

# **Durham Named Second Safest Community in New Hampshire**

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By Morgan Palmer

**DURHAM — *Safe Choice Security, a national provider of security systems, has named Durham as the second safest community in the state.***

Falling right behind Merrimack, Durham was touted as being safer than 80 percent of U.S. cities, based on the most recent FBI Crime Statistics Data. According to this data, Durham has a population of 14,712, and a violent crime rate of 1.43 per 1,000 residents. The town has a property crimes rate of 7.88 per 1,000 residents.

“The town has been protected by its own police force for more than 150 years and has a unique but effective relationship with the fraternities at the University,” a press release from Safe Choice Security read. “If you are looking for the vibrancy and charm of a historic college town with incredibly low crime rates, Durham is the ideal location.”

This ranking is no surprise to Durham Police Chief David Kurz.

“We have long touted this fact that in spite of all the students, the UNH and Durham Police through a 'high visibility' strategy, are able to maintain this environment where for the most part, students and residents are free of the challenges of major crime,” he said.

Chief Kurz maintains, however, that there is always room for improvement when it comes to residents' safety.

“Sadly we have had two or three very high-profile offenses that have raised the concerns of many parents,” he said. “But just as when you and your fellow students notice police cruisers every few minutes, so don't the bad guys who go elsewhere to commit crimes, fearing they will be apprehended in Durham.”

Durham was followed by Windham, Exeter, Goffstown, Pelham, Londonderry, Hudson, Bedford and Amherst.