



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 1998-2007 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 1998/2007.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1998/2007

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1998	7,993,220	928,249	1,537,582
	2007	8,724,560	961,319	1,609,312
	Percent Change	9	4	5
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1998	296,638	67,636	97,950
	2007	220,798	45,805	68,324
	Percent Change	-26	-32	-30
Violent Crime	1998	35,722	14,621	19,580
	2007	28,526	10,335	14,324
	Percent Change	-20	-29	-27
Nonviolent Crime	1998	260,916	53,015	78,370
	2007	192,272	35,470	54,000
	Percent Change	-26	-33	-31
Murder	1998	321	154	186
	2007	381	222	264
	Percent Change	19	44	42
Rape	1998	1,623	470	654
	2007	1,029	240	360
	Percent Change	-37	-49	-45
Robbery	1998	15,115	7,183	9,281
	2007	12,562	5,099	6,941
	Percent Change	-17	-29	-25
Aggravated Assault	1998	18,663	6,814	9,459
	2007	14,554	4,774	6,759
	Percent Change	-22	-30	-29
Burglary	1998	54,491	12,588	19,111
	2007	37,234	7,690	11,749
	Percent Change	-32	-39	-39
Larceny-Theft	1998	171,267	27,671	42,047
	2007	133,094	18,339	30,168
	Percent Change	-22	-34	-28
Motor Vehicle Theft	1998	35,158	12,756	17,212
	2007	21,944	9,441	12,083
	Percent Change	-38	-26	-30

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1998/2007, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 26 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 30 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 32 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 20 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 27 percent and the six major cities decreased 29 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 26 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 31 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 33 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1998-2007

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,554,320	565,261	842,019
Percent Distribution		22.1	33.0
Violent Crime	319,226	119,566	169,873
Percent Distribution		37.5	53.2
Nonviolent Crime	2,235,094	445,695	672,146
Percent Distribution		19.9	30.1
Murder	3,602	1,844	2,333
Percent Distribution		51.2	64.8
Rape	13,056	3,304	4,690
Percent Distribution		25.3	35.9
Robbery	136,596	58,123	81,019
Percent Distribution		42.6	59.3
Aggravated Assault	165,972	56,295	81,831
Percent Distribution		33.9	49.3
Burglary	436,291	96,164	146,815
Percent Distribution		22.0	33.7
Larceny-Theft	1,481,271	223,286	355,089
Percent Distribution		15.1	24.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	317,532	126,245	170,242
Percent Distribution		39.8	53.6

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 1998 through 2007 accounted for 22.1 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1998 through 2007 accounted for 38 percent of all violent crime and 20 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 33 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 53 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 30 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-five 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 1998-2007, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 41 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Seventy-one percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Thirty-one percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2007, Motor Vehicle Theft and Highway Robbery 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 1998-2007.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	61,719	70.9
Purse Snatching	600	486	499	536	586	530	418	541	374	319	4,889	30.9
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	103,516	31.6
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	42,223	39.3
Larceny of Bicycles	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	856	880	12,326	11.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	170,405	53.7
TOTAL	43,557	42,467	41,331	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	395,078	41.0
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	38.5	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	41.0	-

"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	2006	80,010	6,515	1,698	4,817	32	66	775	825	1,179	2,458	1,180	423	483
	2007	79,318	6,413	1,770	4,643	42	67	784	877	1,129	2,353	1,161	410	497
Newark City	2006	280,666	15,097	2,981	12,116	107	88	1,360	1,426	2,007	4,951	5,158	1,286	1,498
	2007	281,402	13,970	2,489	11,481	105	60	1,127	1,197	1,954	5,124	4,403	1,227	1,623
Jersey City	2006	239,614	10,589	2,923	7,666	22	60	1,573	1,268	1,671	4,496	1,499	870	1,071
	2007	241,789	9,338	2,456	6,882	20	47	1,264	1,125	1,505	4,156	1,221	902	1,080
Trenton City	2006	84,639	3,895	1,281	2,614	18	33	633	597	810	1,340	464	359	419
	2007	83,923	3,931	1,176	2,755	25	15	597	539	856	1,512	387	360	414
Paterson City	2006	149,843	6,037	1,672	4,365	15	37	808	812	1,361	1,999	1,005	457	545
	2007	148,708	5,858	1,479	4,379	14	26	695	744	1,460	2,007	912	494	578
Elizabeth City	2006	125,809	5,772	905	4,867	17	35	539	314	682	2,948	1,237	357	491
	2007	126,179	6,275	945	5,330	16	25	612	292	786	3,187	1,357	349	469
Vineland City	2006	58,164	3,278	541	2,737	6	19	167	349	539	2,068	130	149	174
	2007	58,271	2,913	335	2,578	5	13	147	170	589	1,898	91	155	191
East Orange City	2006	68,190	3,181	721	2,460	9	25	373	314	593	1,229	638	266	319
	2007	67,247	2,350	529	1,821	8	32	241	248	446	896	479	277	339
Irvington Town	2006	58,876	4,488	1,321	3,167	21	23	681	596	924	1,289	954	190	220
	2007	58,024	4,548	1,243	3,305	23	29	616	575	930	1,358	1,017	192	220
Bayonne City	2006	59,987	1,057	194	863	1	4	87	102	188	575	100	227	270
	2007	58,844	1,137	190	947	1	6	84	99	212	632	103	225	265
Union City	2006	65,128	1,983	407	1,576	1	4	214	188	405	931	240	175	224
	2007	63,930	1,829	407	1,422	1	4	182	220	332	917	173	167	217
Woodbridge Twp.	2006	100,577	3,117	267	2,850	-	17	80	170	415	2,152	283	201	250
	2007	99,208	3,155	242	2,913	1	14	105	122	439	2,212	262	205	257
Toms River Twp.	2006	94,660	2,075	112	1,963	-	12	44	56	312	1,552	99	165	213
	2007	94,889	2,167	125	2,042	-	14	46	65	327	1,640	75	160	195
Clifton City	2006	79,922	2,131	179	1,952	1	2	78	98	361	1,296	295	158	188
	2007	79,606	2,138	223	1,915	-	5	108	110	389	1,324	202	158	188
Passaic City	2006	68,338	2,325	647	1,678	5	3	273	366	394	919	365	189	222
	2007	67,974	2,282	695	1,587	3	3	313	376	395	952	240	189	225
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2006	1,614,423	71,540	15,849	55,691	255	428	7,685	7,481	11,841	30,203	13,647	5,472	6,587
	2007	1,609,312	68,304	14,304	54,000	264	360	6,921	6,759	11,749	30,168	12,083	5,470	6,758