



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 2001-2010 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 2001/2010.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2001/2010

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2001	8,414,350	948,698	1,597,860
	2010	8,791,894	958,162	1,611,302
	Percent Change	4	1	1
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2001	273,201	61,857	92,030
	2010	210,817	42,803	62,300
	Percent Change	-23	-31	-32
Violent Crime	2001	32,957	12,232	17,845
	2010	27,174	10,840	14,000
	Percent Change	-18	-11	-22
Nonviolent Crime	2001	240,244	49,625	74,185
	2010	183,643	31,963	48,300
	Percent Change	-24	-36	-35
Murder	2001	341	175	218
	2010	372	200	240
	Percent Change	9	14	10
Rape	2001	1,277	350	477
	2010	985	296	393
	Percent Change	-23	-15	-18
Robbery	2001	14,112	5,860	8,455
	2010	11,859	5,350	6,662
	Percent Change	-16	-9	-21
Aggravated Assault	2001	17,227	5,847	8,695
	2010	13,958	4,994	6,705
	Percent Change	-19	-15	-23
Burglary	2001	46,768	10,753	16,239
	2010	38,794	7,806	11,246
	Percent Change	-17	-27	-31
Larceny-Theft	2001	155,825	24,116	37,924
	2010	129,294	16,935	28,048
	Percent Change	-17	-30	-26
Motor Vehicle Theft	2001	37,651	14,756	20,022
	2010	15,555	7,222	9,006
	Percent Change	-59	-51	-55

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2001/2010, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 23 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 32 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 31 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 18 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 22 percent and the six major cities decreased 11 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 24 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 35 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 36 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2001-2010

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,360,205	505,496	755,495
Percent Distribution		21.4	32.0
Violent Crime	300,212	110,684	155,945
Percent Distribution		36.9	51.9
Nonviolent Crime	2,059,993	394,812	599,550
Percent Distribution		19.2	29.1
Murder	3,774	1,982	2,492
Percent Distribution		52.5	66.0
Rape	11,785	2,923	4,122
Percent Distribution		24.8	35.0
Robbery	129,870	54,608	75,203
Percent Distribution		42.0	57.9
Aggravated Assault	154,783	51,171	74,128
Percent Distribution		33.1	47.9
Burglary	406,585	86,065	130,415
Percent Distribution		21.2	32.1
Larceny-Theft	1,389,403	199,763	324,397
Percent Distribution		14.4	23.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	264,005	108,984	144,738
Percent Distribution		41.3	54.8

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 2001 through 2010 accounted for 21 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 2001 through 2010 accounted for 37 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 32 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 29 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 2001-2010, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 40.5 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.
- Thirty-five percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2010, purse-snatching, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories, larceny of bikes 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 2001-2010.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	57,433	69.4
Purse Snatching	536	586	530	418	541	374	319	245	252	240	4,041	29.8
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	99,037	30.8
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	38,836	39.5
Larceny of Bicycles	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	856	880	844	825	824	9,910	10.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	144,738	54.8
TOTAL	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	353,995	40.5
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	40.5	-

“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	2009	79,383	5,962	1,885	4,077	34	60	767	1,024	1,050	2,377	650	361	447
	2010	77,344	5,517	1,848	3,669	37	73	713	1,025	1,028	2,119	522	366	452
Newark City	2009	278,980	12,364	2,679	9,685	80	70	1,373	1,156	1,969	4,571	3,145	1,297	1,671
	2010	277,140	13,199	2,974	10,225	91	80	1,655	1,148	1,955	4,589	3,681	1,308	1,666
Jersey City	2009	241,114	7,920	1,827	6,093	28	49	885	865	1,400	3,849	844	885	1,059
	2010	247,597	7,962	1,851	6,111	26	44	950	831	1,532	3,771	808	831	984
Trenton City	2009	82,883	3,914	1,155	2,759	18	26	512	599	831	1,523	405	372	466
	2010	84,913	3,851	1,201	2,650	15	13	501	672	872	1,414	364	356	445
Paterson City	2009	145,643	5,158	1,319	3,839	15	28	631	645	1,241	1,969	629	488	579
	2010	146,199	6,092	1,568	4,524	18	44	769	737	1,493	2,330	701	497	593
Elizabeth City	2009	124,755	6,447	1,290	5,157	5	44	761	480	1,003	3,205	949	335	545
	2010	124,969	6,182	1,398	4,784	13	42	762	581	926	2,712	1,146	341	425
Vineland City	2009	58,780	2,662	316	2,346	3	15	120	178	537	1,737	72	157	187
	2010	60,724	2,369	230	2,139	3	6	83	138	515	1,547	77	153	181
East Orange City	2009	65,390	1,758	508	1,250	11	22	228	247	388	633	229	277	339
	2010	64,270	1,860	491	1,369	6	31	181	273	351	658	360	265	325
Irvington Town	2009	56,299	3,410	1,024	2,386	17	21	481	505	621	1,105	660	187	217
	2010	53,926	3,062	901	2,161	14	29	374	484	625	854	682	167	196
Bayonne City	2009	57,448	1,066	185	881	0	7	86	92	209	590	82	203	239
	2010	63,024	1,049	162	887	0	5	71	86	180	613	94	195	228
Union City	2009	62,183	1,690	291	1,399	1	0	119	171	279	963	157	162	208
	2010	66,455	1,572	261	1,311	7	0	111	143	237	922	152	158	190
Woodbridge Twp.	2009	97,963	2,577	152	2,425	1	7	62	82	279	1,965	181	204	250
	2010	99,585	2,505	171	2,334	1	9	68	93	267	1,941	126	195	244
Toms River Twp.	2009	95,933	2,582	113	2,469	2	4	44	63	485	1,946	38	159	207
	2010	91,239	2,965	103	2,862	3	5	52	43	547	2,286	29	150	197
Clifton City	2009	78,219	1,930	200	1,730	0	10	102	88	296	1,252	182	144	173
	2010	84,136	1,850	206	1,644	0	6	94	106	328	1,195	121	148	177
Passaic City	2009	66,884	2,096	516	1,580	3	2	246	265	306	1,124	150	189	224
	2010	69,781	2,265	635	1,630	6	6	278	345	390	1,097	143	163	193
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2009	1,591,857	61,536	13,460	48,076	218	365	6,417	6,460	10,894	28,809	8,373	5,420	6,811
	2010	1,611,302	62,300	14,000	48,300	240	393	6,662	6,705	11,246	28,048	9,006	5,293	6,496