

I. HEALTH ASSESSMENT
C. HEALTH STATUS
8. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

1. WHAT IS THE HEALTH STATUS OF DELAWARE WITH RESPECT TO THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT?

Delaware's performance varies compared to benchmarks on social environment indicators. Delaware performs well compared to benchmarks for homicide, murder and manslaughter and drug abuse arrest. Delaware has a high number of child abuse and neglect reports and a high rape offense rate.

Research has demonstrated that an individual's social environment affects health status. Individuals recovering from illnesses recuperate faster by having social supports to help with their health care needs and provide emotional support. Communities where residents know and trust one another experience lower crime rates. A stable and supportive family environment has been shown critical for children to excel educationally, socially and emotionally. The social environment includes a multitude of community aspects, such as violence, family cohesiveness, respect for those of different cultures and religions and ability to communicate with others and access social supports (both individual and community) to cope with life stresses.

• Delaware experiences violent crime rates comparable to most benchmarks.

- The 1997 **murder and non-negligent manslaughter offense** rate of Delaware (3.0 offenses per 100,000 persons) was similar to those of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington State but significantly lower than the rates for Maryland and the U.S. (9.8 offenses per 100,000 persons and 7.0 offenses per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- In 1997, Delaware experienced a **rape offense** rate (65.0 offenses per 100,000 persons) considerably higher than all state and national benchmarks with the exception of Washington State (51.4 offenses per 100,000 persons).
- In 1997, Delaware exhibited an **aggravated assault** offense rate (430.9 offenses per 100,000 persons), roughly 1.5 to 2 times those of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and

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Data available to gauge social environment typically focus upon the outcomes of a poor social environment (such as suicide mortality) and rarely focus upon the antecedents of the outcomes (such as prevalence of mental health problems and resident perceptions of the availability of social outlets in the community). Future studies could investigate such topics as the prevalence of mental health problems, availability and access to recreational facilities and after-school programs.

- Washington State. Only Maryland had a higher offense rate at 464.4 offenses per 100,000 persons.
- Delaware's **robbery offense** rates (179.5 offenses per 100,000 persons) in 1997 was comparable to the national benchmark and within the range of state benchmarks with the exception of Maryland, which was roughly 1.5 times that of Delaware, and Washington State, which was 50 percent lower than Delaware.
 - **Delaware also exhibits property crime rates comparable to most state and national benchmarks.**
 - The **burglary offense** rate in Delaware in 1997 (767.8 offenses per 100,000 persons) was slightly lower than that of Maryland, Washington State and the U.S.
 - Delaware experienced **larceny** (excluding motor vehicle theft) rates (3,184.7 offenses per 100,000 persons) more than New Jersey and Pennsylvania but comparable to Maryland and national norms.
 - In 1997, Delaware experienced a **motor vehicle theft** offense rate (507.9 offenses per 100,000 persons) comparable to most state and national benchmarks and slightly higher than Pennsylvania.
 - **Delaware has comparable arrest rates for many serious law violations (e.g., drug abuse and offenses against families and children) than the state, region and nation.**
 - Delaware exhibited a comparable 1997 arrest rate **for offenses against families and children**¹ (32.8 arrests per 100,000 persons) when compared to Maryland (40.0 arrests per 100,000 persons). However, the arrest rate in Delaware for these offenses was markedly less than that of New Jersey (215.9 offenses per 100,000 persons) and 1.5 times lower than the national average (57.3 arrests per 100,000 persons).
 - In 1997, Delaware experienced a **drug abuse**² arrest rate (488.0 arrests per 100,000 persons) nearly 1.5 times lower than Maryland (786.5 arrests per 100,000 persons) and New Jersey (778.7 arrests per 100,000 persons) and slightly lower than Washington State and the U.S.
 - **Delaware exhibits a comparable homicide death rate relative to almost all comparison populations.**
 - In 1997, Delaware's rate of **homicides** (4.4 deaths per 100,000 persons) was comparable to that in New Jersey (4.5 deaths per 100,000 persons) and Washington State (4.6 deaths per 100,000 persons) but 1.5 to 2 times lower than and the U.S.
 - Delaware was well below the Healthy People 2000 objective of reducing **homicides** to 7.2 deaths per 100,000 persons.

¹ Defined as the non-support, neglect, desertion or abuse of families and children.

² Defined as the sale, manufacturing or possession of drugs.

- **Reported child abuse and neglect in Delaware is higher than all state and national benchmarks as well as the Healthy People 2000 objective.**
 - In 1997, the rate of reported **child abuse and neglect** in Delaware (54.4 new reports per 1,000 children) was above Washington State and New Jersey (26.3 new reports per 1,000 children and 35.2 new reports per 1,000 children, respectively) as well as the national rate (42.0 new reports per 1,000 children).
 - Delaware's rate of reported child abuse and neglect was 141 percent higher than the Healthy People 2000 objective (22.6 new reports per 1,000 children).
- **Delaware residents experience a suicide rate within the range of state benchmarks and comparable to the nation.**
 - With the exception of New Jersey, the rate of **suicide** in Delaware in 1997 (10.7 deaths per 100,000 persons) was will within the range of state and national benchmarks.
 - In 1997, Delaware almost met the Healthy People 2000 objective for reducing the suicide death rate to no more than 10.5 deaths per 100,000 persons.

Exhibit I-C-97:

Delaware performed well or comparable for most indicators compared to benchmarks.

Health Status Indicators

Social Environment	
Rape and Aggravated Assault	—
Homicide Death	+
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	+
Child Abuse and Neglect	—
Suicide Mortality	↔
Robbery and Burglary	↔
Drug Abuse Arrest	+

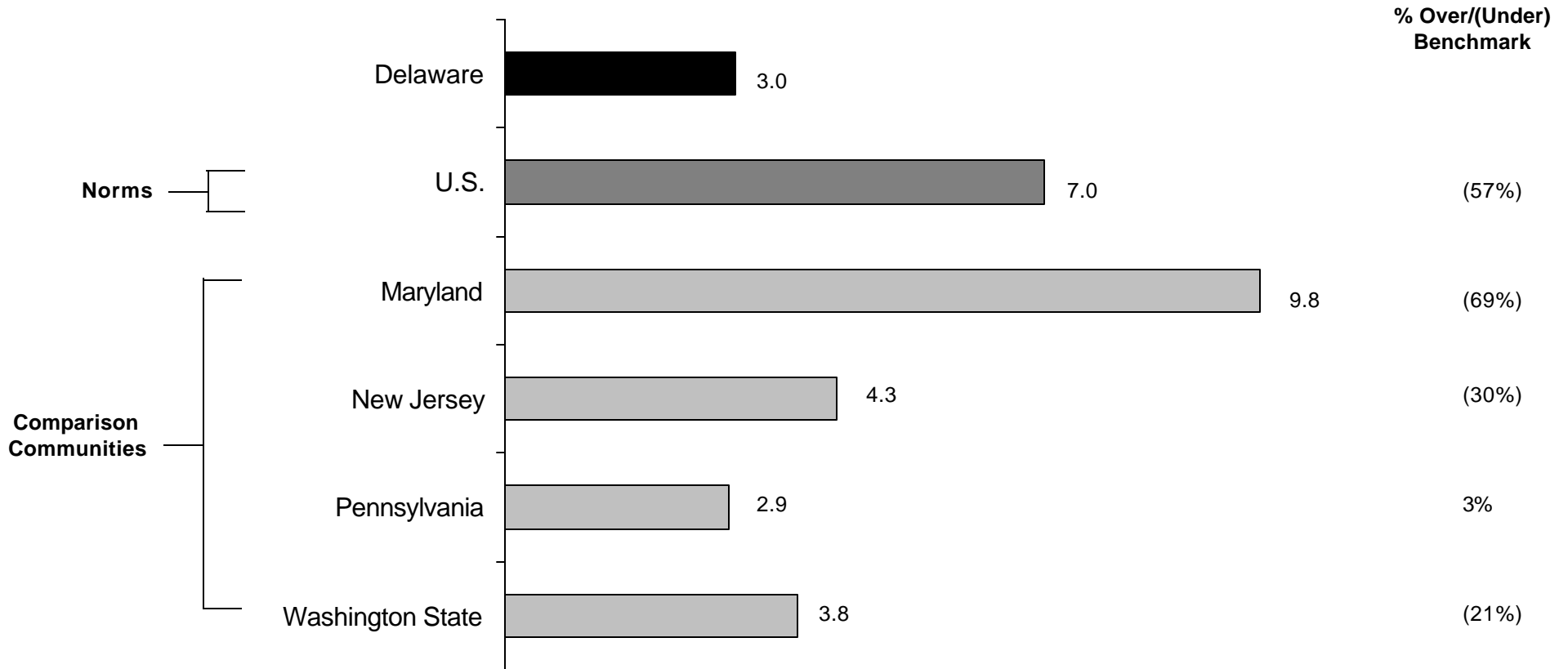
Performance Relative to Benchmarks: + More Favorable ↔ Comparable — Less Favorable

HEALTH	RESOURCE	VALUE
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-C-98:

In 1997, Delaware experienced a murder/non-negligent manslaughter crime rate significantly lower than benchmarks.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

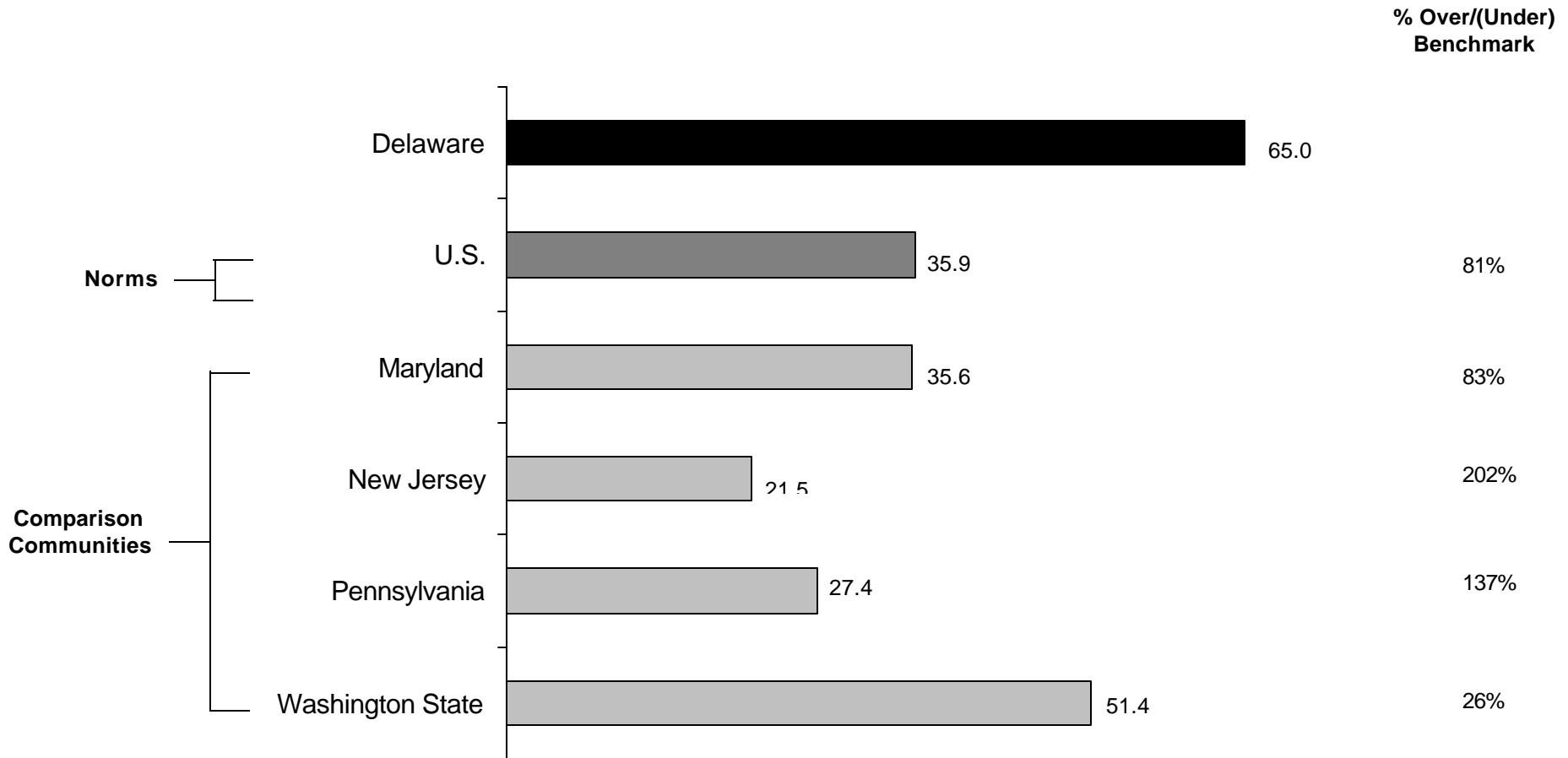
Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

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Exhibit I-C-99:

In 1997, Delaware experienced a rape rate substantially higher than benchmark rates.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Rape^(a) 1997**



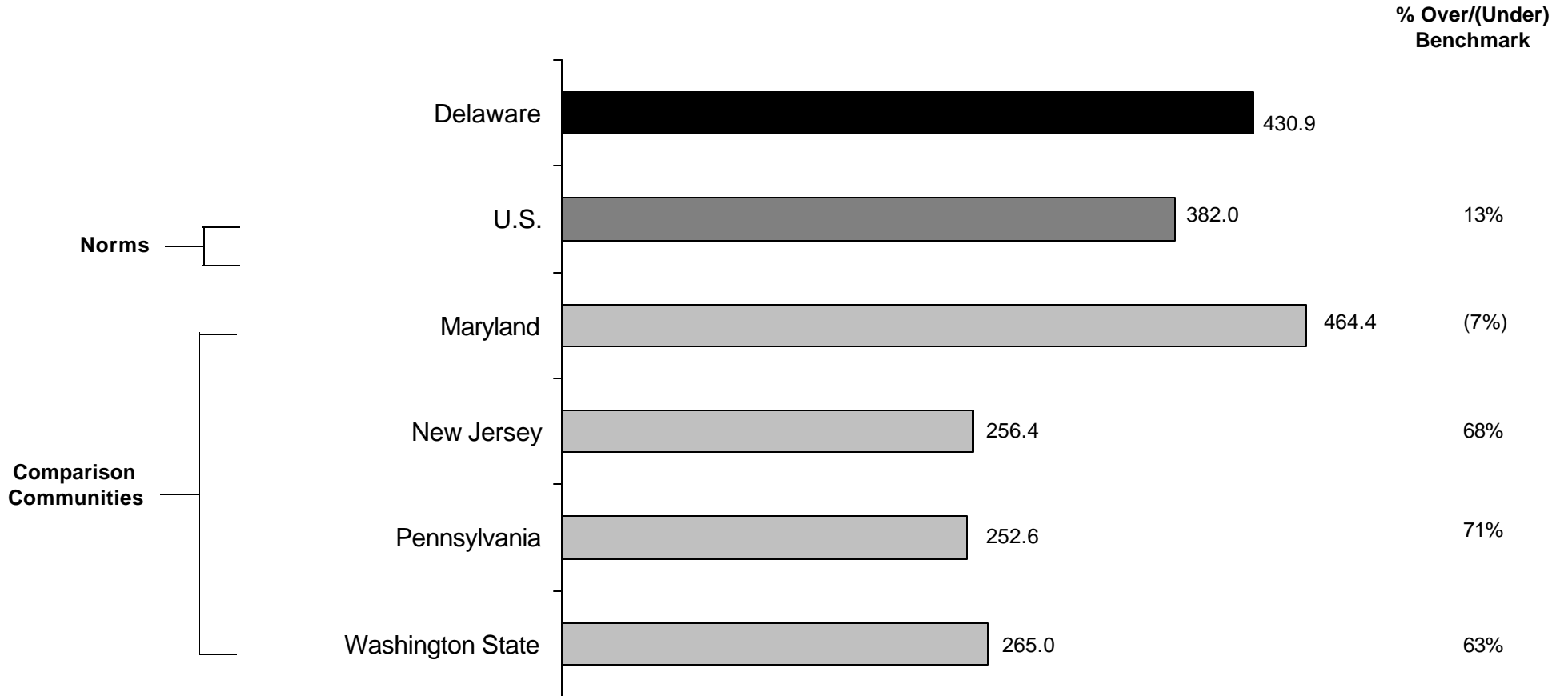
Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

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Exhibit I-C-100: In 1997, Delaware's aggravated assault rate was lower than that of Maryland but higher than the other benchmarks.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Aggravated Assault^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

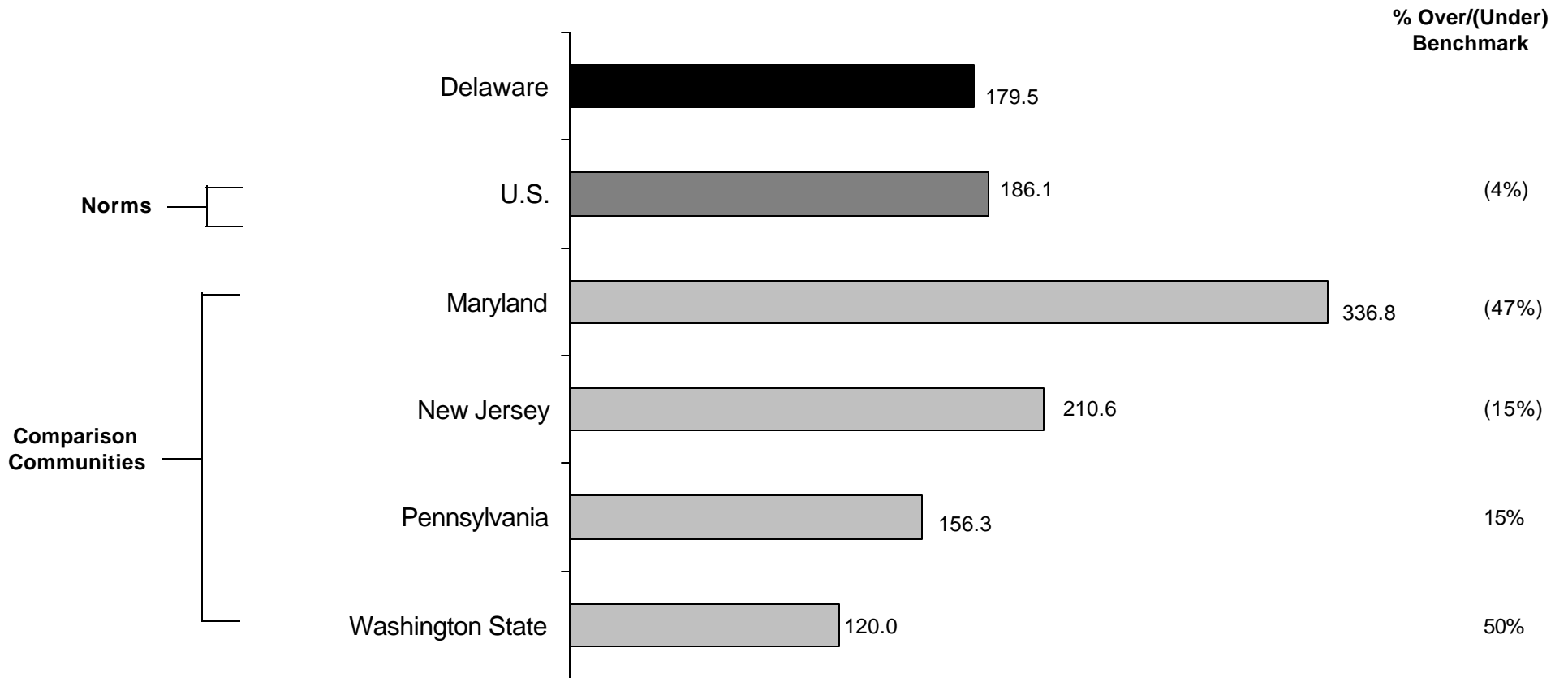
Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

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Exhibit I-C-101:

In 1997, Delaware experienced a robbery rate similar to the national rate and within the range of state benchmarks.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Robbery^(a) 1997**



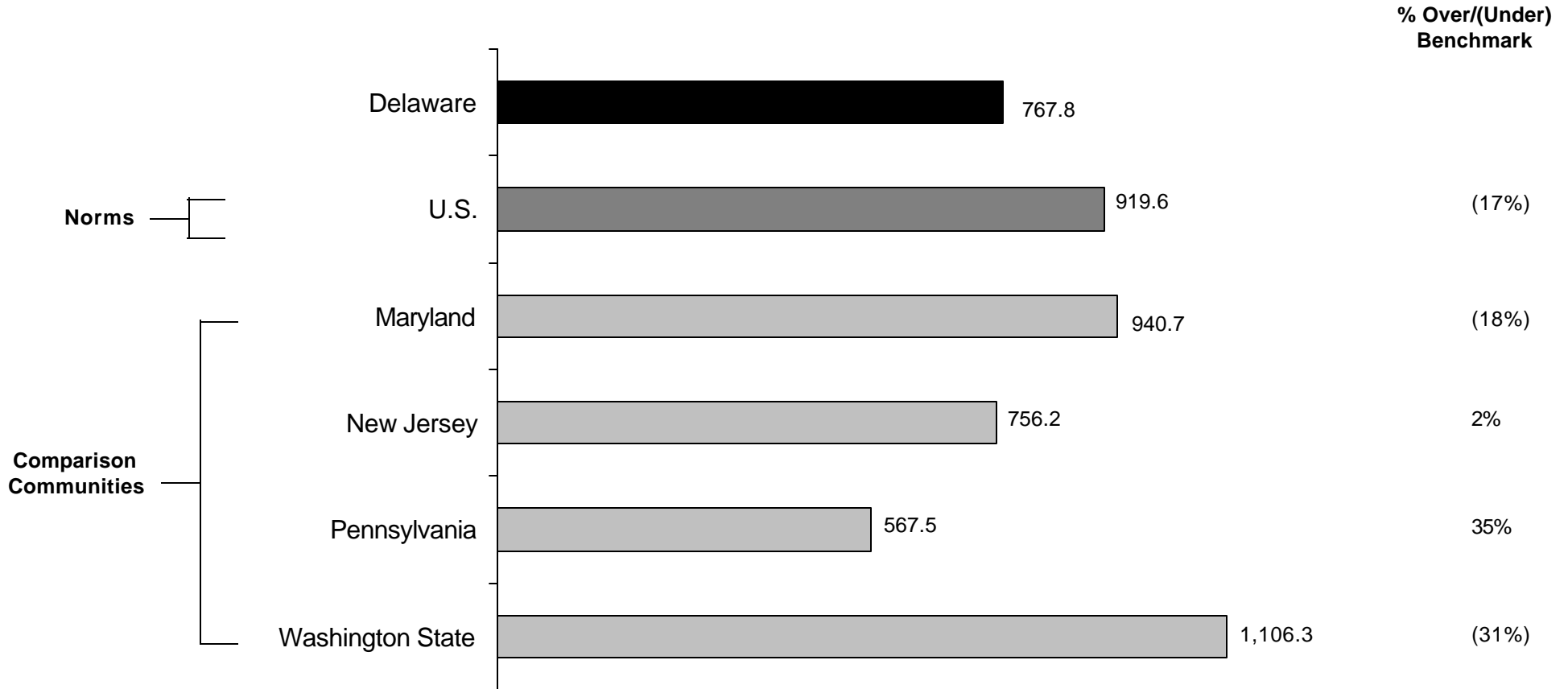
Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

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Exhibit I-C-102: Delaware's burglary rate in 1997 was lower than the rates of most benchmarks.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Burglary^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

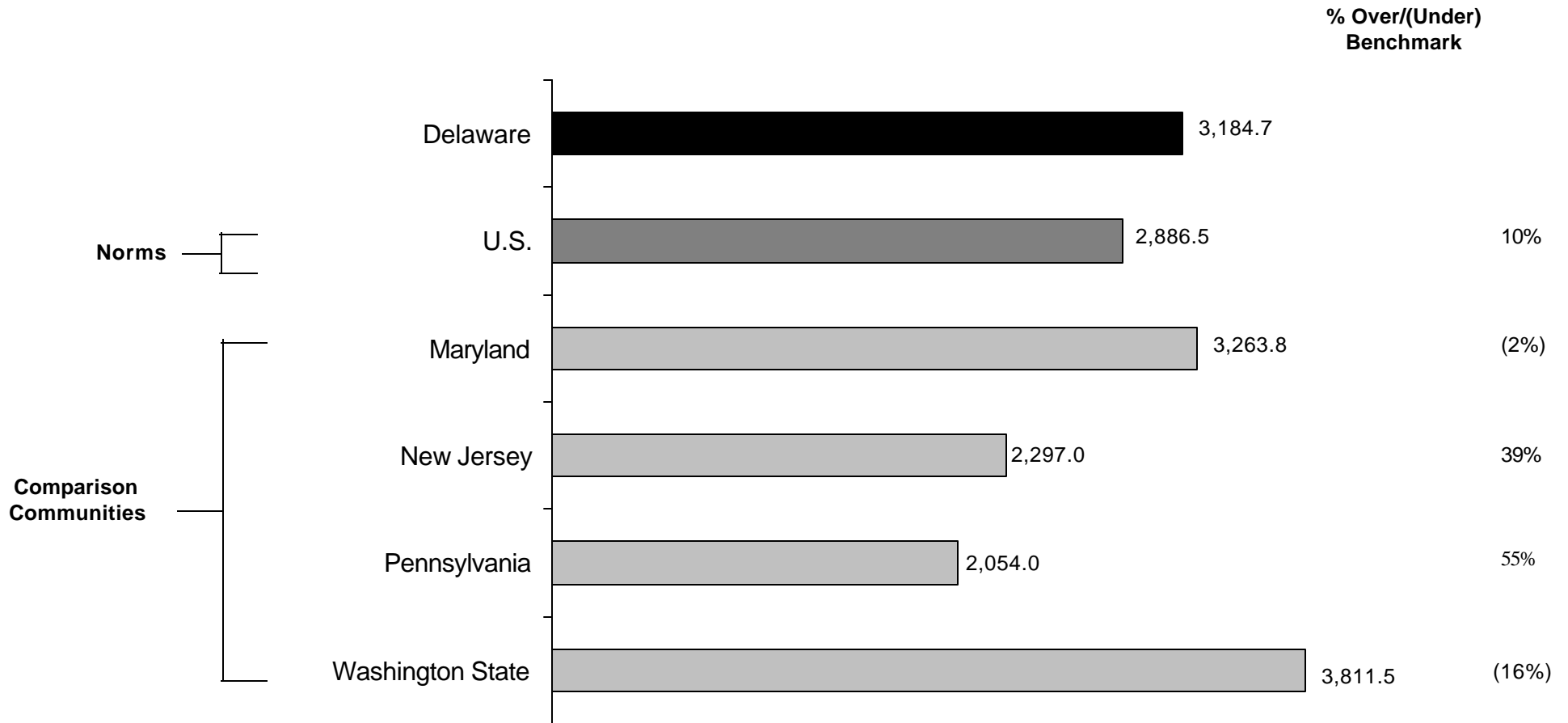
Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

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Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-C-103:

Delaware experienced a larceny rate higher than New Jersey, Pennsylvania and national rates but lower than Maryland and Washington State rates.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Larceny (excluding motor vehicle theft)^(a) 1997**



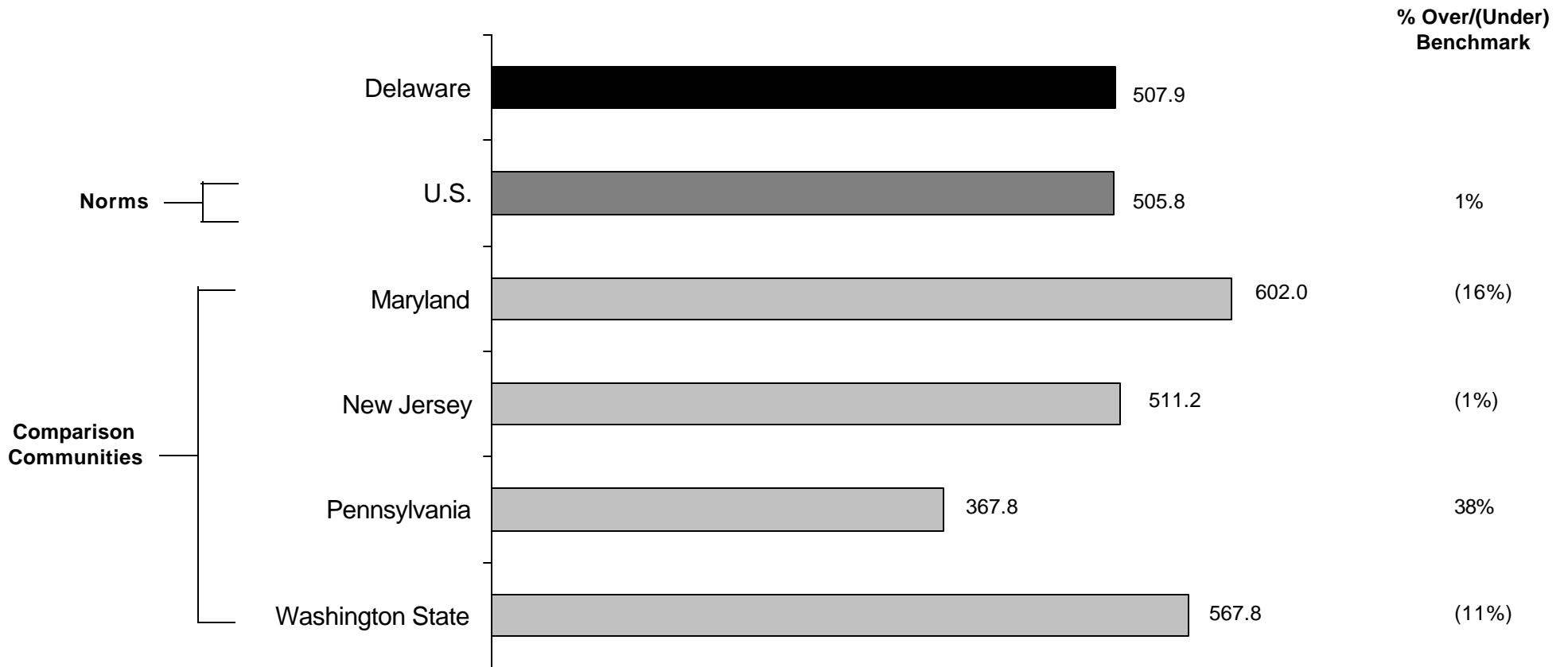
Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

HEALTH	RESOURCE	VALUE
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Exhibit I-C-104: In 1997, Delaware experienced a motor vehicle theft rate that was comparable to New Jersey and national rates.

**Crime Rates: Reported Offenses per 100,000 Persons
Motor Vehicle Theft^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States, 1997.

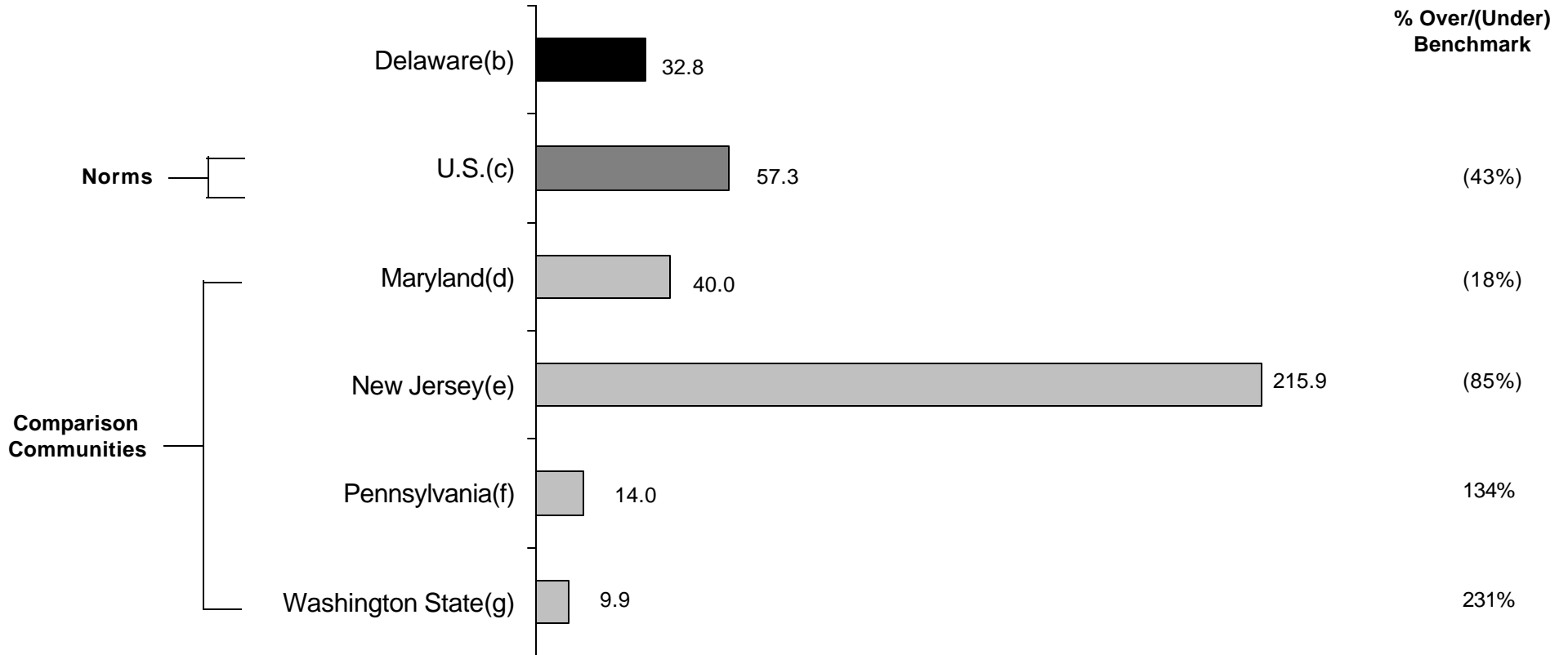
Notes: (a) Crime rates are based on the number of offenses reported to police agencies and do not reflect the number of arrests made in connection with each offense.

HEALTH	RESOURCE	VALUE
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Exhibit I-C-105:

In 1997, Delaware's rate of offenses against families and children was higher than the Pennsylvania and Washington rates, but lower than the Maryland, New Jersey and national rates.

**Arrests per 100,000 Persons
Offenses Against Families and Children^(a) 1997**



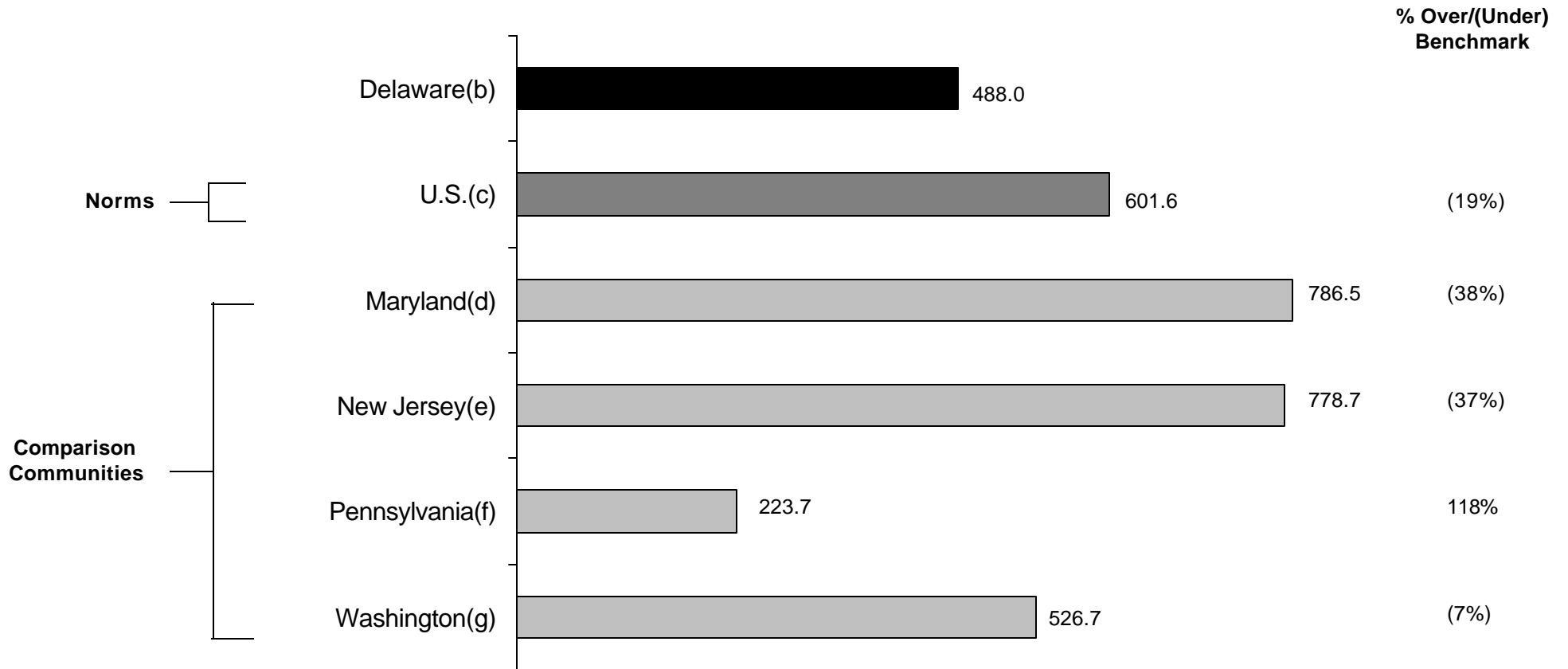
Sources: (1) 1997 data, Federal Bureau of Investigation UCR reports.

- Notes:
- (a) Defined as non-support, neglect, desertion or abuse of family and children.
 - (b) Delaware data from 49 agencies covering a population of 299,000 people.
 - (c) National data from 9,271 agencies covering a population of 183,240,000 people.
 - (d) Maryland data from 142 agencies covering a population of 5,089,000 people.
 - (e) New Jersey data from 541 agencies covering a population of 7,741,000 people.
 - (f) Pennsylvania data from 473 agencies covering a population of 5,644,000 people.
 - (g) Washington data from 196 agencies covering a population of 3,403,000 people.

HEALTH	RESOURCE	VALUE
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Exhibit I-C-106: Delaware's drug abuse arrest rate was higher than Pennsylvania's rate but lower than the rates of other benchmarks.

**Arrests per 100,000 Persons
Drug Abuse^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, Federal Bureau of Investigation UCR reports.

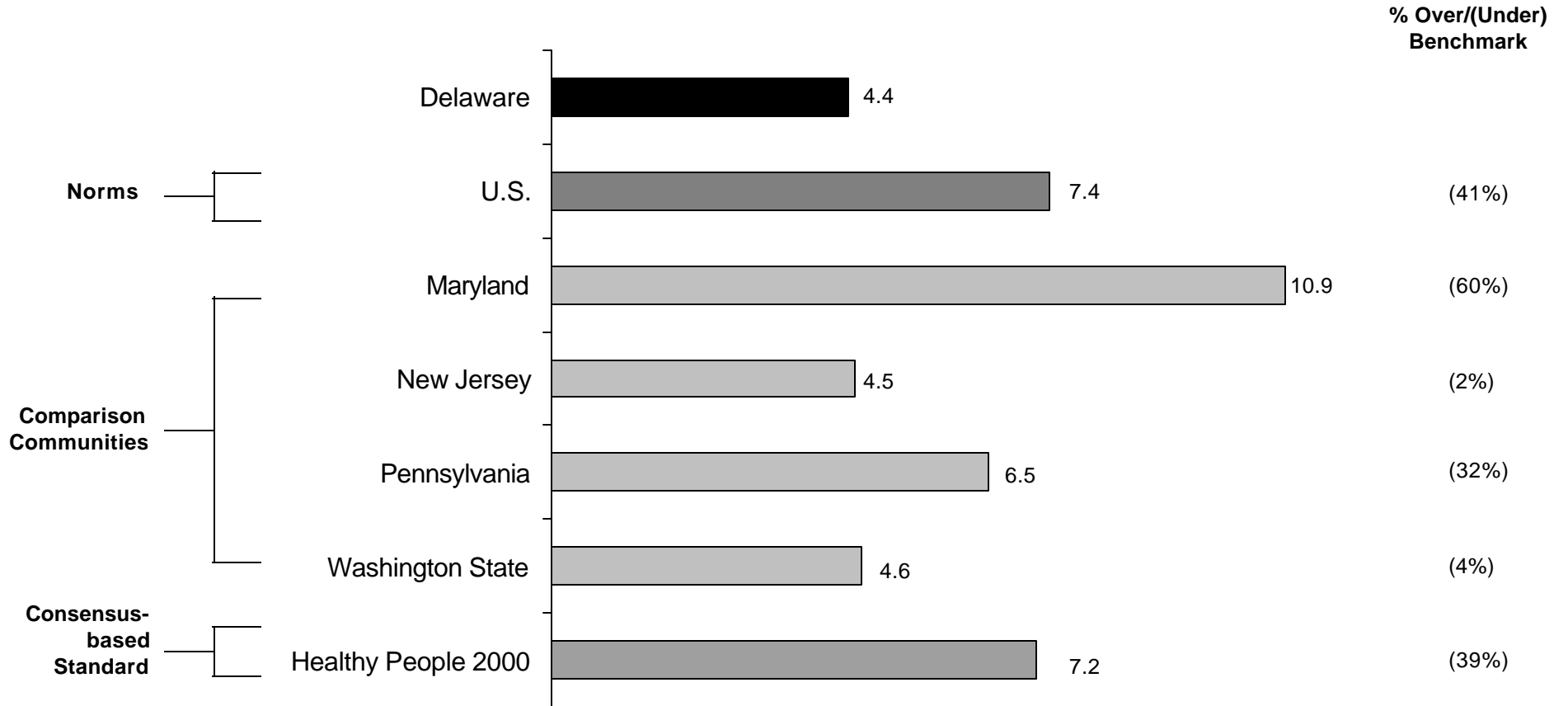
- Notes:
- (a) Defined as the sale, manufacturing or possession of drugs.
 - (b) Delaware data from 49 agencies covering a population of 299,000 people.
 - (c) National data from 9,271 agencies covering a population of 183,240,000 people.
 - (d) Maryland data from 142 agencies covering a population of 5,089,000 people.
 - (e) New Jersey data from 541 agencies covering a population of 7,741,000 people.
 - (f) Pennsylvania data from 473 agencies covering a population of 5,644,000 people.
 - (g) Washington data from 196 agencies covering a population of 3,403,000 people.

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Exhibit I-C-107:

In 1997, Delaware experienced a homicide death rate similar to norms and most benchmarks, and below the Healthy People 2000 Objective.

Homicide and Legal Intervention Deaths per 100,000 Persons 1997

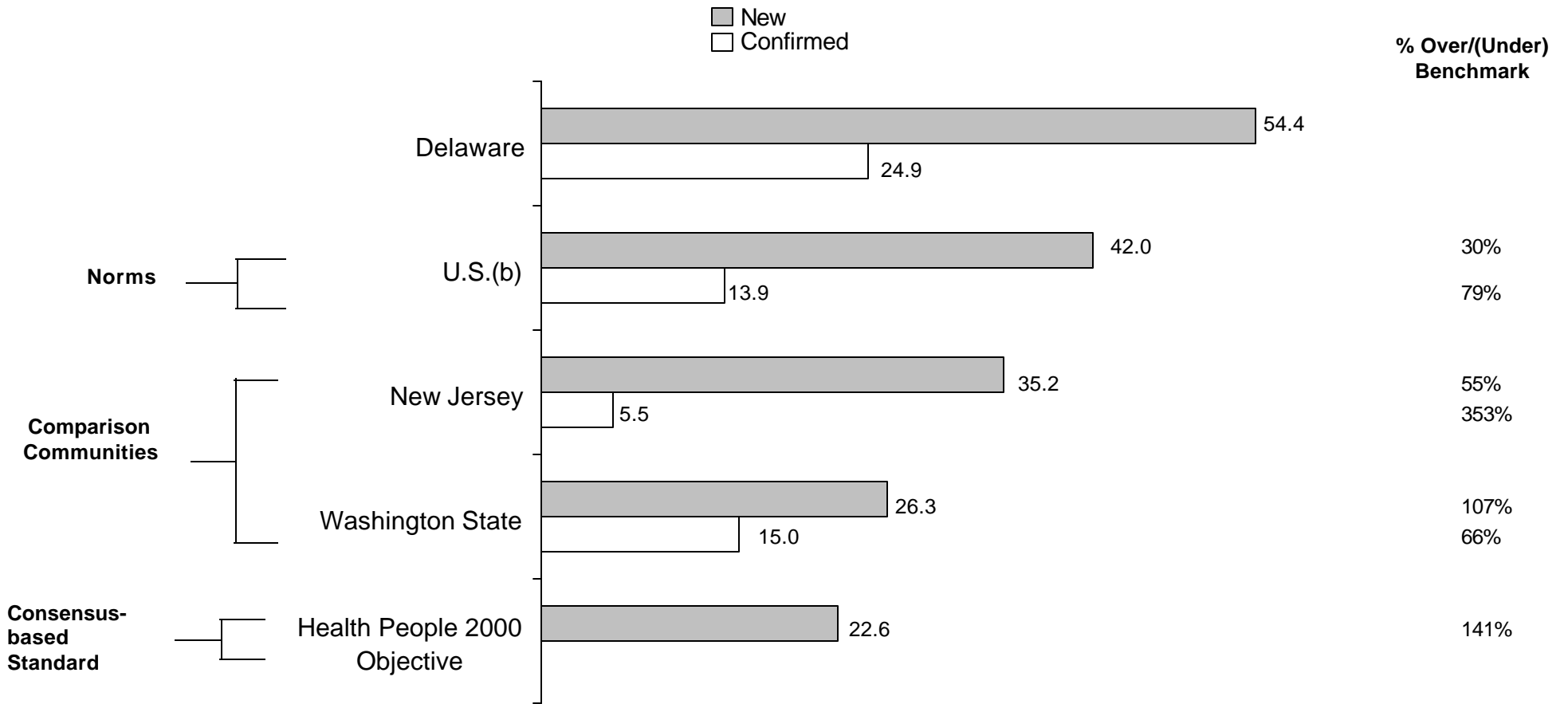


Sources: 1997 data, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interactive MMWR Morbidity Tables. Table II Part 1.

HEALTH	RESOURCE	VALUE
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Exhibit I-C-108: In 1997, Delaware's rate of reported child abuse was higher than all state and national benchmarks.

**New and Confirmed Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children Under Aged 18^(a)
1997**



Sources: 1) 1997 data, United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Maltreatment, 1997; 3) Healthy People 2000 Objective.

Notes: (a) New reports are the total number of allegations of child abuse made in a given year. Confirmed reports include only those cases which are confirmed upon investigation of child abuse/neglect.

(b) The national estimate of children reported as alleged victims was obtained by calculating a weighted average rate based on all states that reported in a given year, then multiplying the state population by this average rate for each state that was unable to provide these data.

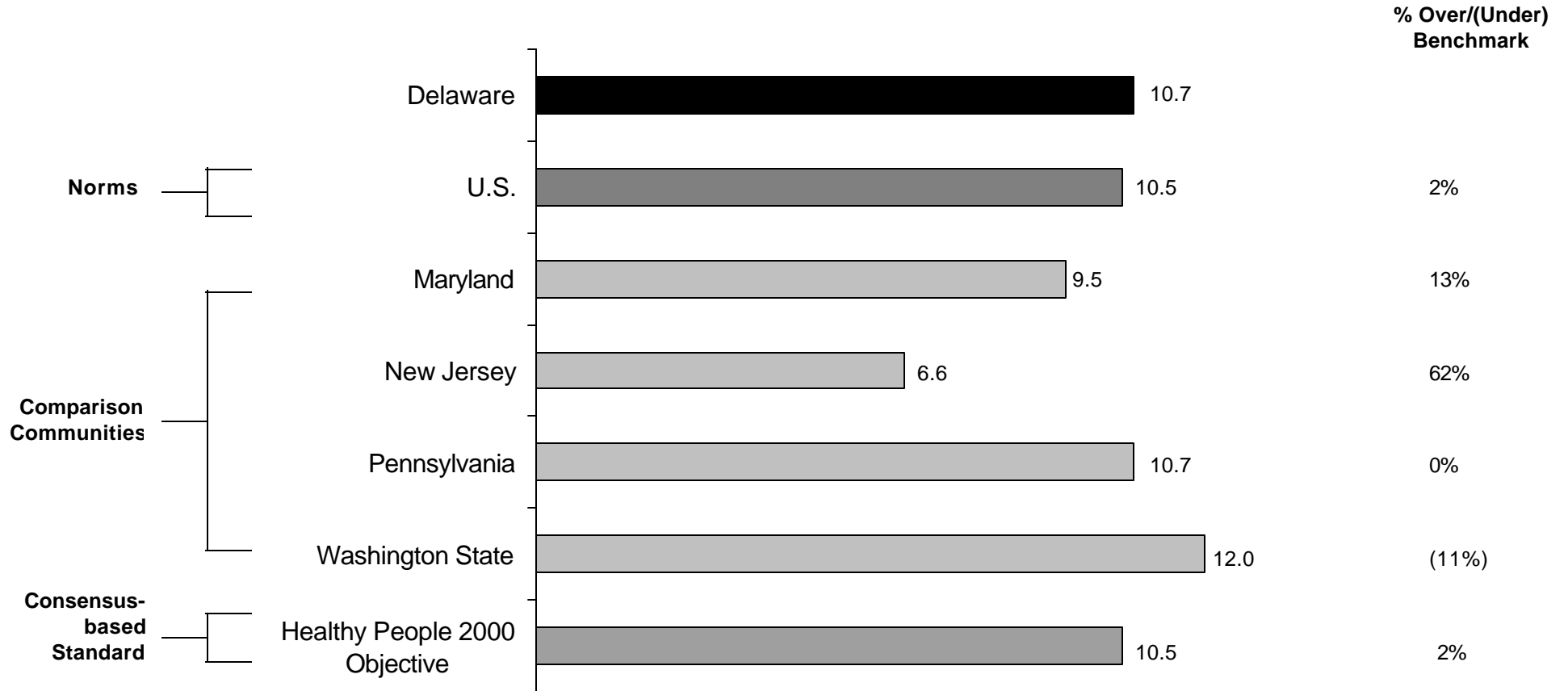
Rates reported differ from those reported in the Delaware Kids Count and are taken from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Maltreatment, 1997 in order to compare Delaware to selected state and national benchmarks.

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Exhibit I-C-109:

In 1997, Delaware experienced a suicide death rate that was higher than most comparison communities and the nation but comparable to Pennsylvania and slightly lower than Washington State.

**Deaths per 100,000 Persons
Suicide^(a) 1997**



Sources: (1) 1997 data, U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder Data Extraction Software.

Notes: (a) Death rates are age-adjusted to the 1940 U.S. national population.

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