



State College moves up, is safest MSA in United States

No. 2 no longer, area has lowest crime rate

By Nick Malawskey

Source: Centre Daily Times, Dec 1, 2009

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State College was recently named the safest metropolitan statistical area in the nation in a Congressional Quarterly Press ranking, moving up from the number two spot it received in 2008.

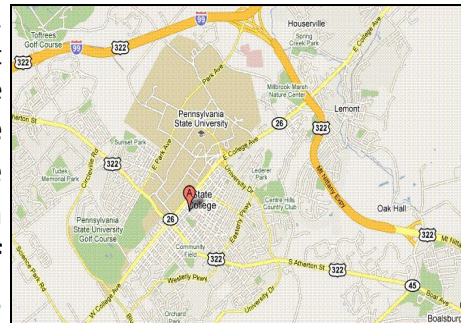
"It's a great credit to the community," said Capt. Dana Leonard, with the State College Police Department. "There are at least eight factors (that affect crime rates) and only one of them is the strength of local law enforcement."

"(So) it is a credit to the economic conditions here, the citizenry and certainly it is a credit to all the local law enforcement agencies

here," he said. "It's a team effort by the whole community." **The State College MSA, which includes all of Centre County, had the lowest crime rate among all the 332 metropolitan statistical areas that are ranked.**

The statistical area with the highest, Pine Bluff, Ark, was listed as having the nation's highest crime rate ranking for metropolitan areas for the second consecutive year.

Among cities, Colonie, NY, had the lowest city crime rate rankings have



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drawn criticism, often from law enforcement officials themselves, because of the socio-economic differences that exist between various areas.

However, Congressional Quarterly contends that the rankings do allow for direct comparisons among different areas and allows civic leaders to track trends involving criminal activity.

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