

How Safe Is It? You Decide!

The Mayor has told the City Council that the budget for the police department does not need to be increased. The Mayor said, "Nashville is one of the safest cities in the country and our data proves it!"

The Mayor's opponents don't believe him. They think that Nashville is not very safe compared to other cities and that the City Council should increase the budget for the police!

The City Council has asked you to help them decide if Nashville is one of the safest cities in the country. You will need to tell the City Council if you agree or disagree with the Mayor. You should explain how you arrived at your decision. You should give reasons for your decision that will help the City Council decide whether or not to increase the budget for the police department.

The Mayor's data table shows each city's average annual rates for six serious crimes: murder, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and automobile theft for the latest five years for which data are available. These rates are per 100,000 people. The rates are divided into violent and property categories and a total rate for each of these categories is given.

	Violent Crimes Data				Property Crimes Data			
	murder	robbery	assault	Total VIOLENT	burglary	theft	auto theft	Total PROPERTY
Atlanta, GA	12.4	370.4	498.5	881.4	1599	4449	919	6967
Baltimore, MD	15.9	586.3	637.8	1240	1332	3729	844	5904
Burlington, VT	2.1	24.3	72.3	98.8	1341	4984	322	6647
Flint, MI	14.5	297.5	761.5	1073.5	1660	3904	814	6378
Little Rock, AR	17.3	317.4	924.9	1259.6	1862	4969	671	7501
Miami, FL	17.7	943.9	1095.9	2057.5	2538	6399	1922	10859
Nashville, TN	10.4	278.3	676.4	965.1	1350	3730	561	5640
San Diego, CA	9.2	294.6	570.3	874.2	1281	2998	1314	5593
Seattle, WA	4.9	193.1	309.7	507.8	1149	4436	641	6226
Topeka, KS	8.5	231.8	758.3	998.6	2542	4496	304	7342
Tucson, AZ	7.9	161.8	509	678.8	1440	6119	801	8359
Waco, TX	14.9	229.9	615.1	859.8	1853	4208	607	6669