



# Section Six

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## **CRIME IN THE CITIES**

# CRIME IN THE CITIES

This section deals with serious crimes reported in the large urban cities of the state. These cities represent 19 percent of the population and historically account for one third of the reported Crime Index of the state.

This analysis involves the latest ten-year period 1992-2001 and endeavors further to identify crime trends in these urban areas.

The cities included in this analysis were initially categorized as urban municipalities (i.e., densely populated with extensive development) by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of State and Regional Planning, Bureau of Statewide Planning, and will continue to be used for comparative purposes.

The criteria used in the selection of these cities were (1) classified as urban character and (2) have a population of 50,000 or more inhabitants.

For further comparative analysis, the urban cities were subdivided into two distinct groupings.

Group number one consisted of the state's six largest urban centers with populations of 80,000 or over and is categorized as "Major Urban."

The second group included the "Major Urban" and the additional urban communities with populations of 50,000 or more inhabitants, and is referred to as the "Urban 15."

## "MAJOR URBAN"

- Camden City
- Elizabeth City
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City

## "URBAN 15"

- Bayonne City
- Camden City
- Clifton City
- Dover Twp.
- East Orange City
- Elizabeth City
- Irvington Town
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Passaic City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City
- Union City
- Vineland City
- Woodbridge Twp.

The accompanying table reflects percent changes in the state's "Major Urban" and "Urban 15" municipalities Crime Index for the years 1992/2001.

# STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

## Percent Change 1992/2001

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1992	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	<b>2001</b>	<b>8,414,350</b>	<b>948,698</b>	<b>1,597,860</b>
	Percent Change	9	2	4
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1992	394,406	103,463	143,643
	<b>2001</b>	<b>273,201</b>	<b>61,857</b>	<b>92,030</b>
	Percent Change	-31	-40	-36
Violent Crime	1992	48,650	22,755	29,003
	<b>2001</b>	<b>32,957</b>	<b>12,232</b>	<b>17,845</b>
	Percent Change	-32	-46	-38
Nonviolent Crime	1992	345,756	80,708	114,640
	<b>2001</b>	<b>240,244</b>	<b>49,625</b>	<b>74,185</b>
	Percent Change	-31	-39	-35
Murder	1992	397	205	249
	<b>2001</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>218</b>
	Percent Change	-14	-15	-12
Rape	1992	2,399	802	1,097
	<b>2001</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>477</b>
	Percent Change	-47	-56	-57
Robbery	1992	22,220	12,242	15,389
	<b>2001</b>	<b>14,112</b>	<b>5,860</b>	<b>8,455</b>
	Percent Change	-36	-52	-45
Aggravated Assault	1992	23,634	9,506	12,268
	<b>2001</b>	<b>17,227</b>	<b>5,847</b>	<b>8,695</b>
	Percent Change	-27	-38	-29
Burglary	1992	75,536	20,289	28,111
	<b>2001</b>	<b>46,768</b>	<b>10,753</b>	<b>16,239</b>
	Percent Change	-38	-47	-42
Larceny-Theft	1992	206,687	32,660	50,635
	<b>2001</b>	<b>155,825</b>	<b>24,116</b>	<b>37,924</b>
	Percent Change	-25	-26	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	1992	63,533	27,759	35,894
	<b>2001</b>	<b>37,651</b>	<b>14,756</b>	<b>20,022</b>
	Percent Change	-41	-47	-44

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

### Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1992/2001, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 31 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 36 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 40 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 32 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 38 percent and the six major cities decreased 46 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 31 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 35 percent and the six major cities decreased 39 percent.

# CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

## COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1992-2001

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
<b>CRIME INDEX TOTAL</b>	<b>3,300,723</b>	<b>811,833</b>	<b>1,153,090</b>
Percent Distribution		24.6	34.9
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>410,617</b>	<b>180,421</b>	<b>237,224</b>
Percent Distribution		43.9	57.8
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	<b>2,890,106</b>	<b>631,412</b>	<b>915,866</b>
Percent Distribution		21.8	31.7
<b>Murder</b>	3,525	1,818	2,202
Percent Distribution		51.6	62.5
<b>Rape</b>	17,867	5,342	7,455
Percent Distribution		29.9	41.7
<b>Robbery</b>	183,537	92,028	119,658
Percent Distribution		50.1	65.2
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	205,688	81,233	107,909
Percent Distribution		39.5	52.5
<b>Burglary</b>	610,337	160,278	227,054
Percent Distribution		26.3	37.2
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1,827,730	293,821	451,986
Percent Distribution		16.1	24.7
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	452,039	177,313	236,826
Percent Distribution		39.2	52.4

### Distribution:

- Six major urban centers—Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson and Elizabeth—collectively represent 11 percent of New Jersey's total population. These same urban centers, during the period 1992 through 2001, accounted for 25 percent of the state's total crime.
- "Major Urban" centers from 1992 through 2001 accounted for 44 percent of all violent crime and 22 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 19 percent of the state's total population.
- "Urban 15" municipalities accounted for 35 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 58 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 32 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Nearly two-thirds of all robberies reported occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during this ten-year period.

# STREET CRIME

There has never been a clear-cut definition for street crime within the criminal justice system. The nation's clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of criminal statistics, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has no criteria in the categorization of specific crimes to be designated or defined as "street crimes." More and more this media term has been confused with the violent crime group of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Although any particular crime can and does occur on the street, this analysis, because of reporting constraints within the Uniform Crime Reporting System, is limited to defining street crimes as those offenses which occur, or are most likely to occur, on streets, highways, parking lots, etc.. These crimes include highway robbery, purse-snatching, theft from autos, theft of auto parts and accessories, theft of bicycles, and motor vehicle thefts. All are crimes against property and only one, highway robbery, falls in the violent crime group.

- During the ten-year period 1992-2001, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 41 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every four highway robberies occurred in the "Urban 15" during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Forty-one percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- All street crime categories increased in the "Urban 15" cities from 2000 to 2001.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1992-2001.

## STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,386	12,887	12,781	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	94,858	75.1
Purse Snatching	1,832	1,746	1,377	1,116	826	658	600	486	499	536	9,676	41.3
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	11,460	10,744	12,173	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	119,296	29.7
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	10,894	9,511	8,118	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	66,070	40.0
Larceny of Bicycles	1,740	1,963	2,169	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	18,157	11.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	35,929	29,667	26,824	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	236,712	52.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,241</b>	<b>66,518</b>	<b>63,442</b>	<b>64,122</b>	<b>55,484</b>	<b>49,866</b>	<b>43,557</b>	<b>42,467</b>	<b>41,331</b>	<b>43,741</b>	<b>544,769</b>	<b>41.1</b>
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	43.5	42.2	41.8	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.8	41.8	41.1	-

# "URBAN FIFTEEN" PROFILES

Municipality	Year	Population	Crime Index	Violent Crime	Non-Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Police Officers	Total Police Employees
	2000	79,904	6,520	1,668	4,852	24	69	670	905	1,177	2,515	1,160	403	463
<b>Camden City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>79,904</b>	<b>6,903</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>5,192</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>478</b>
	2000	273,546	20,705	4,182	16,523	59	107	1,977	2,039	2,787	8,229	5,507	1,398	1,598
<b>Newark City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>273,546</b>	<b>19,737</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>15,769</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>7,065</b>	<b>6,112</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,517</b>
	2000	240,055	12,579	2,885	9,694	18	74	1,245	1,548	2,474	4,779	2,441	871	1,023
<b>Jersey City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>240,055</b>	<b>12,657</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>9,766</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>4,985</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>1,015</b>
	2000	85,403	6,599	1,375	5,224	14	74	629	658	1,373	2,731	1,120	360	417
<b>Trenton City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>85,403</b>	<b>7,152</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>426</b>
	2000	149,222	6,444	1,205	5,239	17	24	580	584	1,307	2,601	1,331	430	516
<b>Paterson City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>149,222</b>	<b>8,005</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>6,703</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>533</b>
	2000	120,568	7,231	873	6,358	12	18	558	285	906	3,378	2,074	355	456
<b>Elizabeth City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>120,568</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>6,464</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>3,533</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>465</b>
	2000	56,271	3,070	407	2,663	-	9	170	228	595	1,880	188	139	160
<b>Vineland City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>56,271</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>170</b>
	2000	69,824	5,064	1,226	3,838	12	50	609	555	769	2,033	1,036	279	310
<b>East Orange City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>69,824</b>	<b>5,344</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>277</b>
	2000	60,695	5,130	1,584	3,546	12	40	798	734	1,056	1,150	1,340	162	184
<b>Irvington Town</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>60,695</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>3,712</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>214</b>
	2000	61,842	1,360	171	1,189	1	2	67	101	199	775	215	237	271
<b>Bayonne City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>61,842</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>279</b>
	2000	67,088	2,420	321	2,099	2	10	173	136	547	987	565	194	233
<b>Union City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>67,088</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>227</b>
	2000	97,203	3,593	347	3,246	1	8	81	257	530	2,331	385	192	236
<b>Woodbridge Twp.</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>97,203</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>242</b>
	2000	89,706	2,589	162	2,427	2	7	41	112	467	1,849	111	136	172
<b>Dover Twp.</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>89,706</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>189</b>
	2000	78,672	2,290	220	2,070	1	6	108	105	408	1,319	343	144	170
<b>Clifton City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>78,672</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>176</b>
	2000	67,861	3,104	834	2,270	7	8	360	459	519	1,138	613	164	187
<b>Passaic City</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>67,861</b>	<b>3,672</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>201</b>
"URBAN 15"	2000	1,597,860	88,698	17,460	71,238	182	506	8,066	8,706	15,114	37,695	18,429	5,464	6,396
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1,597,860</b>	<b>91,781</b>	<b>17,819</b>	<b>73,962</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>16,228</b>	<b>37,875</b>	<b>19,859</b>	<b>5,401</b>	<b>6,409</b>