

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 account for 38 percent of the reported Crime Index of the state.

This analysis involves the latest ten year period 1981-1990 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 1981-1990.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1981/1990

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1981	7,364,158	973,985	1,568,276
	1990	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	Percent Change	+ 5	- 4	- 2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1981	457,404	109,038	153,864
	1990	421,034	113,375	157,887
	Percent Change	- 8	+ 4	+ 3
Violent Crime	1981	46,656	23,552	28,295
	1990	50,067	24,394	30,684
	Percent Change	+ 7	+ 4	+ 8
Nonviolent Crime	1981	410,749	85,486	125,569
	1990	370,967	88,981	127,203
	Percent Change	- 10	+ 4	+ 1
Murder	1981	541	310	356
	1990	432	231	279
	Percent Change	- 20	- 25	- 22
Rape	1981	2,371	1,023	1,213
	1990	2,308	836	1,083
	Percent Change	- 3	- 18	- 11
Robbery	1981	24,753	14,654	17,219
	1990	23,268	13,365	16,755
	Percent Change	- 6	- 9	- 3
Aggravated Assault	1981	18,991	7,565	9,507
	1990	24,059	9,962	12,567
	Percent Change	+27	+32	+32
Burglary	1981	128,278	31,264	44,887
	1990	78,615	21,502	30,357
	Percent Change	- 39	- 31	- 32
Larceny-Theft	1981	231,895	36,902	57,167
	1990	219,726	36,881	56,431
	Percent Change	- 5	*	- 1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1981	50,576	17,320	23,515
	1990	72,626	30,598	40,415
	Percent Change	+44	+77	+72

*Less than one-half of one percent

CRIME IN THE CITIES

SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1981-1990

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	4,052,994	1,024,531	1,424,658
Percent Distribution		25.3	35.2
Violent Crime	440,639	217,000	266,891
Percent Distribution		49.2	60.6
Nonviolent Crime	3,612,355	807,531	1,157,767
Percent Distribution		22.4	32.1
Murder	4,210	2,211	2,619
Percent Distribution		52.5	62.2
Rape	24,081	9,845	12,504
Percent Distribution		40.9	51.9
Robbery	206,673	121,174	145,764
Percent Distribution		58.6	70.5
Aggravated Assault	205,675	83,770	106,004
Percent Distribution		40.7	51.5
Burglary	875,012	225,279	316,429
Percent Distribution		25.7	36.2
Larceny-Theft	2,166,213	352,154	536,595
Percent Distribution		16.3	24.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	571,130	230,098	304,743
Percent Distribution		40.3	53.4

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 1981 through 1990 accounted for 25 percent of the state's total crime.
- The six centers from 1981 through 1990 accounted for 49 percent of all violent crime and 22 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 1981 through 1990 these 15 urban municipalities accounted for 35 percent of New Jersey's total index, 61 percent of all violent crime, and 32 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.

Percent Change

- During the ten year period 1981-1990, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 8 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities increased 3 percent and the six major urban cities increased 4 percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 7 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 8 percent and the six major cities increased 4 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 10 percent, the "Urban 15" increased 1 percent, and the six major cities increased 4 percent.

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 1981-1990, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 42 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-four 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 1981-1990.

STREET CRIME TRENDS URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	13,026	12,582	11,668	10,470	11,241	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	117,852	77.3
Purse Snatching	3,541	3,210	2,610	2,144	2,090	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	23,838	54.3
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,164	12,258	11,906	10,472	12,155	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	125,832	30.3
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	12,221	13,204	11,458	10,953	11,832	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	134,086	33.2
Larceny of Bicycles	3,407	2,988	2,803	2,773	2,986	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	24,973	13.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	23,576	21,879	22,645	22,022	27,210	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	313,825	54.9
TOTAL	67,935	66,121	63,090	58,834	67,514	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	740,406	41.7
Percent of State "Street" Crime Total	37.0	38.0	39.5	38.3	40.1	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	41.7	-

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	1989	81,896	12,324	2,494	9,830	25	142	1,294	1,033	3,164	4,051	2,615	274	328
	1990	87,492	13,992	3,064	10,928	44	138	1,684	1,198	3,642	4,294	2,992	290	355
Newark City	1989	313,639	45,483	10,596	34,887	107	395	5,397	4,697	6,727	12,462	15,698	1,064	1,256
	1990	275,221	45,162	10,912	34,250	114	339	6,123	4,336	6,779	12,650	14,821	1,070	1,225
Jersey City	1989	217,380	21,645	3,904	17,741	36	95	2,307	1,466	4,384	8,071	5,286	938	1,020
	1990	228,537	20,982	4,293	16,689	28	114	2,400	1,751	4,634	7,025	5,030	916	1,005
Trenton City	1989	90,990	10,839	1,803	9,036	22	102	729	950	2,377	4,064	2,595	364	428
	1990	88,675	9,460	1,768	7,692	21	117	698	932	1,898	3,291	2,503	367	431
Paterson City	1989	138,791	12,781	2,566	10,215	14	104	1,176	1,272	3,278	5,119	1,818	378	423
	1990	140,891	12,650	2,640	10,010	13	75	1,295	1,257	2,654	5,318	2,038	347	413
Elizabeth City	1989	105,102	12,476	1,644	10,832	15	47	997	585	2,046	4,892	3,894	290	361
	1990	110,002	11,129	1,717	9,412	11	53	1,165	488	1,895	4,303	3,214	292	362
Vineland City	1989	54,740	3,982	448	3,534	2	30	180	236	858	2,340	336	99	111
	1990	54,780	4,392	471	3,921	4	33	210	224	888	2,774	259	109	123
East Orange City	1989	77,204	7,738	2,090	5,648	7	118	1,364	601	1,670	1,928	2,050	231	242
	1990	73,552	8,506	2,002	6,504	20	82	1,209	691	2,054	2,049	2,401	245	256
Irvington Town	1989	61,503	7,179	1,366	5,813	14	53	591	708	1,579	1,957	2,277	141	160
	1990	61,018	7,731	1,568	6,163	8	56	766	738	1,690	1,955	2,518	160	185
Bayonne City	1989	60,765	2,065	238	1,827	4	3	74	157	378	1,155	294	173	184
	1990	61,444	2,496	325	2,171	1	4	98	222	488	1,308	375	177	186
Union City	1989	53,469	4,170	426	3,744	1	13	219	193	913	1,871	960	151	172
	1990	58,012	4,043	427	3,616	4	9	264	150	1,010	1,594	1,012	161	183
Woodbridge Twsp.	1989	93,236	4,856	187	4,669	1	19	66	101	713	2,968	988	173	210
	1990	93,086	5,159	248	4,911	3	16	73	156	610	3,202	1,099	176	217
Dover Twsp.	1989	74,198	3,341	133	3,208	1	23	40	69	710	2,275	223	136	173
	1990	76,371	3,729	152	3,577	1	20	41	90	788	2,570	219	137	174
Clifton City	1989	76,190	3,403	145	3,258	0	11	76	58	573	2,037	648	142	164
	1990	71,742	3,747	203	3,544	5	8	110	80	569	2,244	731	139	161
Passaic City	1989	53,257	4,687	807	3,880	3	33	539	232	903	1,871	1,106	138	147
	1990	58,041	4,709	894	3,815	2	19	619	254	758	1,854	1,203	133	142
URBAN "15" TOTALS	1989	1,552,360	156,969	28,847	128,122	252	1,188	15,049	12,358	30,273	57,061	40,788	4,692	5,379
	1990	1,538,864	157,887	30,684	127,203	279	1,083	16,755	12,567	30,357	56,431	40,415	4,719	5,418