2018's Most Sinful States in America

Red states and blue states may like to point to one another as the source of all that is wrong with the U.S., but the truth is that each of the 50 states has its own virtues and vices. For example, Vermont has the worst drug use problem. And it certainly comes as no surprise that Nevada is the most gambling-addicted.
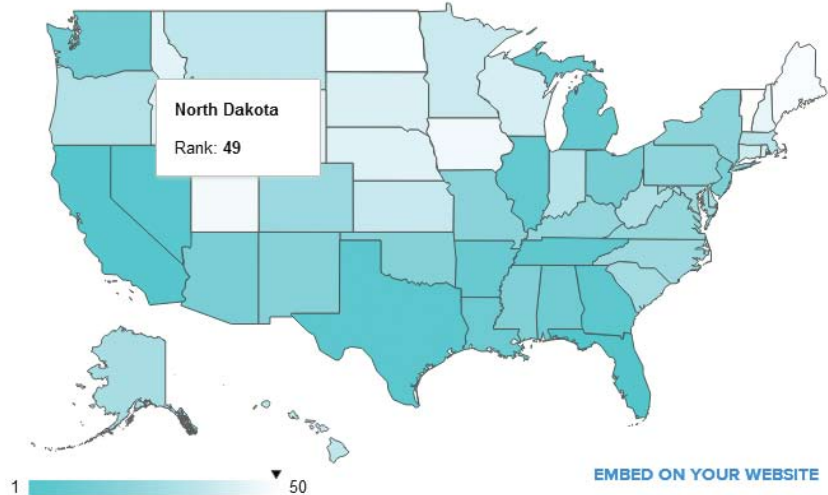
But the cost of state sins is something we have to share as a nation. Gambling alone costs the U.S. about $5 billion per year. That's nothing compared to the amount of money we lose from smoking, though – over $300 billion per year. Harmful behavior on the individual level can add up to staggering economic costs on a national scale.

Some states are more well-behaved than others. In order to determine the states that most give in to their desires, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 38 key indicators of immorality. Our data set ranges from violent crimes per capita to excessive drinking to share of the population with gambling disorders. Read on to see the full ranking, insight from a panel of experts, and a full description of our methodology.

WalletHub has also prepared a Mardi Gras Facts - Booze, Floats, Money & More infographic to go along with this report.

1. Main Findings

Most Sinful States in America (*Total..50+ states*)

North Dakota

Rank: 49

1 ▼ 50

EMBED ON YOUR WEBSITE

Florida, California, Nevada, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Washington, Ohio, Arizona, New Jersey, Mississippi, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, Colorado, North Carolina, Maryland, South Carolina, Alaska, West Virginia, Delaware, Oregon, Indiana, Massachusetts, Montana, Hawaii, Kansas, Minnesota, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, Idaho, New Hampshire, Wyoming, Iowa, Utah, Maine, North Dakota, Vermont

No. 1 = Most Sinful

ANGER & HATE

JEALOUSY

EXCESSES & VICES

AVARICE

LUST

VANITY

LAZINESS

2. ASK THE EXPERTS

It's not enough just to know where certain problems lie. The important next step is figuring out how to fix them and improve each state's quality of life. For advice on how to reverse some of these bad trends, we asked the following questions to a panel of experts:

1. What makes some states more sinful than others? Laws? Culture?
2. Should sport betting be legalized across the U.S. by the Federal Government? What are the pros and cons of such a move?
3. What are the most efficient measures that federal and state authorities can use to curb the obesity epidemic? Is something like the "soda tax" a valid approach?
4. Given that US hate crimes are on the rise for second straight year, what can be done to reverse this uptick?
5. How can federal authorities combat human trafficking? Is legalizing prostitution a good idea?

experts...

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SIDDHARTH KARA

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Associate Professor of Verbal and Visual Arts at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg

MARC HEDRICK

Professional Instructor & Field Experience Coordinator in the Department of Criminal Justice at Ashland University

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to determine the most sinful states in America, WalletHub compared the 50 states across seven key dimensions: 1) Anger & Hatred, 2) Jealousy, 3) Excesses & Vices, 4) Greed, 5) Lust, 6) Vanity and 7) Laziness.

We examined those dimensions using 38 relevant metrics, which are listed below with their corresponding weights. Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with a score of 100 representing the highest level of sinfulness. For metrics marked with an asterisk (*), the square root of the population was used to calculate the population size in order to avoid overcompensating for minor differences across states.

Finally, we calculated the overall score, or WalletHub Vice Index, for each state based on its weighted average across all metrics and used the resulting scores to rank-order the cities.

seven key dimensions......

TOTAL POINTS:
14.3

ANGER & HATRED
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

JEALOUSY
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

EXCESSES & VICES
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

GREED
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

LUST
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

VANITY
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

LAZINESS
TOTAL POINTS: 14.3

ONLINE LINK TO READ MORE:

https://wallethub.com/edu/most-sinful-states/46852/