

SECTION VI
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 20 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 1983-1992 and endeavors to further 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) to be 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 the "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
- Elizabeth
- Jersey City
- Newark
- Paterson
- Trenton

THE "URBAN 15"

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

The accompanying table reflects percent changes in the state's "Major Urban" and "Urban 15" municipalities Crime Index for the years 1983-1992.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1983/1992

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1983	7,483,003	965,751	1,566,312
	1992	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	Percent Change	+ 3	- 4	- 2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1983	385,646	94,743	130,774
	1992	394,406	103,463	143,678
	Percent Change	+ 2	+ 9	+ 10
Violent Crime	1983	41,303	20,711	25,022
	1992	48,650	22,755	29,003
	Percent Change	+18	+10	+16
Nonviolent Crime	1983	344,343	74,032	105,752
	1992	345,756	80,708	114,675
	Percent Change	*	+ 9	+ 8
Murder	1983	398	214	254
	1992	397	205	249
	Percent Change	*	- 4	- 2
Rape	1983	2,268	988	1,237
	1992	2,399	802	1,097
	Percent Change	+ 6	- 19	- 11
Robbery	1983	20,091	12,239	14,245
	1992	22,220	12,242	15,389
	Percent Change	+11	*	+ 8
Aggravated Assault	1983	18,546	7,270	9,286
	1992	23,634	9,506	12,268
	Percent Change	+27	+31	+32
Burglary	1983	92,424	23,235	31,730
	1992	75,536	20,289	28,111
	Percent Change	- 18	- 13	- 11
Larceny-Theft	1983	206,799	33,849	51,377
	1992	206,687	32,660	50,635
	Percent Change	*	- 4	- 1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1983	45,120	16,948	22,645
	1992	63,533	27,759	35,929
	Percent Change	+41	+64	+59

*Less than one-half of one percent

Percent Change

- During the ten year period 1983-1992, the Crime Index in New Jersey has increased 2 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities increased 10 percent and the six major urban cities increased 9 percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 18 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 16 percent and the six major cities increased 10 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state increased less than one-half of one percent, the "Urban 15" increased 8 percent, and the six major cities increased 9 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1983-1992

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,989,315	1,027,421	1,425,439
Percent Distribution		25.8	35.7
Violent Crime	446,574	217,220	270,078
Percent Distribution		48.6	60.5
Nonviolent Crime	3,542,741	810,201	1,155,361
Percent Distribution		22.9	32.6
Murder	3,995	2,061	2,472
Percent Distribution		51.6	61.9
Rape	24,217	9,447	12,274
Percent Distribution		39.0	50.7
Robbery	203,988	117,836	143,695
Percent Distribution		57.8	70.4
Aggravated Assault	214,374	87,876	111,637
Percent Distribution		41.0	52.1
Burglary	794,667	208,599	292,168
Percent Distribution		26.2	36.8
Larceny	2,138,749	346,463	527,588
Percent Distribution		16.2	24.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	609,325	255,139	335,605
Percent Distribution		41.9	55.1

Distribution

- Six major urban centers—Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson and Elizabeth—collectively represent 12 percent of New Jersey's total population. These same urban centers, during the period 1983 through 1992 accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.
- The six centers from 1983 through 1992 accounted for 49 percent of all violent crime and 23 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 20 percent of the state's total population.
- For the period 1983 through 1992 these 15 urban municipalities accounted for 36 percent of New Jersey's total Index, 60 percent of all violent crime, and 33 percent of the state's nonviolent crime.
- Nearly 7 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 clearing house 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 1983-1992, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 43 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every 4 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.
- Fifty-three percent of all purse-snatchings were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1983-1992.

STREET CRIME TRENDS URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	11,668	10,470	11,241	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	12,674	12,386	117,304	77.3
Purse Snatching	2,610	2,144	2,090	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	1,919	1,832	20,838	53.2
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	11,906	10,472	12,155	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	12,316	11,460	125,186	29.6
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	11,458	10,953	11,832	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	11,770	10,894	131,325	34.8
Larceny of Bicycles	2,803	2,773	2,986	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	1,949	1,740	22,267	12.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	22,645	22,022	27,210	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	40,327	35,929	344,626	56.6
TOTAL	63,090	58,834	67,514	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	80,955	74,241	761,546	42.9
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	39.5	38.3	40.1	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	43.0	43.5	42.9	-

URBAN "15" PROFILES

Municipality	Year	Population	Crime Index	Violent Crime	Non Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Police Officers	Total Police Employees
Camden City	1991	87,492	14,272	3,207	11,065	35	100	1,962	1,110	3,176	4,368	3,521	311	385
	1992	87,492	13,050	2,946	10,104	47	116	1,611	1,172	3,588	4,050	2,466	306	374
Newark City	1991	275,221	41,076	9,470	31,606	90	257	5,243	3,880	6,193	11,439	13,974	1,111	1,267
	1992	275,221	40,796	9,813	30,983	88	330	5,453	3,942	6,133	10,881	13,969	1,072	1,226
Jersey City	1991	228,537	21,117	4,615	16,502	22	97	2,577	1,919	4,611	6,499	5,392	808	884
	1992	228,537	20,517	4,573	15,944	25	93	2,584	1,871	4,552	6,586	4,806	832	916
Trenton City	1991	88,675	10,065	1,839	8,226	7	111	697	1,024	1,935	3,531	2,760	372	428
	1992	88,675	8,884	1,735	7,149	16	114	655	950	1,800	3,215	2,134	374	428
Paterson City	1991	140,891	10,812	2,371	8,441	20	68	1,051	1,232	2,438	4,053	1,950	353	393
	1992	140,891	10,520	2,200	8,320	16	84	1,055	1,045	2,498	3,919	1,903	357	396
Elizabeth City	1991	110,002	11,501	1,658	9,843	12	58	1,073	515	2,256	4,439	3,148	315	387
	1992	110,002	9,696	1,488	8,208	13	65	884	526	1,718	4,009	2,481	323	401
Vineland City	1991	54,780	4,672	593	4,079	4	36	234	319	1,031	2,666	382	107	123
	1992	54,780	4,571	554	4,017	-	34	204	316	934	2,732	351	110	128
East Orange City	1991	73,552	7,679	1,974	5,705	9	107	1,100	758	1,537	1,875	2,293	270	280
	1992	73,552	6,954	1,937	5,017	16	84	1,079	758	1,399	1,991	1,627	270	282
Irvington Town	1991	61,018	7,839	1,406	6,433	18	60	726	602	1,722	2,062	2,649	158	184
	1992	61,018	7,614	1,524	6,090	15	74	848	587	1,537	2,043	2,510	161	186
Bayonne City	1991	61,444	2,213	327	1,886	3	5	92	227	531	1,064	291	163	181
	1992	61,444	2,212	338	1,874	2	10	105	221	394	1,154	326	174	195
Union City	1991	58,012	3,855	457	3,398	6	10	308	133	1,075	1,413	910	152	180
	1992	58,012	3,511	404	3,107	4	19	278	103	952	1,437	718	163	188
Woodbridge Twsp.	1991	93,086	5,813	306	5,507	-	15	77	214	702	3,639	1,166	190	228
	1992	93,086	4,923	369	4,554	-	14	101	254	592	2,858	1,104	181	213
Dover Twsp.	1991	76,371	3,876	154	3,722	1	12	45	96	834	2,697	191	132	167
	1992	76,371	3,521	201	3,320	1	12	66	122	738	2,370	212	129	163
Clifton City	1991	71,742	3,464	203	3,261	2	7	102	92	575	1,995	691	135	154
	1992	71,742	3,006	201	2,805	3	9	86	103	563	1,751	491	132	151
Passaic City	1991	58,041	4,058	789	3,269	3	36	435	315	747	1,513	1,009	135	145
	1992	58,041	3,903	720	3,183	3	39	380	298	713	1,639	831	139	149
URBAN "15" TOTALS	1991	1,538,864	152,312	29,369	122,943	232	979	15,722	12,436	29,363	53,253	40,327	4,712	5,386
	1992	1,538,864	143,678	29,003	114,675	249	1,097	15,389	12,268	28,111	50,635	35,929	4,723	5,396