

CAPER The time and policy valuation research group

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communities, and so this is a potentially confounding factor that should not be overlooked. In Figure 3 the homicide data are provided for Louisiana, the southern region, and the nation broken down by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan status. In the southern region metro counties have a slightly higher murder rate than nonmetro counties. Notably, for Louisiana there is a big gap. Metro counties in Louisiana experience almost three times the murder rate that nonmetro counties do (11.81 versus 3.89).

Figure 4 provides the analogous data for robbery. In this case, metropolitan area robbery rates are all much higher than nonmetropolitan rates, but the metro robbery rates in Louisiana are lower than that for metro areas in the southern region. Overall these data indicate that while murder rates are generally higher than the regional average in Louisiana during 2005, the latest year for which data are available, robbery rates were generally lower than the regional average.

