

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 1985-1994 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 1985-1994.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1985/1994

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1985	7,514,802	963,084	1,567,908
	1994	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	Percent Change	+ 3	- 3	- 2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1985	385,331	94,391	132,371
	1994	368,155	95,006	133,132
	Percent Change	- 4	+ 1	+ 1
Violent Crime	1985	41,135	20,404	24,998
	1994	48,399	22,640	29,027
	Percent Change	+18	+11	+16
Nonviolent Crime	1985	344,196	73,987	107,373
	1994	319,756	72,366	104,105
	Percent Change	- 7	- 2	- 3
Murder	1985	407	210	248
	1994	396	217	255
	Percent Change	- 3	+ 3	+ 3
Rape	1985	2,424	1,036	1,333
	1994	1,964	552	793
	Percent Change	- 19	- 47	- 41
Robbery	1985	19,267	11,383	13,549
	1994	22,696	12,172	15,507
	Percent Change	+18	+ 7	+14
Aggravated Assault	1985	19,037	7,775	9,868
	1994	23,343	9,699	12,472
	Percent Change	+23	+25	+ 26
Burglary	1985	79,981	19,677	28,081
	1994	72,062	20,463	28,065
	Percent Change	- 10	+ 4	-
Larceny-Theft	1985	213,983	34,868	52,782
	1994	195,562	31,873	49,216
	Percent Change	- 9	- 9	- 7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1985	50,232	19,442	26,510
	1994	52,132	20,030	26,824
	Percent Change	+ 4	+ 3	+ 1

*Less than one-half of one percent

Percent Change

- During the ten year period 1985-1994, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 4 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities increased one percent and the six major urban cities increased one percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 18 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 16 percent and the six major cities increased 11 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 7 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 3 percent, and the six major cities decreased 2 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1985-1994

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,985,728	1,049,361	1,452,638
Percent Distribution		26.3	36.4
Violent Crime	463,443	223,855	280,252
Percent Distribution		48.3	60.5
Nonviolent Crime	3,522,285	825,506	1,172,386
Percent Distribution		23.4	33.3
Murder	4,010	2,082	2,494
Percent Distribution		51.9	62.2
Rape	23,688	8,664	11,478
Percent Distribution		36.6	48.5
Robbery	211,683	120,116	148,397
Percent Distribution		56.7	70.1
Aggravated Assault	224,062	92,993	117,883
Percent Distribution		41.5	52.6
Burglary	771,216	208,435	290,810
Percent Distribution		27.0	37.7
Larceny	2,121,614	353,019	534,147
Percent Distribution		16.6	25.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	629,455	264,052	347,429
Percent Distribution		41.9	55.2

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 1985 through 1994 accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.
- The six centers from 1985 through 1994 accounted for 48 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 1985 through 1994 these 15 urban municipalities accounted for 36 percent of New Jersey's total Index, 61 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 1985-1994, 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 1985-1994.

STREET CRIME TRENDS URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	11,241	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	12,674	12,386	12,887	12,781	120,834	77.4
Purse Snatching	2,090	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	1,919	1,832	1,746	1,377	19,207	53.0
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,155	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	12,316	11,460	10,744	12,173	125,725	29.3
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	11,832	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	11,770	10,894	9,511	8,118	126,543	36.3
Larceny of Bicycles	2,986	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	1,949	1,740	1,963	2,169	20,823	11.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	27,210	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	40,327	35,929	29,667	26,824	356,450	56.6
TOTAL	67,514	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	80,955	74,241	66,518	63,442	769,582	43.4
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	40.1	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	43.0	43.5	42.2	41.8	43.4	-

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	1993	87,492	12,731	2,942	9,789	42	90	1,654	1,156	4,039	3,933	1,817	314	410
	1994	87,492	12,250	2,965	9,285	45	87	1,482	1,351	3,609	3,735	1,941	351	428
Newark City	1993	275,221	38,760	10,319	28,441	98	269	5,954	3,998	6,902	10,511	11,028	1,151	1,299
	1994	275,221	37,599	10,471	27,128	99	212	5,818	4,342	6,447	11,199	9,482	1,182	1,334
Jersey City	1993	228,537	18,770	4,586	14,184	20	100	2,502	1,964	4,192	6,336	3,656	821	902
	1994	228,537	18,769	4,310	14,459	37	74	2,241	1,958	4,286	6,483	3,690	764	864
Trenton City	1993	88,675	8,211	1,756	6,455	11	109	717	919	1,726	2,828	1,901	385	438
	1994	88,675	7,229	1,556	5,673	9	86	654	807	1,610	2,726	1,337	369	420
Paterson City	1993	140,891	11,346	2,184	9,162	23	78	1,089	994	3,260	4,079	1,823	364	404
	1994	140,891	9,919	1,974	7,945	15	52	1,053	854	2,642	3,798	1,505	302	380
Elizabeth City	1993	110,002	9,480	1,403	8,077	18	42	879	464	1,852	4,070	2,155	339	421
	1994	110,002	9,240	1,364	7,876	12	41	924	387	1,869	3,932	2,075	332	408
Vineland City	1993	54,780	4,463	499	3,964	4	46	193	256	971	2,631	362	120	136
	1994	54,780	4,197	425	3,772	8	33	152	232	931	2,589	252	123	139
East Orange City	1993	73,552	7,329	2,159	5,170	15	88	1,134	922	1,732	1,962	1,476	272	290
	1994	73,552	7,376	2,092	5,284	8	59	1,259	766	1,690	2,158	1,436	253	280
Irvington Town	1993	61,018	7,575	1,519	6,056	10	63	945	501	1,560	2,078	2,418	165	199
	1994	61,018	7,197	1,622	5,575	13	68	939	602	1,450	2,063	2,062	189	219
Bayonne City	1993	61,444	2,046	305	1,741	-	6	105	194	335	1,157	249	171	190
	1994	61,444	1,926	264	1,662	-	5	126	133	328	1,115	219	178	205
Union City	1993	58,012	2,940	217	2,723	1	8	142	66	408	1,527	788	175	201
	1994	58,012	3,263	585	2,678	-	13	287	285	690	1,397	591	176	199
Woodbridge Twsp.	1993	93,086	4,274	402	3,872	3	15	110	274	669	2,480	723	213	234
	1994	93,086	4,377	450	3,927	2	19	80	349	597	2,543	787	193	235
Dover Twsp.	1993	76,371	3,097	163	2,934	1	16	36	110	641	2,159	134	125	158
	1994	76,371	3,470	153	3,317	-	14	48	91	810	2,358	149	122	153
Clifton City	1993	71,742	2,465	155	2,310	-	8	73	74	438	1,408	464	130	149
	1994	71,742	2,618	147	2,471	2	7	74	64	474	1,370	627	131	155
Passaic City	1993	58,041	3,726	606	3,120	3	17	382	204	583	1,864	673	136	146
	1994	58,041	3,702	649	3,053	5	23	370	251	632	1,750	671	147	157
URBAN "15" TOTALS	1993	1,538,864	137,213	29,215	107,998	249	955	15,915	12,096	29,308	49,023	29,667	4,881	5,577
	1994	1,538,864	133,132	29,027	104,105	255	793	15,507	12,472	28,065	49,216	26,824	4,812	5,576