



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 2006-2015 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 2006/2015.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2006/2015

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2006	8,717,925	960,581	1,614,423
	2015	8,938,844	980,741	1,645,655
	Percent Change	3	2	2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2006	230,430	47,905	71,540
	2015	168,611	34,669	50,621
	Percent Change	-27	-28	-29
Violent Crime	2006	30,543	11,460	15,849
	2015	22,899	9,569	12,015
	Percent Change	-25	-17	-24
Nonviolent Crime	2006	199,887	36,445	55,691
	2015	145,712	25,100	38,606
	Percent Change	-27	-31	-31
Murder	2006	427	211	255
	2015	369	210	248
	Percent Change	-14	*	-3
Rape	2006	1,200	319	428
	2015	1,362	414	528
	Percent Change	14	30	23
Robbery	2006	13,354	5,688	7,685
	2015	9,743	4,543	5,630
	Percent Change	-27	-20	-27
Aggravated Assault	2006	15,562	5,242	7,481
	2015	11,425	4,402	5,609
	Percent Change	-27	-16	-25
Burglary	2006	39,377	7,710	11,841
	2015	27,890	5,911	8,354
	Percent Change	-29	-23	-29
Larceny-Theft	2006	135,764	18,192	30,203
	2015	106,059	13,627	23,344
	Percent Change	-22	-25	-23
Motor Vehicle Theft	2006	24,746	10,543	13,647
	2015	11,763	5,562	6,908
	Percent Change	-52	-47	-49

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2006/2015, the Total Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 27 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 29 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 28 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 25 percent, the "Urban 15" cities decreased 24 percent, while the six "Major Urban" cities experienced a decrease of 17 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 27 percent, the "Urban 15" cities decreased 31 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 31 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2006-2015

	NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,061,067	425,206	620,888
Percent Distribution		20.6	30.1
Violent Crime	265,902	105,964	137,829
Percent Distribution		39.9	51.8
Nonviolent Crime	1,795,165	319,262	483,059
Percent Distribution		17.8	26.9
Murder	3,767	2,144	2,506
Percent Distribution		56.9	66.5
Rape	10,560	2,760	3,715
Percent Distribution		26.1	35.2
Robbery	118,028	53,608	68,032
Percent Distribution		45.4	57.6
Aggravated Assault	133,547	47,432	63,576
Percent Distribution		35.5	47.6
Burglary	373,482	76,579	111,805
Percent Distribution		20.5	29.9
Larceny-Theft	1,252,776	166,597	276,034
Percent Distribution		13.3	22.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	168,907	76,086	95,220
Percent Distribution		45.0	56.4

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 2006 through 2015 accounted for 21 percent of the state’s total Crime Index.
- “Major Urban” centers from 2006 through 2015 accounted for 40 percent of all violent crime and 18 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The “Urban 15” municipalities represent 18 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 30 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 27 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-seven 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 2006-2015, the “Urban 15” cities accounted for 39.5 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-seven percent of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Twenty-six percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the “Urban 15” cities.
- In 2015, highway robbery and motor vehicle thefts were at the lowest levels in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the “Urban 15” cities for the years 2006-2015.

STREET CRIME TRENDS “URBAN FIFTEEN” MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	5,578	5,349	5,876	4,824	4,367	52,778	69.2
Purse Snatching	374	319	245	252	240	276	274	211	241	257	2,689	26.2
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	8,789	7,652	6,554	6,055	6,179	83,779	28.6
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	2,698	2,333	2,404	2,048	2,049	27,386	41.3
Larceny of Bicycles	856	880	844	825	824	703	779	749	909	940	8,309	11.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	10,052	9,704	7,759	7,928	6,908	96,524	57.2
TOTAL	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	28,096	26,091	23,553	22,005	20,700	271,465	39.5
Percent of State “Street Crime” Total	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	39.1	40.9	40.4	42.5	40.5	39.5	-

"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	2014	76,903	4,525	1,556	2,969	33	52	534	937	863	1,785	321	391	477
	2015	76,504	4,421	1,529	2,892	32	75	485	937	677	1,877	338	346	439
Newark City	2014	278,427	12,219	3,188	9,031	95	49	2,023	1,021	1,758	4,813	2,460	1,014	1,312
	2015	280,980	11,411	3,221	8,190	107	107	1,877	1,130	1,530	4,072	2,588	1,033	1,203
Jersey City	2014	257,342	5,798	1,404	4,394	24	35	629	716	891	2,950	553	790	936
	2015	262,327	5,784	1,417	4,367	27	98	568	724	979	2,782	606	814	936
Trenton City	2014	84,349	3,045	938	2,107	32	23	408	475	820	946	341	224	296
	2015	84,628	3,143	1,029	2,114	17	50	405	557	777	859	478	239	315
Paterson City	2014	145,948	5,054	1,195	3,859	25	25	613	532	1,157	1,960	742	398	590
	2015	147,490	4,849	1,172	3,677	19	40	573	540	1,182	1,811	684	401	593
Elizabeth City	2014	127,558	5,064	1,155	3,909	13	35	637	470	839	2,187	883	294	392
	2015	128,812	5,061	1,201	3,860	8	44	635	514	766	2,226	868	296	395
Vineland City	2014	61,050	2,534	268	2,266	2	13	113	140	452	1,781	33	150	176
	2015	61,097	2,905	337	2,568	7	32	108	190	525	1,975	68	130	156
East Orange City	2014	64,544	1,577	466	1,111	2	15	191	258	313	559	239	223	344
	2015	64,718	1,264	444	820	11	25	161	247	202	454	164	219	293
Irvington Town	2014	54,222	2,543	699	1,844	19	18	473	189	589	742	513	151	189
	2015	54,489	2,347	638	1,709	14	24	399	201	444	713	552	152	177
Bayonne City	2014	65,028	956	149	807	0	4	52	93	115	637	55	175	276
	2015	66,289	951	161	790	1	17	46	97	158	589	43	180	292
Union City	2014	68,247	1,427	239	1,188	0	1	98	140	189	893	106	150	177
	2015	69,233	1,325	166	1,159	0	0	60	106	137	913	109	167	202
Woodbridge Twp.	2014	100,574	1,968	120	1,848	0	5	56	59	251	1,511	86	190	251
	2015	101,747	1,830	117	1,713	1	0	49	67	238	1,361	114	193	255
Toms River Twp.	2014	91,583	2,547	79	2,468	0	7	30	42	485	1,961	22	152	182
	2015	90,287	2,209	55	2,154	0	5	28	22	286	1,831	37	158	189
Clifton City	2014	85,390	1,621	187	1,434	1	6	71	109	228	1,097	109	149	174
	2015	86,086	1,694	201	1,493	1	8	75	117	260	1,119	114	149	180
Passaic City	2014	70,868	1,601	464	1,137	2	5	223	234	229	747	161	158	186
	2015	70,968	1,427	327	1,100	3	3	161	160	193	762	145	151	179
"URBAN 15"	2014	1,632,033	52,479	12,107	40,372	248	293	6,151	5,415	9,179	24,569	6,624	4,609	5,958
TOTALS	2015	1,645,655	50,621	12,015	38,606	248	528	5,630	5,609	8,354	23,344	6,908	4,628	5,804