The city stands out as a peak of serious property crime in the whole region. People in many low-income minority communities in these cities have to live with the very real threat of serious crime. Other big cities with weak economies such as Philadelphia also have crime rates above the national average. High crime rates are positively associated with high urban poverty and poor employment opportunities.

Throughout most of the region the crime rates are below the national average even in much of central city area of the New York metro region. By and large Megalopolis as compared to the national average, has a relatively low crime rate with figures well below the national average throughout much of suburban and rural Megalopolis.

Megalopolis is below the national average for serious property crime including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Given the popular (mis)conception of large cities, and Megalopolis can be considered one giant urban region, the results may surprise some people.

There are variations within the region. The most crime prone areas are Baltimore City and Washington DC, which are respectively 126% and 61% above the national mean. The city of Baltimore has a weak economy, high unemployment and a flourishing drug trade all of which make ideal conditions for high crime rates.

**NOTE:** Data show the percent above or below the national mean property crime rate. The national mean is 3574.682 crimes per 100,000 population. Property crimes are defined as burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.