

It has come to the Elkton Police Department's attention that a real estate blog, Movoto, has been perpetuating a false belief that Elkton is the most dangerous place in the State of Maryland. I feel this is extremely disingenuous at best and extremely irresponsible at worst. This blog states they utilized data compiled by the FBI; I can assume this is the data reported to the U.S. Department of Justice and compiled under the Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (UCR).

Part of Movoto's methodology for their calculations are to base the calculations on a population of 100,000 people. Elkton only has a population of 15,681, so their numbers are based on a projection of 100,000 people. For example, Movoto states Elkton would have 13 murders per 100,000 people. Elkton did not have 13 murders in 2012. In 2012, Elkton had one (1) homicide and two (2) involuntary manslaughters, **NOT 13 Murders**. So starting with a projection of 100,000 people starts from a misleading and false notion.

Let me give you some true statistics: In 2013 Elkton saw a 15% reduction in crime and over the past four years there has been a steady downward turn in criminal activity. In 2013 Elkton had ZERO homicides and Zero as of this date for the year 2014.

The U.S. Department of Justice stresses **Caution in using UCR data for ranking purposes**. In fact the Department of Justice gives, in part, the following guidance as it relates to trying to provide rankings of different locals:

Variables Affecting Crime

Many entities – news media, tourism, and other groups with an interest in crime in our Nation – use figures from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program to compile rankings of cities and counties. These rankings, however, are merely a quick choice made by data users; they provide **no** insight into the many variables that mold the crime in a particular town, city, county, state, region, or jurisdiction. Consequently, these rankings lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting cities and counties, along with their residents.

One city may report more crime than a comparable one, not because there is more crime, but rather because its law enforcement agency through proactive efforts identifies more offenses. Attitudes of the citizens toward crime and their crime reporting practices, especially concerning minor offenses, also have an impact on the volume of crimes known to police.

Make valid assessments of crime

It is incumbent upon all data users to become as well educated as possible about how to understand and quantify the nature and extent of crime in their jurisdiction. Valid assessments are possible only with careful study and analysis of the various unique conditions affecting each local law enforcement jurisdiction.

The UCR program provides a nationwide view of crime based on statistics contributed by local, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. Population size is the only correlate of crime presented in this publication. Although many factors equally affect crime of a particular area, the UCR

Program makes no attempt to relate them to the data presented. **The data user is, therefore, cautioned against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units from cities, counties, metropolitan areas, states, or colleges or universities solely on the basis on population coverage.** Until data users examine all the variables that affect crime in a town, city, county, state, region, or other jurisdiction, they can make no meaningful comparisons.