



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 2004-2013 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 2004/2013.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2004/2013

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2004	8,638,396	956,464	1,612,959
	2013	8,864,590	965,572	1,624,223
	Percent Change	3	1	1
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2004	242,444	53,010	79,837
	2013	192,914	39,765	57,092
	Percent Change	-20	-25	-28
Violent Crime	2004	30,917	11,038	15,916
	2013	25,452	11,084	13,816
	Percent Change	-18	0	-13
Nonviolent Crime	2004	211,527	41,972	63,921
	2013	167,462	28,681	43,276
	Percent Change	-21	-32	-32
Murder	2004	392	196	261
	2013	401	251	279
	Percent Change	2	28	7
Rape	2004	1,328	295	408
	2013	874	214	288
	Percent Change	-34	-27	-29
Robbery	2004	13,071	5,350	7,648
	2013	12,087	5,969	7,318
	Percent Change	-8	12	-4
Aggravated Assault	2004	16,126	5,197	7,599
	2013	12,090	4,650	5,931
	Percent Change	-25	-11	-22
Burglary	2004	41,032	8,656	13,591
	2013	35,795	7,209	10,408
	Percent Change	-13	-17	-23
Larceny-Theft	2004	140,181	20,806	33,468
	2013	117,958	15,157	25,109
	Percent Change	-16	-27	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	2004	30,314	12,510	16,862
	2013	13,709	6,315	7,759
	Percent Change	-55	-50	-54

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2004/2013, the Crime Index in New Jersey decreased 20 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 28 percent and the six Major Urban cities decreased 25 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 18 percent, the 15 Urban cities decreased 13 percent, while the six Major Urban cities did not experience any change.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 21 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 32 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 32 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2004-2013

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,191,129	459,338	674,496
Percent Distribution		21	31
Violent Crime	281,820	109,604	146,280
Percent Distribution		39	52
Nonviolent Crime	1,909,309	349,734	528,216
Percent Distribution		18	28
Murder	3,854	2,146	2,568
Percent Distribution		56	67
Rape	10,780	2,673	3,680
Percent Distribution		25	34
Robbery	124,073	55,210	71,818
Percent Distribution		44	58
Aggravated Assault	143,113	49,575	68,214
Percent Distribution		35	48
Burglary	393,794	81,340	120,612
Percent Distribution		21	31
Larceny-Theft	1,312,054	179,035	293,855
Percent Distribution		14	22
Motor Vehicle Theft	203,461	89,359	113,749
Percent Distribution		44	56

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 2004 through 2013 accounted for 21 percent of the state's total crime.
- "Major Urban" centers from 2004 through 2013 accounted for 39 percent of all violent crime and 18 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 31 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 28 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 2004-2013, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 39.6 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-six percent of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Twenty-nine percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2013, thefts from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories 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 2004-2013.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	5,578	5,349	5,876	55,433	69.1
Purse Snatching	418	541	374	319	245	252	240	276	274	211	3,150	28.6
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	8,789	7,652	6,554	90,349	29.9
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	2,698	2,333	2,404	32,697	40.1
Larceny of Bicycles	979	884	856	880	844	825	824	703	779	749	8,323	10.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	10,052	9,704	7,759	113,749	55.6
TOTAL	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	28,096	26,091	23,553	303,701	40.1
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	39.1	40.9	40.4	40.4	-

“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	2012	77,250	6,113	2,006	4,107	67	74	759	1,106	1,100	2,299	708	268	315
	2013	77,250	5,325	1,960	3,365	57	55	737	1,111	861	2,039	465	418	441
Newark City	2012	277,727	14,770	3,400	11,370	97	58	2,084	1,161	2,215	5,107	4,048	1062	1322
	2013	277,727	13,784	3,727	10,057	112	47	2,569	999	2,127	4,995	2,935	1007	1276
Jersey City	2012	254,441	7,515	1,875	5,640	12	45	897	921	1,430	3,444	766	798	940
	2013	254,441	6,672	1,687	4,985	20	35	728	904	1,059	3,181	745	770	929
Trenton City	2012	84,477	4,149	1,259	2,890	24	23	582	630	1,294	1,125	471	238	314
	2013	84,477	3,594	1,134	2,460	37	13	529	555	999	1,044	417	237	311
Paterson City	2012	145,219	6,196	1,554	4,642	21	22	854	657	1,619	2,116	907	371	453
	2013	145,219	5,665	1,555	4,110	18	26	848	663	1,368	1,993	749	365	466
Elizabeth City	2012	126,458	5,439	1,027	4,412	14	37	539	437	992	2,250	1,170	326	423
	2013	126,458	4,725	1,021	3,704	7	38	558	418	795	1,905	1,004	317	415
Vineland City	2012	60,854	2,782	225	2,557	1	7	66	151	695	1,817	45	145	172
	2013	60,854	2,562	209	2,353	1	14	84	110	597	1,694	62	139	165
East Orange City	2012	64,268	1,536	365	1,171	5	22	142	196	349	483	339	221	287
	2013	64,268	1,622	408	1,214	6	12	186	204	360	582	272	236	298
Irvington Town	2012	54,108	2,683	710	1,973	8	21	325	356	563	803	607	148	176
	2013	54,108	2,443	827	1,616	17	27	504	279	448	645	523	158	186
Bayonne City	2012	64,416	955	132	823	0	6	41	85	205	566	52	190	244
	2013	64,416	971	139	832	0	0	51	88	142	603	87	175	274
Union City	2012	67,744	1,515	250	1,265	1	2	106	141	241	891	133	153	216
	2013	67,744	1,339	248	1,091	0	0	109	139	189	788	114	153	180
Woodbridge Twp.	2012	100,228	2,138	124	2,014	0	3	56	65	338	1,557	119	185	249
	2013	100,228	2,203	138	2,065	1	3	68	66	298	1,643	124	191	254
Toms River Twp.	2012	92,093	2,977	82	2,895	2	3	40	37	640	2,217	38	150	179
	2013	92,093	2,819	74	2,745	1	5	48	20	528	2,194	23	152	180
Clifton City	2012	84,722	1,777	182	1,595	0	13	80	89	358	1,093	144	144	173
	2013	84,722	1,714	176	1,538	0	12	58	106	358	1,076	104	145	173
Passaic City	2012	70,218	1,972	513	1,459	6	2	232	273	439	863	157	146	176
	2013	70,218	1,654	513	1,141	2	1	241	269	279	727	135	152	179
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2012	1,624,223	62,517	13,704	48,813	258	338	6,803	6,305	12,478	26,631	9,704	4,545	5,639
	2013	1,624,223	57,092	13,816	43,276	279	288	7,318	5,931	10,408	25,109	7,759	4,615	5,727