u>
1969	69.0	328.7	21.0%
1970	79.3	363.5	21.8%
1971	98.9	396.0	25.0%
1972	87.4	401.0	21.8%
1973	102.3	417.4	24.5%
1974	121.0	461.1	26.2%
1975	140.7	481.5	29.2%
1976	132.1	459.6	28.7%
1977	143.6	466.6	30.8%
1978	161.2	486.9	33.1%

TABLE 5

IOWA - U.S. COMPARISON:
PROPERTY CRIME RATE, 1969-1978

<u>Year</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Iowa's Rate As % Of U.S. Rate</u>
1969	2,182.9	3,351.3	65.1%
1970	2,426.6	3,621.0	67.0%
1971	2,528.2	3,768.8	67.1%
1972	2,444.4	3,560.4	68.7%
1973	2,729.3	3,737.0	73.0%
1974	3,292.6	4,389.3	75.0%
1975	3,768.0	4,800.2	78.5%
1976	3,914.1	4,806.8	81.4%
1977	3,723.9	4,588.4	81.2%
1978	3,819.4	4,622.4	82.6%

TABLE 6

IOWA AND NATIONAL CLEARANCE RATES, 1978

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Iowa's Clearance Rate</u>	<u>U.S. Clearance Rate</u>
Murder	75.0%	76.2%
Rape	48.0%	49.8%
Robbery	28.0%	25.9%
Aggravated Assault	66.1%	61.6%
Burglary	14.5%	15.6%
Larceny	14.4%	19.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	26.6%	15.3%
Violent	54.0%	45.5%
Property	15.2%	18.1%
Index Total	16.8%	20.8%

TABLE 7

PERCENT JUVENILE OF TOTAL PART I ARRESTS, 1978

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
Murder	8.3%	9.3%
Rape	6.8%	16.0%
Robbery	36.2%	34.0%
Aggravated Assault	16.5%	16.0%
Burglary	59.1%	51.6%
Larceny	48.4%	42.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	70.9%	50.6%
Violent	21.5%	21.4%
Property	52.6%	45.5%
Index Total	49.7%	40.5%