



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 1991-2000 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 1991/2000.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1991/2000

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1991	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	2000	8,414,350	948,698	1,597,860
	Percent Change	9	2	4
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1991	421,663	108,843	152,312
	2000	265,840	60,078	88,698
	Percent Change	-37	-45	-42
Violent Crime	1991	49,119	23,160	29,369
	2000	32,276	12,188	17,460
	Percent Change	-34	-47	-41
Nonviolent Crime	1991	372,544	85,683	122,943
	2000	233,564	47,890	71,238
	Percent Change	-37	-44	-42
Murder	1991	410	186	232
	2000	288	144	182
	Percent Change	-30	-23	-22
Rape	1991	2,261	691	979
	2000	1,352	366	506
	Percent Change	-40	-47	-48
Robbery	1991	22,728	12,603	15,722
	2000	13,550	5,659	8,066
	Percent Change	-40	-55	-49
Aggravated Assault	1991	23,720	9,680	12,436
	2000	17,086	6,019	8,706
	Percent Change	-28	-38	-30
Burglary	1991	78,859	20,609	29,363
	2000	43,934	10,024	15,114
	Percent Change	-44	-51	-49
Larceny-Theft	1991	221,817	34,329	53,253
	2000	155,480	24,233	37,695
	Percent Change	-30	-29	-29
Motor Vehicle Theft	1991	71,868	30,745	40,327
	2000	34,150	13,633	18,429
	Percent Change	-52	-56	-54

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1991/2000, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 37 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 42 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 45 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 34 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 41 percent and the six major cities decreased 47 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 37 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 42 percent and the six major cities decreased 44 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1991-2000

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,449,112	858,819	1,213,258
Percent Distribution		24.9	35.2
Violent Crime	426,773	191,349	248,748
Percent Distribution		44.8	58.3
Nonviolent Crime	3,022,339	667,470	964,510
Percent Distribution		22.1	31.9
Murder	3,594	1,829	2,216
Percent Distribution		50.9	61.7
Rape	18,849	5,683	7,957
Percent Distribution		30.2	42.2
Robbery	192,153	98,771	126,925
Percent Distribution		51.4	66.1
Aggravated Assault	212,177	85,066	111,650
Percent Distribution		40.1	52.6
Burglary	642,413	170,134	240,178
Percent Distribution		26.5	37.4
Larceny-Theft	1,893,674	304,034	467,315
Percent Distribution		16.1	24.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	486,252	193,302	257,017
Percent Distribution		39.8	52.9

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 1991 through 2000, accounted for 25 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1991 through 2000 accounted for 45 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 seven out of every 10 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 1991-2000, 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-four percent of all purse-snatchings were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- The street crime categories of highway robbery, and larceny of bicycles, were at their lowest levels during 2000, in this ten-year period.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1991-2000.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,674	12,386	12,887	12,781	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	101,028	75.4
Purse Snatching	1,919	1,832	1,746	1,377	1,116	826	658	600	486	499	11,059	43.6
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,316	11,460	10,744	12,173	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	120,629	29.2
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	11,770	10,894	9,511	8,118	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	73,623	39.4
Larceny of Bicycles	1,949	1,740	1,963	2,169	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	18,627	11.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	40,327	35,929	29,667	26,824	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	257,017	52.9
TOTAL	80,955	74,241	66,518	63,442	64,122	55,484	49,866	43,557	42,467	41,331	581,983	41.3
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	43.0	43.5	42.2	41.8	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.8	41.3	-

"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
	1999	83,546	7,283	1,813	5,470	24	59	746	984	1,497	2,622	1,351	387	443
Camden City	2000	79,904	6,520	1,668	4,852	24	69	670	905	1,177	2,515	1,160	403	463
	1999	267,823	22,450	4,984	17,466	70	114	2,497	2,303	3,117	8,984	5,365	1,451	1,641
Newark City	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
	1999	232,429	13,596	3,319	10,277	15	79	1,550	1,675	2,574	5,335	2,368	899	1,040
Jersey City	2000	240,055	12,579	2,885	9,694	18	74	1,245	1,548	2,474	4,779	2,441	871	1,023
	1999	84,494	6,531	1,256	5,275	8	58	567	623	1,424	2,776	1,075	374	429
Trenton City	2000	85,403	6,599	1,375	5,224	14	74	629	658	1,373	2,731	1,120	360	417
	1999	148,212	6,553	1,210	5,343	13	34	572	591	1,572	2,429	1,342	436	504
Paterson City	2000	149,222	6,444	1,205	5,239	17	24	580	584	1,307	2,601	1,331	430	516
	1999	110,661	7,270	939	6,331	9	19	621	290	1,027	3,282	2,022	327	414
Elizabeth City	2000	120,568	7,231	873	6,358	12	18	558	285	906	3,378	2,074	355	456
	1999	55,484	3,164	389	2,775	-	16	160	213	597	1,995	183	137	155
Vineland City	2000	56,271	3,070	407	2,663	-	9	170	228	595	1,880	188	139	160
	1999	69,598	5,055	1,188	3,867	12	52	606	518	772	1,948	1,147	265	300
East Orange City	2000	69,824	5,064	1,226	3,838	12	50	609	555	769	2,033	1,036	279	310
	1999	57,752	5,812	1,584	4,228	15	41	789	739	1,380	1,460	1,388	172	195
Irvington Town	2000	60,695	5,130	1,584	3,546	12	40	798	734	1,056	1,150	1,340	162	184
	1999	61,051	1,411	198	1,213	2	4	74	118	250	787	176	228	260
Bayonne City	2000	61,842	1,360	171	1,189	1	2	67	101	199	775	215	237	271
	1999	57,621	2,375	321	2,054	1	17	181	122	596	927	531	176	209
Union City	2000	67,088	2,420	321	2,099	2	10	173	136	547	987	565	194	233
	1999	95,659	3,458	371	3,087	1	17	87	266	522	2,155	410	198	242
Woodbridge Twp.	2000	97,203	3,593	347	3,246	1	8	81	257	530	2,331	385	192	236
	1999	86,700	2,664	178	2,486	1	13	47	117	474	1,898	114	134	166
Dover Twp.	2000	89,706	2,589	162	2,427	2	7	41	112	467	1,849	111	136	172
	1999	76,180	2,535	174	2,361	1	8	86	79	428	1,514	419	150	176
Clifton City	2000	78,672	2,290	220	2,070	1	6	108	105	408	1,319	343	144	170
	1999	60,817	3,184	669	2,515	4	6	270	389	694	1,243	578	155	173
Passaic City	2000	67,861	3,104	834	2,270	7	8	360	459	519	1,138	613	164	187
"URBAN 15"	1999	1,548,027	93,341	18,593	74,748	176	537	8,853	9,027	16,924	39,355	18,469	5,489	6,347
TOTALS	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