

6.1 Crime

The Importance

Crime, in its various forms, causes both physical and psychological damage to communities. Fear of crime affects development patterns, property values, and social interaction. In addition to creating an atmosphere of fear, crime can also lead to death, injury, and psychological damage. For this reason, it is essential that the facts about crime rates be accurately reported. Sensationalistic reporting that ignores overall crime patterns can exacerbate a climate of fear and lead to irrational community decisions.

About this indicator

This indicator measures the Capital District's annual crime rates over the past 18 years against the National crime rates for the same years. For regional comparisons, this indicator compares the Albany MSA to other Upstate MSA's and to its peer group of similar state capitals. Due to a lack of available data, the regional comparison uses the 2000 Albany MSA data and the 2001 data for the other MSA's. The 2001 Albany MSA data is not yet available while the 2000 National data is not posted by MSA.

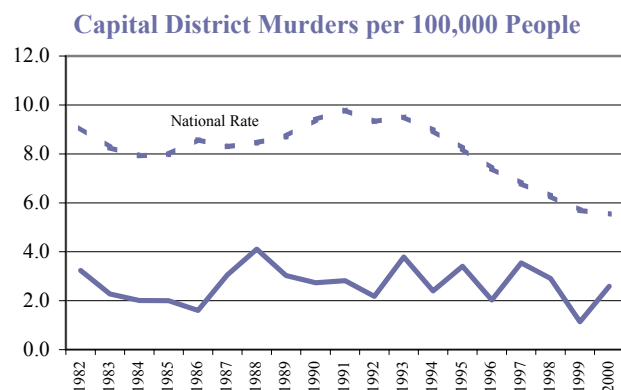
Sources for this Indicator

- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2001 Uniform Crime Report.
- N.Y.S Division of Criminal Justice Uniform Crime and Incident-Based Reporting systems.

Crime in the Capital District

Since 1982, in all the Uniform Crime Report categories, the Capital District has been significantly below the National crime rate, particularly with respect to violent crime and murder.

The number of murders in the Capital District fluctuates significantly from year-to-year, but the murder rate is much lower than the National Rate. Since 1982, the Capital District's Murder rate has been $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the national rate and consistently between 2 and 4 murders per 100,000 people. While the National murder rate fell significantly during the 1990's, there has been much variation, but no up or downward trend in the Capital District's murder rate over the 19-year period. For example, in 1999 there were nine murders in the Capital District while there were 28 and 21 in 1998 and 2000 respectively.



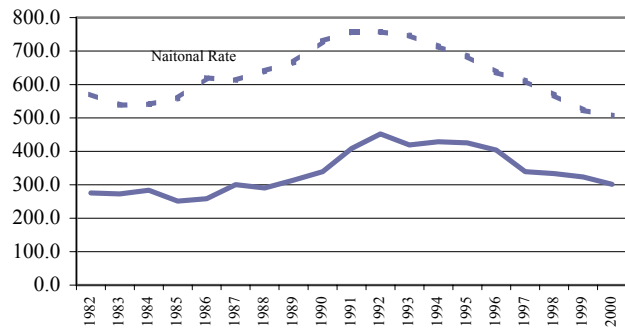
6.1 SAFETY

Like the National violent crime rate, the Capital District's violent crime rate has shown significant improvement during the 1990's. In 2000, the gap between the Region's and the Nation's crime rate was as small as it has been since 1982, and the National rate was still 68% higher than the Capital District rate. Property crime rates in the Capital District declined moderately during the late 1990's but have been fairly consistent since 1982. The National property crime rates declined significantly during the 1990's but were still well above the Region's rate in 2000.

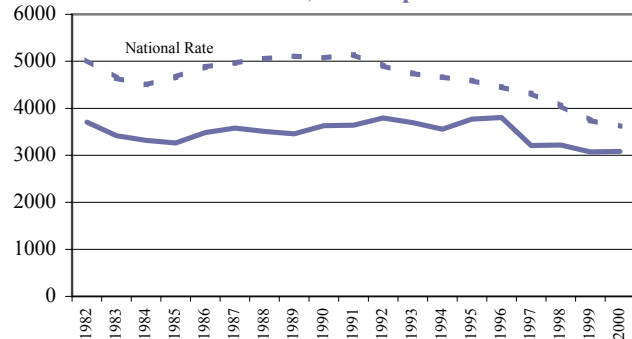
Regional Comparison

Note: Due to limited data availability, the Albany MSA data is from the 2000 Uniform Crime Report Data. The data for the other MSA's is from the 2001 Uniform Crime Report. Nationally, between 2000 and 2001, the murder rate increased by 1.3%, the violent crime rate decreased by 0.4%, and the property crime rate increased by 1.0%.

**Capital District Violent Crimes
Per 100,000 People**

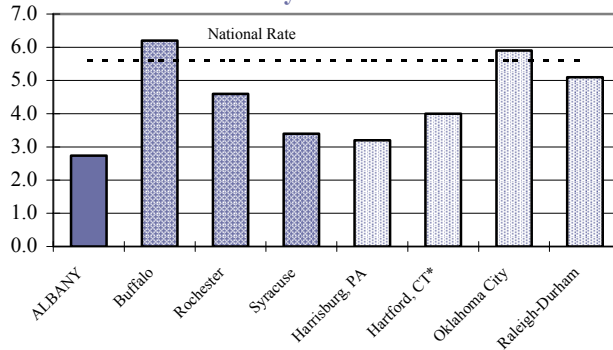


**Capital District Property Crimes
Per 100,000 People**



When compared with other MSAs in upstate New York and the peer group of state capitals, the Albany MSA murder rate is significantly lower than all the other MSA's. Only Buffalo and Oklahoma City had murder rates greater than the National murder rate. The Capital District's highest murder rate since 1992 would still have left the Region with one of the lowest murder rates in the group.

**2001 Murders per 100,000 People
by MSA**



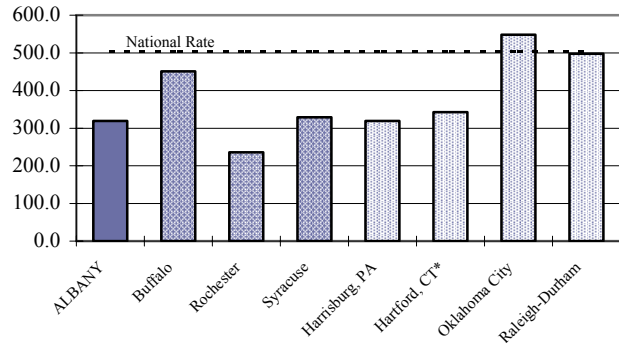
Rochester is the only MSA within the group with a significantly lower violent crime rate than the Albany MSA. Buffalo, Oklahoma City, and Raleigh, which also have higher murder rates, have significantly higher violent crime rates. The other three MSA's have violent crime rates similar to the Albany MSA rate.

6.1 SAFETY

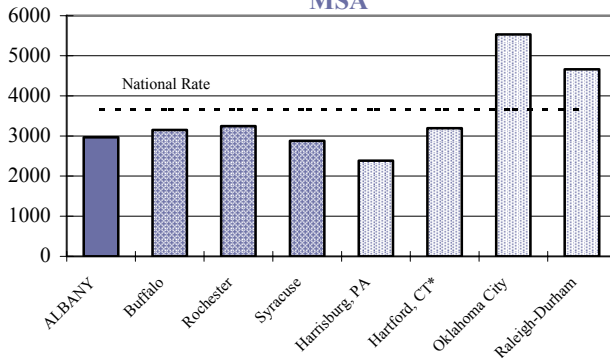
The Albany MSA violent crime rate of 319 reported crimes per 100,000 people indicates that there were approximately 3 violent crimes per every 1,000 people. By comparison, there were 12.5 auto accident injuries per 1,000 people in the Capital District in 2000.

The Albany MSA has approximately the same property crime rate as the other MSA's in the group with the exception of Oklahoma City and Raleigh, which have much higher crime rates in all of the categories. Oklahoma City and Raleigh were also the only MSA's in the group that exceeded the National property crime rate of 3,656 crimes per

2001 Violent Crimes per 100,000 People by MSA



2001 Property Crimes per 100,000 People by MSA



100,000 people. With 2,383 crimes per 100,000 people, Harrisburg, PA has the lowest property crime rate of the group. The Albany MSA property crime rate of 2,967 reported crimes per 100,000 people indicates that there were approximately 3 property crimes per every 100 people.