



Section Six

CRIME IN THE CITIES

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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 2003-2012 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
- Toms River 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 2003/2012.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2003/2012

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2003	8,590,300	956,464	1,612,959
	2012	8,864,590	965,572	1,624,223
	Percent Change	3	1	1
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2003	252,149	56,061	85,303
	2012	207,367	44,182	62,517
	Percent Change	-18	-21	-27
Violent Crime	2003	31,516	11,230	16,594
	2012	25,742	11,121	13,704
	Percent Change	-18	-1	-17
Nonviolent Crime	2003	220,633	44,831	68,709
	2012	181,625	33,061	48,813
	Percent Change	-18	-26	-29
Murder	2003	406	195	264
	2012	387	235	258
	Percent Change	-5	21	-2
Rape	2003	1,283	290	440
	2012	1,038	259	338
	Percent Change	-19	-11	-23
Robbery	2003	13,385	5,511	7,921
	2012	11,384	5,715	6,803
	Percent Change	-15	4	-14
Aggravated Assault	2003	16,442	5,234	7,969
	2012	12,933	4,912	6,305
	Percent Change	-21	-6	-21
Burglary	2003	43,375	9,620	14,619
	2012	42,384	8,650	12,478
	Percent Change	-2	-10	-15
Larceny-Theft	2003	142,603	21,853	35,307
	2012	122,770	16,341	26,631
	Percent Change	-14	-25	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	2003	34,655	13,358	18,783
	2012	16,471	8,070	9,704
	Percent Change	-52	-40	-48

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2003/2012, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 18 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 27 percent and the six Major Urban cities decreased 21 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 18 percent, the 15 Urban cities decreased 17 percent, while the six Major Urban cities experienced a decrease of 1 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 18 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 29 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 26 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2003-2012

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,250,364	475,634	702,707
Percent Distribution		21.1	31.2
Violent Crime	287,884	109,750	149,058
Percent Distribution		38.1	51.8
Nonviolent Crime	1,962,480	365,884	553,649
Percent Distribution		18.6	28.2
Murder	3,859	2,090	2,553
Percent Distribution		54.2	66.2
Rape	11,189	2,749	3,832
Percent Distribution		24.6	34.2
Robbery	125,371	54,752	72,421
Percent Distribution		43.7	57.8
Aggravated Assault	147,465	50,159	70,252
Percent Distribution		34.0	47.6
Burglary	401,374	83,751	124,823
Percent Distribution		20.9	31.1
Larceny-Theft	1,336,699	185,731	304,053
Percent Distribution		13.9	22.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	224,407	96,402	124,773
Percent Distribution		43.0	55.6

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 2003 through 2012 accounted for 21 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 2003 through 2012 accounted for 38 percent of all violent crime and 19 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 18 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 31 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 28 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-six percent of all reported murders 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 2003-2012, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 40.1 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Sixty-nine percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.
- Fifty-five percent of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Twenty-nine percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2012, thefts from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories were at their lowest levels in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 2003-2012.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	5,578	5,349	55,655	69.1
Purse Snatching	530	418	541	374	319	245	252	240	276	274	3,469	28.6
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	8,789	7,652	93,733	29.9
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	2,698	2,333	35,620	40.1
Larceny of Bicycles	1,083	979	884	856	880	844	825	824	703	779	8,657	10.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	10,052	9,704	124,773	55.6
TOTAL	41,759	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	28,096	26,091	321,907	40.1
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	39.1	40.9	40.1	-

“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
Camden City	2011	77,344	6,749	2,166	4,583	47	67	859	1,193	1,451	2,331	801	265	314
	2012	77,250	6,113	2,006	4,107	67	74	759	1,106	1,100	2,299	708	268	315
Newark City	2011	277,140	14,512	3,360	11,152	95	59	2,038	1,168	2,415	4,968	3,769	1095	1209
	2012	277,727	14,770	3,400	11,370	97	58	2,084	1,161	2,215	5,107	4,048	1062	1322
Jersey City	2011	247,597	7,768	1,942	5,826	18	49	977	898	1,410	3,556	860	806	945
	2012	254,441	7,515	1,875	5,640	12	45	897	921	1,430	3,444	766	798	940
Trenton City	2011	84,913	3,894	1,211	2,683	23	25	521	642	1,139	1,103	441	238	314
	2012	84,477	4,149	1,259	2,890	24	23	582	630	1,294	1,125	471	238	314
Paterson City	2011	146,199	6,228	1,493	4,735	17	39	752	685	1,790	1,891	1,054	357	419
	2012	145,219	6,196	1,554	4,642	21	22	854	657	1,619	2,116	907	371	453
Elizabeth City	2011	124,969	6,475	1,320	5,155	17	38	724	541	1,163	2,692	1,300	312	526
	2012	126,458	5,439	1,027	4,412	14	37	539	437	992	2,250	1,170	326	423
Vineland City	2011	60,724	2,686	235	2,451	4	2	90	139	596	1,789	66	142	168
	2012	60,854	2,782	225	2,557	1	7	66	151	695	1,817	45	145	172
East Orange City	2011	64,270	1,660	423	1,237	6	16	157	244	458	456	323	237	294
	2012	64,268	1,536	365	1,171	5	22	142	196	349	483	339	221	287
Irvington Town	2011	53,926	2,619	732	1,887	13	24	362	333	594	729	564	153	192
	2012	54,108	2,683	710	1,973	8	21	325	356	563	803	607	148	176
Bayonne City	2011	63,024	958	150	808	3	6	66	75	161	535	112	182	219
	2012	64,416	955	132	823	0	6	41	85	205	566	52	190	244
Union City	2011	66,455	1,570	270	1,300	3	3	120	144	285	850	165	153	184
	2012	67,744	1,515	250	1,265	1	2	106	141	241	891	133	153	216
Woodbridge Twp.	2011	99,585	2,702	129	2,573	1	8	52	68	373	2,060	140	192	245
	2012	100,228	2,138	124	2,014	0	3	56	65	338	1,557	119	185	249
Toms River Twp.	2011	91,239	3,241	101	3,140	1	3	61	36	589	2,504	47	150	194
	2012	92,093	2,977	82	2,895	2	3	40	37	640	2,217	38	150	179
Clifton City	2011	84,136	1,875	215	1,660	2	10	101	102	314	1,144	202	141	170
	2012	84,722	1,777	182	1,595	0	13	80	89	358	1,093	144	144	173
Passaic City	2011	69,781	2,164	590	1,574	2	6	241	341	320	1,046	208	159	190
	2012	70,218	1,972	513	1,459	6	2	232	273	439	863	157	146	176
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2011	1,611,302	65,101	14,337	50,764	252	355	7,121	6,609	13,058	27,654	10,052	4,582	5,583
	2012	1,624,223	62,517	13,704	48,813	258	338	6,803	6,305	12,478	26,631	9,704	4,545	5,639