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 1982-1991 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 1982-1991.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES
Percent Change 1982/1991

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1982	7,403,996	965,699	1,563,849
	1991	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
Percent Change		+ 4	- 4	- 2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1982	422,270	100,378	141,345
	1991	421,663	108,843	152,312
Percent Change		*	+ 8	+ 8
Violent Crime	1982	45,172	22,143	26,890
	1991	49,119	23,160	29,369
Percent Change		+ 9	+ 5	+ 9
Nonviolent Crime	1982	377,098	78,235	114,455
	1991	372,544	85,683	122,943
Percent Change		- 1	+10	+ 7
Murder	1982	481	231	272
	1991	410	186	232
Percent Change		- 15	- 19	- 15
Rape	1982	2,151	868	1,093
	1991	2,261	691	979
Percent Change		+ 5	- 20	- 10
Robbery	1982	22,880	13,529	15,961
	1991	22,728	12,603	15,722
Percent Change		- 1	- 7	- 1
Aggravated Assault	1982	19,660	7,515	9,564
	1991	23,720	9,680	12,436
Percent Change		+21	+29	+30
Burglary	1982	106,447	26,314	36,848
	1991	78,859	20,609	29,363
Percent Change		- 26	- 22	- 20
Larceny-Theft	1982	224,025	35,778	55,728
	1991	221,817	34,329	53,253
Percent Change		- 1	- 4	- 4
Motor Vehicle Theft	1982	46,626	16,143	21,879
	1991	71,868	30,745	40,327
Percent Change		+54	+90	+84

*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
1982-1991

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	4,017,252	1,024,336	1,423,106
Percent Distribution		25.5	35.4
Violent Crime	443,102	216,608	267,965
Percent Distribution		48.9	60.5
Nonviolent Crime	3,574,150	807,728	1,155,141
Percent Distribution		22.6	32.3
Murder ·	4,079	2,087	2,495
Percent Distribution		51.2	61.2
Rape	23,971	9,513	12,270
Percent Distribution		39.7	51.2
Robbery	204,648	119,123	144,267
Percent Distribution		58.2	70.5
Aggravated Assault	210,404	85,885	108,933
Percent Distribution		40.8	51.8
Burglary	825,593	214,624	300,905
Percent Distribution		26.0	36.4
Larceny	2,156,135	349,581	532,681
Percent Distribution		16.2	24.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	592,422	243,523	321,555
Percent Distribution		41.1	54.3

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 1982 through 1991 accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.
- The six centers from 1982 through 1991 accounted for 49 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 1982 through 1991 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 1982-1991, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased less than one-half of one percent, while the "Urban 15" cities and the six major urban cities increased 8 percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 9 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 9 percent and the six major cities increased 5 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 1 percent, the "Urban 15" increased 7 percent, and the six major cities increased 10 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 1982-1991, 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 1982-1991.

STREET CRIME TRENDS
URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,582	11,668	10,470	11,241	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	12,674	117,500	77.2
Purse Snatching	3,210	2,610	2,144	2,090	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	1,919	22,216	53.9
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,258	11,906	10,472	12,155	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	12,316	125,984	30.0
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	13,204	11,458	10,953	11,832	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	11,770	133,635	34.2
Larceny of Bicycles	2,988	2,803	2,773	2,986	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	1,949	23,515	12.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	21,879	22,645	22,022	27,210	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	40,327	330,576	55.8
TOTAL	66,121	63,090	58,834	67,514	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	80,955	753,426	42.3
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	38.0	39.5	38.3	40.1	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	43.0	42.3	–

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	1990	87,492	13,992	3,064	10,928	44	138	1,684	1,198	3,642	4,294	2,992	290	355
	1991	87,492	14,272	3,207	11,065	35	100	1,962	1,110	3,176	4,368	3,521	311	385
Newark City	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
	1991	275,221	41,076	9,470	31,606	90	257	5,243	3,880	6,193	11,439	13,974	1,111	1,267
Jersey City	1990	228,537	20,982	4,293	16,689	28	114	2,400	1,751	4,634	7,025	5,030	916	1,005
	1991	228,537	21,117	4,615	16,502	22	97	2,577	1,919	4,611	6,499	5,392	808	884
Trenton City	1990	88,675	9,460	1,768	7,692	21	117	698	932	1,898	3,291	2,503	367	431
	1991	88,675	10,065	1,839	8,226	7	111	697	1,024	1,935	3,531	2,760	372	428
Paterson City	1990	140,891	12,650	2,640	10,010	13	75	1,295	1,257	2,654	5,318	2,038	347	413
	1991	140,891	10,812	2,371	8,441	20	68	1,051	1,232	2,438	4,053	1,950	353	393
Elizabeth City	1990	110,002	11,129	1,717	9,412	11	53	1,165	488	1,895	4,303	3,214	292	362
	1991	110,002	11,501	1,658	9,843	12	58	1,073	515	2,256	4,439	3,148	315	387
Vineland City	1990	54,780	4,392	471	3,921	4	33	210	224	888	2,774	259	109	123
	1991	54,780	4,672	593	4,079	4	36	234	319	1,031	2,666	382	107	123
East Orange City	1990	73,552	8,506	2,002	6,504	20	82	1,209	691	2,054	2,049	2,401	245	256
	1991	73,552	7,679	1,974	5,705	9	107	1,100	758	1,537	1,875	2,293	270	280
Irvington Town	1990	61,018	7,731	1,568	6,163	8	56	766	738	1,690	1,955	2,518	160	185
	1991	61,018	7,839	1,406	6,433	18	60	726	602	1,722	2,062	2,649	158	184
Bayonne City	1990	61,444	2,496	325	2,171	1	4	98	222	488	1,308	375	177	186
	1991	61,444	2,213	327	1,886	3	5	92	227	531	1,064	291	163	181
Union City	1990	58,012	4,043	427	3,616	4	9	264	150	1,010	1,594	1,012	161	183
	1991	58,012	3,855	457	3,398	6	10	308	133	1,075	1,413	910	152	180
Woodbridge Twsp.	1990	93,086	5,159	248	4,911	3	16	73	156	610	3,202	1,099	176	217
	1991	93,086	5,813	306	5,507	–	15	77	214	702	3,639	1,166	190	228
Dover Twsp.	1990	76,371	3,729	152	3,577	1	20	41	90	788	2,570	219	137	174
	1991	76,371	3,876	154	3,722	1	12	45	96	834	2,697	191	132	167
Clifton City	1990	71,742	3,747	203	3,544	5	8	110	80	569	2,244	731	139	161
	1991	71,742	3,464	203	3,261	2	7	102	92	575	1,995	691	135	154
Passaic City	1990	58,041	4,709	894	3,815	2	19	619	254	758	1,854	1,203	133	142
	1991	58,041	4,058	789	3,269	3	36	435	315	747	1,513	1,009	135	145
URBAN "15" TOTALS	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
	1991	1,538,864	152,312	29,369	122,943	232	979	15,722	12,436	29,363	53,253	40,327	4,712	5,386