**How can I tell if the neighborhood where I wish to live is safe?**

**Whether you are planning to rent or purchase a home, it is important to consider the safety of the neighborhood. While there are many sites that claim to provide statistics by address, many of them require a monthly fee. They crime information is often outdated as well.**

***Many realtors suggest that the best strategy remains to call local law enforcement for information about crime rates for specific neighborhoods. You can request calls and crimes statistics. They have the most current and accurate information and are generally very willing to help.***

Here is a summary of additional sites as well as a brief summary of their strengths and weaknesses:

Relocation Essentials.com

[**RelocationEssentials.com - Neighborhood Analysis**](http://www.relocationessentials.com/aff/www/tools/crime/crime.aspx) This site provides information such as the cost of living, schools, community comparisons, crime, etc.

**City-Data.com Forums**While [City-Data.com](http://www.city-data.com/forum/#u-s-forums) isn't a crime site in the traditional sense, it does host -- for many larger cities -- very popular forums, frequented by locals. If you're planning on moving to a new city, or a new neighborhood within your own, this forum would be a way to make inquiries about the safety of the neighborhood. Chances are, you'll have a neighborhood resident responding in no time.

**NewsVoyager.com**  
  
Back in the old days, when folks read newspapers, crime statistics were largely transmitted to the public through the police blotter, printed in the 'Local News' section. You can now access many of these newspapers in the online form -- through [NewsVoyager.com](http://www.newsvoyager.com).

**Missouri State Highway Patrol**

A valuable resource for determining the location of sexual offender in your neighborhood is the Missouri State Highway Patrol Sexual Offender Registry. It can be located at <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/CJ38/AreaSearch>. Just put in an address and click all of the categories to determine where offenders live, work, or attend school.

**U.S. Department of Justice Sex Offender List**While crime statistics can help you determine the safety of a neighborhood, criminal statistics can, too. All people convicted of sexual offenses in the United States must -- upon parole or release -- register his or her residential and commercial addresses with the applicable state government. The Justice Department's [National Sex Offender Public Web site](http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/PublicRegistrySites.aspx) will redirect you to the registries of all 50 states.

**'Lethal' iPhone App**With the 'Lethal' iPhone application, you can discern just how dangerous the neighborhood you're passing through is. Using the iPhone's onboard GPS, the app determines where you are, phones it in to a stockpile of neighborhood information, and then assesses the threats you currently face from wildlife, crime, disease and disaster. Information could also be used for the safety of neighborhoods.