

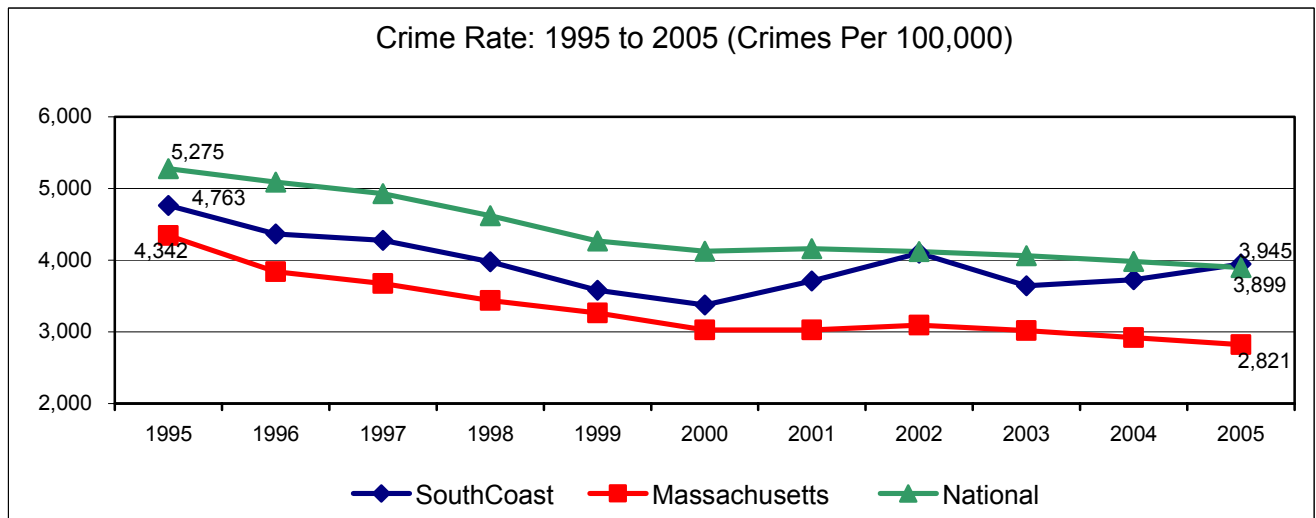
Crime Rate

Crime rates are both a predictor and a consequence of important economic and social indicators such as drug use, levels of safety, economic conditions, and changing demographics. Tracking the crime rate provides a measure of the levels of safety in the SouthCoast while also encouraging discussions on these larger issues. The data was obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety.

As the accompanying chart illustrates, crime rates have declined at the national, state, and regional level since 1995. However, the crime rate in the SouthCoast has increased since 2003, while crime rates continue to decline statewide and nationally. In fact, the SouthCoast's crime rate is higher than the national average for the first time since the baseline year of 1995.

The SouthCoast's Crime Index declined from 4,763 in 1995 to 3,945 in 2005 (-17.2%). In comparison, the Crime Index declined in Massachusetts from 4,342 in 1995 to 2,821 in 2005 (-35.0%) and nationally from 5,275 in 1995 to 3,899 in 2005 (-26.1%).

In 2005, property crimes such as larceny/theft (52.7%), burglary (19.5%), and motor vehicle theft (8.1%) accounted for most crime in the SouthCoast. Fall River and New Bedford accounted for 71.8 percent of the total crimes reported in the region, while the two cities account for 53.7 percent of the SouthCoast's total population.¹

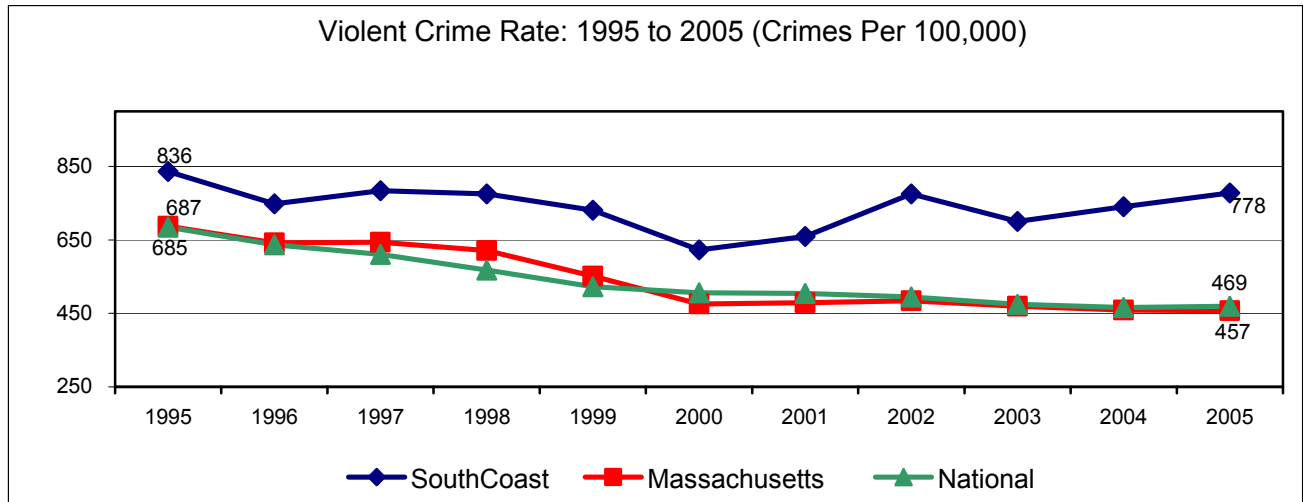


¹ Data for Lakeville was not available through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Because the Crime Index is calculated as the number of crimes per 100,000 population, the missing data has a minimal effect on the reported crime rates due to the small size of the town.



Violent Crime Rate

The violent crime rate includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. As the accompanying chart shows, the SouthCoast's violent crime rate is considerably higher than the state and national violent crime rates. In the SouthCoast, the violent crime rate declined from 836 in 1995 to 778 in 2005 (-6.9%). In comparison, the violent crime rate declined in Massachusetts from 685 in 1995 to 457 in 2005 (-33.5%), while nationally the violent crime rate declined from 687 in 1995 to 469 in 2005 (-31.5%).



Property Crime Rate

The property crime index includes burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

As the accompanying chart shows, the property crime rate has been rising in the SouthCoast since 2003, while property crime rates have declined statewide and nationally over this period, although the property crime rate in the SouthCoast is below the national average. The SouthCoast's property crime rate declined from 3,928 in 1995 to 3,167 in 2005 (-19.4%). In comparison, the property crime rate declined in Massachusetts from 3,654 in 1995 to 2,364 in 2005 (-35.3%) and nationally from 4,591 in 1995 to 3,430 in 2005 (-25.3%).

