

Northern Manhattan Safer than Greenwich Village, Says New Crime Report

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By DNAinfo.com Staff

MANHATTAN — **Washington Heights** and **Inwood** are far safer places to live in Manhattan than **Greenwich Village** and the **Meatpacking District**, according to a new report by DNAinfo.com that examines crime and safety in the city's neighborhoods.

The "**Crime & Safety Report**," which ranks every neighborhood in New York for per capita crime, found that high property crime rates are dragging down Greenwich Village, which came in 68th out of 69 neighborhoods for overall safety. Dramatic drops in crime across the board in Washington Heights and Inwood gave those neighborhoods a boost.

Only **Midtown**, which has a higher density of tourists and commuters compared to residents, had more crime per capita than the Village and the Meatpacking District. It finished last in the neighborhood rankings.

Surprisingly, Northern Manhattan fared much better than its southern counterparts. Inwood and Washington Heights are the third and fourth safest neighborhoods in Manhattan and 23rd and 24th safest in all five boroughs, respectively. **East Harlem**, **Central Harlem** and **West Harlem** also have much lower per capita crime than the Village.

"There were precincts I studied in the past, such as Washington Heights, where I was told to wear a bulletproof vest when I went on a ride with the police," said Thomas Reppetto, author of "The NYPD: A City and its Police" and the former president of the nonprofit group Citizens Crime Commission. "That tells you something about it then, and how much it has changed now."

Blame the thieves — property crime is by far the Village's biggest crime concern. Factor out those offenses, and the neighborhood's ranking rises to No. 32. Yet that's still below Inwood and Washington Heights, and even lower than **Morris Heights** in the Bronx, at 27th.

"We do have a really hard core criminal element down there," said Terri Howell, vice president of the Christopher Street Patrol.

That includes gang activity, she said, but the most common crimes Howell finds in the Village include excessive noise, fighting and drug and alcohol use.

Downtown also didn't fare well in the report, despite its resurgence since 9/11 with new condos, restaurants and skyscrapers. It finished 63rd out of 69 neighborhoods, undermined by high rates of property crime.

Still, Community Board 1 Chairwoman Julie Menin disagreed with using the neighborhood's population to determine its crime rate because Downtown sees a daily influx of tourists and commuters.

"I feel safe in lower Manhattan, because we have a very strong community. We're a community of survivors," Menin said. "I have always felt safe in lower Manhattan. It's where I chose to raise my three kids."

Per capita comparisons, derived by dividing the number of crimes by the number of people who live in a particular area, are recognized as the standard for measuring crime by the US government and law enforcement agencies.

DNAinfo.com's interactive report, which marries crime statistics from the NYPD's CompStat database with U.S. Census population information from 2009-2010, also found:

- Murders, rapes and robberies are all on the rise citywide. Based on 2009-2010 data, murder and rape both jumped nearly 14 percent, as robberies inched up more than 4 percent.

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DNAinfo.com's interactive "Crime & Safety Report" used crime and Census data to rank the city's neighborhoods. (DNAinfo/Jason Tucker)
DNAinfo.com's "Crime & Safety Report" allows users

RANKINGS

Rank
Neighborhood

- 1 **UPPER EAST SIDE** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 14
- 2 **UPPER WEST SIDE** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 1
- 3 **INWOOD** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 23
- 4 **WASHINGTON HEIGHTS** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 24
- 5 **MIDTOWN EAST, TURTLE BAY & KIPS BAY** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 32
- 6 **WEST HARLEM, HAMILTON HEIGHTS & SUGAR HILL** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 33
- 7 **MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 38
- 8 **EAST HARLEM** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 44
- 9 **LOWER EAST SIDE & CHINATOWN** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 48
- 10 **CENTRAL HARLEM** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 54
- 11 **MURRAY HILL & GRAMERCY** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 57
- 12 **EAST VILLAGE & ALPHABET CITY** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 58
- 13 **CHELSEA & HELL'S KITCHEN** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 61
- 14 **DOWNTOWN** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 63
- 15 **FLATIRON** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 65
- 16 **GREENWICH VILLAGE & MEATPACKING DISTRICT** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 68
- 17 **MIDTOWN** OVERALL SAFETY RANK 69