

(Continued)

Springfield, Missouri; and Little Rock, Arkansas. It is notable that Missouri had two cities in the top ten on this ranking—perhaps a result of Missouri being “Ground Zero” for methamphetamine production in recent years.

On the other end of the list, the safest cities in the United States, according to this score, are Johns Creek, Georgia; Ramapo, New York; Newton, Massachusetts; Carmel, Indiana; and Mission Viejo, California. It is notable that California had three cities in the top ten “safest cities” (See Figure 13.3).

Breaking down the study to focus on only the most serious offense—murder—the rankings change quite a bit (see Figure 13.4). Specifically, in terms of murder rates in 2014, the city with the highest rank is St. Louis, Missouri, followed by Gary,

Indiana; Detroit, Michigan; New Orleans, Louisiana; Trenton, New Jersey; and Wilmington, Delaware. Notably, New Jersey had two cities in the top ten.

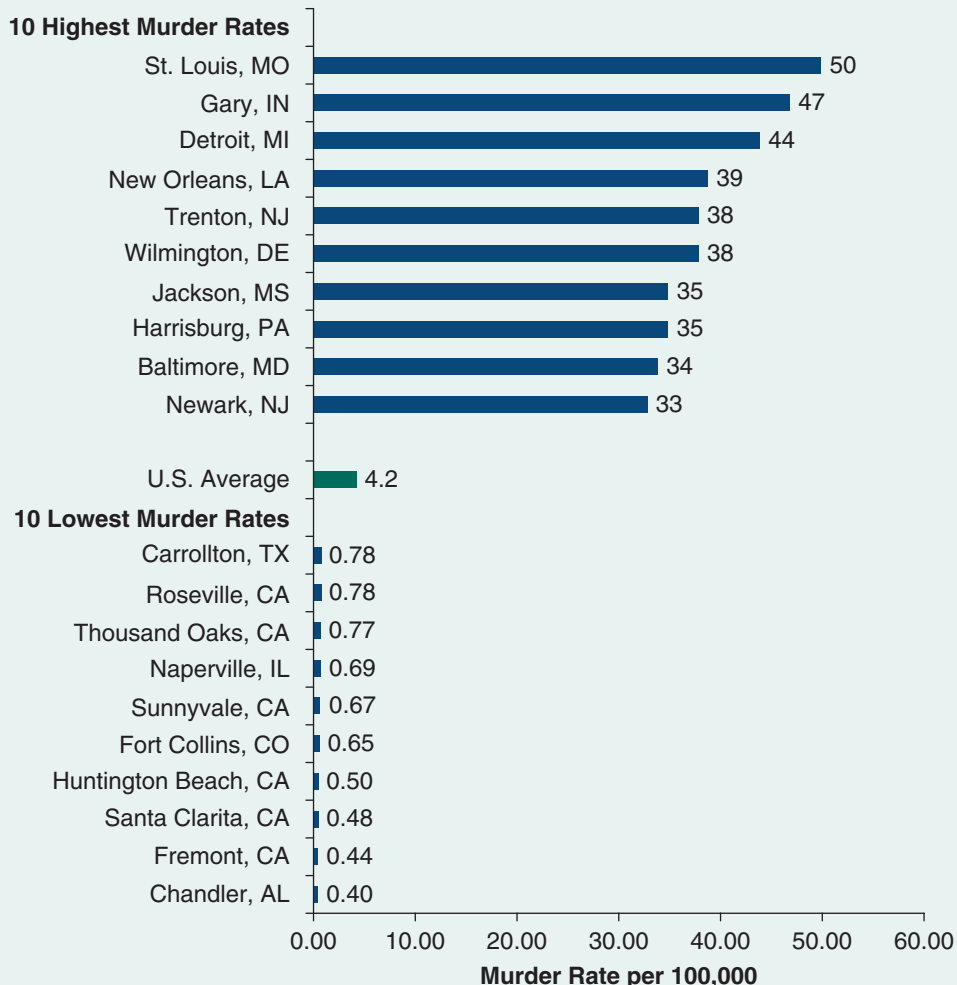
It is likely that the gross deprivation and poverty in virtually all these cities are key in their high murder rates. Many of these same cities seem to have been in the top 10 for murder over the past decade or so.

### THINK ABOUT IT

1. What factors do you think factor most into why certain cities have such high rate of murder?
2. What factors do you think factor most into why certain cities have such low rates of murder/violent crimes?

**FIGURE 13.4**

10 U.S. Cities With the Highest and Lowest Murder Rates\*



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015). *Crime in the United States, 2014*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Justice.

\*Excludes cities that did not report any murders.