



# Section Six

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## **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 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 1990-1999 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
- Dover 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 1990/1999.

# STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

## Percent Change 1990/1999

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
<b>Population</b>	1990	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	<b>1999</b>	<b>8,115,011</b>	<b>927,165</b>	<b>1,548,027</b>
	Percent Change	5	*	1
<b>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</b>	1990	421,034	113,375	157,887
	<b>1999</b>	<b>277,472</b>	<b>63,683</b>	<b>93,341</b>
	Percent Change	-34	-44	-41
<b>Violent Crime</b>	1990	50,067	24,394	30,684
	<b>1999</b>	<b>33,579</b>	<b>13,521</b>	<b>18,593</b>
	Percent Change	-33	-45	-39
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	1990	370,967	88,981	127,203
	<b>1999</b>	<b>243,893</b>	<b>50,162</b>	<b>74,748</b>
	Percent Change	-34	-44	-41
<b>Murder</b>	1990	432	231	279
	<b>1999</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>176</b>
	Percent Change	-34	-40	-37
<b>Rape</b>	1990	2,308	836	1,083
	<b>1999</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>537</b>
	Percent Change	-39	-57	-50
<b>Robbery</b>	1990	23,268	13,365	16,755
	<b>1999</b>	<b>14,251</b>	<b>6,553</b>	<b>8,853</b>
	Percent Change	-39	-51	-47
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	1990	24,059	9,962	12,567
	<b>1999</b>	<b>17,629</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>9,027</b>
	Percent Change	-27	-35	-28
<b>Burglary</b>	1990	78,615	21,502	30,357
	<b>1999</b>	<b>47,135</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>16,924</b>
	Percent Change	-40	-48	-44
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1990	219,726	36,881	56,431
	<b>1999</b>	<b>161,363</b>	<b>25,428</b>	<b>39,355</b>
	Percent Change	-27	-31	-30
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	1990	72,626	30,598	40,415
	<b>1999</b>	<b>35,395</b>	<b>13,523</b>	<b>18,469</b>
	Percent Change	-51	-56	-54

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

### Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1990/1999, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 34 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 41 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 44 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 33 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 39 percent and the six major cities decreased 45 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 34 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 41 percent and the six major cities decreased 44 percent.

# CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

## COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1990-1999

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
<b>CRIME INDEX TOTAL</b>	<b>3,604,306</b>	<b>912,116</b>	<b>1,282,447</b>
Percent Distribution		25.3	35.6
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>444,564</b>	<b>203,555</b>	<b>261,972</b>
Percent Distribution		45.8	58.9
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	<b>3,159,742</b>	<b>708,561</b>	<b>1,020,475</b>
Percent Distribution		22.4	32.3
<b>Murder</b>	3,738	1,916	2,313
Percent Distribution		51.3	61.9
<b>Rape</b>	19,805	6,153	8,534
Percent Distribution		31.1	43.1
<b>Robbery</b>	201,871	106,477	135,614
Percent Distribution		52.7	67.2
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	219,150	89,009	115,511
Percent Distribution		40.6	52.7
<b>Burglary</b>	677,094	181,612	255,421
Percent Distribution		26.8	37.7
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1,957,920	316,682	486,051
Percent Distribution		16.2	24.8
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	524,728	210,267	279,003
Percent Distribution		40.1	53.2

### 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 1990 through 1999, accounted for 25 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1990 through 1999 accounted for 46 percent of all violent crime and 22 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 19 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 36 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 59 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 32 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Nearly seven 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 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 1990-1999, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 42 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every four 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.
- Forty-six percent of all purse-snatchings were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- The street crime categories of highway robbery, purse-snatching and larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories, were at their lowest levels during 1999, in this ten-year period.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1990-1999.

## STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	13,691	12,674	12,386	12,887	12,781	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	108,488	76.0
Purse Snatching	1,991	1,919	1,832	1,746	1,377	1,116	826	658	600	486	12,551	45.8
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	13,864	12,316	11,460	10,744	12,173	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	123,704	29.1
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	13,846	11,770	10,894	9,511	8,118	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	83,550	39.2
Larceny of Bicycles	1,737	1,949	1,740	1,963	2,169	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	18,900	11.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	40,415	40,327	35,929	29,667	26,824	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	279,003	53.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,544</b>	<b>80,955</b>	<b>74,241</b>	<b>66,518</b>	<b>63,442</b>	<b>64,122</b>	<b>55,484</b>	<b>49,866</b>	<b>43,557</b>	<b>42,467</b>	<b>626,196</b>	<b>41.7</b>
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	44.6	43.0	43.5	42.2	41.8	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.7	-

# "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	1998	84,844	8,510	2,105	6,405	30	91	971	1,013	1,687	3,215	1,503	386	449
	1999	83,546	7,283	1,813	5,470	24	59	746	984	1,497	2,622	1,351	387	443
Newark City	1998	268,510	24,519	5,770	18,749	64	174	2,916	2,616	3,463	10,135	5,151	1,422	1,609
	1999	267,823	22,450	4,984	17,466	70	114	2,497	2,303	3,117	8,984	5,365	1,451	1,641
Jersey City	1998	229,039	13,389	3,319	10,070	20	74	1,545	1,680	2,864	5,063	2,143	866	1,019
	1999	232,429	13,596	3,319	10,277	15	79	1,550	1,675	2,574	5,335	2,368	899	1,040
Trenton City	1998	85,437	6,161	1,134	5,027	15	58	537	524	1,198	2,813	1,016	374	429
	1999	84,494	6,531	1,256	5,275	8	58	567	623	1,424	2,776	1,075	374	429
Paterson City	1998	150,270	6,591	1,279	5,312	17	39	573	650	1,677	2,459	1,176	401	483
	1999	148,212	6,553	1,210	5,343	13	34	572	591	1,572	2,429	1,342	436	504
Elizabeth City	1998	110,149	8,466	1,014	7,452	8	34	641	331	1,699	3,986	1,767	352	441
	1999	110,661	7,270	939	6,331	9	19	621	290	1,027	3,282	2,022	327	414
Vineland City	1998	55,906	3,411	390	3,021	1	21	153	215	670	2,154	197	128	146
	1999	55,484	3,164	389	2,775	-	16	160	213	597	1,995	183	137	155
East Orange City	1998	70,534	5,393	1,201	4,192	11	46	605	539	1,058	2,011	1,123	278	316
	1999	69,598	5,055	1,188	3,867	12	52	606	518	772	1,948	1,147	265	300
Irvington Town	1998	58,434	5,659	1,559	4,100	6	45	692	816	1,573	1,485	1,042	183	209
	1999	57,752	5,812	1,584	4,228	15	41	789	739	1,380	1,460	1,388	172	195
Bayonne City	1998	60,499	1,344	217	1,127	3	7	70	137	200	750	177	202	233
	1999	61,051	1,411	198	1,213	2	4	74	118	250	787	176	228	260
Union City	1998	57,126	2,255	234	2,021	4	3	120	107	583	997	441	180	190
	1999	57,621	2,375	321	2,054	1	17	181	122	596	927	531	176	209
Woodbridge Twp.	1998	94,714	3,584	399	3,185	3	22	91	283	461	2,254	470	197	240
	1999	95,659	3,458	371	3,087	1	17	87	266	522	2,155	410	198	242
Dover Twp.	1998	83,776	2,957	162	2,795	-	7	37	118	574	2,086	135	134	171
	1999	86,700	2,664	178	2,486	1	13	47	117	474	1,898	114	134	166
Clifton City	1998	71,305	2,564	165	2,399	2	11	65	87	623	1,405	371	149	174
	1999	76,180	2,535	174	2,361	1	8	86	79	428	1,514	419	150	176
Passaic City	1998	57,039	3,147	632	2,515	2	22	265	343	781	1,234	500	149	164
	1999	60,817	3,184	669	2,515	4	6	270	389	694	1,243	578	155	173
"URBAN 15" TOTALS	1998	1,537,582	97,950	19,580	78,370	186	654	9,281	9,459	19,111	42,047	17,212	5,401	6,273
	1999	1,548,027	93,341	18,593	74,748	176	537	8,853	9,027	16,924	39,355	18,469	5,489	6,347