In most of Megalopolis the total serious crime rate is below the national average. Throughout most of the suburban areas of the region the rate is well below the national average. Counties such as Hunterdon NJ, Litchfield CT or Culpepper VA have rates that are respectively 73%, 64% and 97% less than the national average of just over 4000 crimes per 100,000 people. Compared to the rest of the country large areas of Megalopolis has comparatively little serious crime.

The exceptions are the large cities of Baltimore, Washington DC, Philadelphia and Boston (Suffolk County MA) where rates are respectively 154%, 78%, 58% and 45% larger than the national mean. Baltimore is the crime capital of Megalopolis. Serious crime is associated with an active drug trade, poverty, unemployment and limited economic opportunities in the formal economy especially for young males. All of these factors are strong associated with the very large city areas. At an even finer scale we would find, if the data were available that the serious crime rate in the sees cities is highly concentrated in just a few localized high crime rate areas. There is also a scatter of higher than national average crime rates in a small number of counties such as Nantucket MA. Rather than being hotbeds of crime their position reflects small absolute figures; in this case only 605 total serious crime cases were reported which compares favorably with the 67,452 serious crimes committed in the city of Baltimore in the same time period.

NOTE: The National Mean total crime rate is 4,075 total crimes per 100,000 people. Total Crime: murder, non-negligent man-slaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 2000