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 historically account for one third of the reported Crime Index of the state.

This analysis involves the latest ten year period 1984-1993 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 1984-1993.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES
Percent Change 1984/1993

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1984	7,467,632	677,702	1,280,738
	1993	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
Percent Change		+ 4	+37	+20
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1984	364,398	77,621	112,372
	1993	378,302	99,298	137,213
Percent Change		+ 4	+28	+22
Violent Crime	1984	39,615	18,484	23,046
	1993	49,388	23,190	29,215
Percent Change		+25	+25	+27
Nonviolent Crime	1984	324,783	59,137	89,326
	1993	328,914	76,108	107,998
Percent Change		+ 1	+29	+21
Murder	1984	402	194	228
	1993	419	212	249
Percent Change		+ 4	+ 9	+ 9
Rape	1984	2,439	1,035	1,307
	1993	2,214	688	955
Percent Change		− 9	− 34	− 27
Robbery	1984	18,217	10,448	12,475
	1993	23,307	12,795	15,915
Percent Change		+28	+22	+28
Aggravated Assault	1984	18,557	6,807	9,036
	1993	23,448	9,495	12,096
Percent Change		+26	+39	+34
Burglary	1984	79,849	19,363	27,001
	1993	76,760	21,971	29,308
Percent Change		− 4	+13	+ 9
Larceny-Theft	1984	201,807	23,225	40,303
	1993	195,909	31,757	49,023
Percent Change		− 3	+37	+22
Motor Vehicle Theft	1984	43,127	16,549	22,022
	1993	56,245	22,380	29,667
Percent Change		+30	+35	+35

*Less than one-half of one percent

Percent Change

- During the ten year period 1984-1993, the Crime Index in New Jersey has increased 4 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities increased 22 percent and the six major urban cities increased 28 percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 25 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 27 percent and the six major cities increased 25 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state increased one percent, the "Urban 15" increased 21 percent, and the six major cities increased 29 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES
TEN YEAR SUMMARY
COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION
FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES
50,000 Population and Over
1984-1993

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,981,971	1,031,976	1,431,878
Percent Distribution		25.9	36.0
Violent Crime	454,659	219,699	274,271
Percent Distribution		48.3	60.3
Nonviolent Crime	3,527,312	812,277	1,157,607
Percent Distribution		23.0	32.8
Murder	4,016	2,059	2,467
Percent Distribution		51.3	61.4
Rape	24,163	9,147	11,992
Percent Distribution		37.9	49.6
Robbery	207,204	118,392	145,365
Percent Distribution		57.1	70.2
Aggravated Assault	219,276	90,101	114,447
Percent Distribution		41.1	52.2
Burglary	779,003	207,335	289,746
Percent Distribution		26.6	37.2
Larceny	2,127,859	344,371	525,234
Percent Distribution		16.2	24.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	620,450	260,571	342,627
Percent Distribution		42.0	55.2

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 1984 through 1993 accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.

- The six centers from 1984 through 1993 accounted for 48 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 1984 through 1993 these 15 urban municipalities accounted for 36 percent of New Jersey's total Index, 60 percent of all violent crime, and 33 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.

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 1984-1993, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 43 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-three 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 1984-1993.

STREET CRIME TRENDS
URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	10,470	11,241	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	12,674	12,386	12,887	118,523	77.2
Purse Snatching	2,144	2,090	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	1,919	1,832	1,746	19,974	53.2
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	10,472	12,155	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	12,316	11,460	10,744	124,024	29.2
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	10,953	11,832	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	11,770	10,894	9,511	129,378	35.5
Larceny of Bicycles	2,773	2,986	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	1,949	1,740	1,963	21,427	12.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	22,022	27,210	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	40,327	35,929	29,667	351,648	56.7
TOTAL	58,834	67,514	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	80,955	74,241	66,518	764,974	43.1
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	38.3	40.1	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	43.0	43.5	42.2	43.1	–

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	1992	87,492	13,050	2,946	10,104	47	116	1,611	1,172	3,588	4,050	2,466	306	374
	1993	87,492	12,731	2,942	9,789	42	90	1,654	1,156	4,039	3,933	1,817	314	410
Newark City	1992	275,221	40,796	9,813	30,983	88	330	5,453	3,942	6,133	10,881	13,969	1,072	1,226
	1993	275,221	38,760	10,319	28,441	98	269	5,954	3,998	6,902	10,511	11,028	1,151	1,299
Jersey City	1992	228,537	20,517	4,573	15,944	25	93	2,584	1,871	4,552	6,586	4,806	832	916
	1993	228,537	18,770	4,586	14,184	20	100	2,502	1,964	4,192	6,336	3,656	821	902
Trenton City	1992	88,675	8,884	1,735	7,149	16	114	655	950	1,800	3,215	2,134	374	428
	1993	88,675	8,211	1,756	6,455	11	109	717	919	1,726	2,828	1,901	385	438
Paterson City	1992	140,891	10,520	2,200	8,320	16	84	1,055	1,045	2,498	3,919	1,903	357	396
	1993	140,891	11,346	2,184	9,162	23	78	1,089	994	3,260	4,079	1,823	364	404
Elizabeth City	1992	110,002	9,696	1,488	8,208	13	65	884	526	1,718	4,009	2,481	323	401
	1993	110,002	9,480	1,403	8,077	18	42	879	464	1,852	4,070	2,155	339	421
Vineland City	1992	54,780	4,571	554	4,017	–	34	204	316	934	2,732	351	110	128
	1993	54,780	4,463	499	3,964	4	46	193	256	971	2,631	362	120	136
East Orange City	1992	73,552	6,954	1,937	5,017	16	84	1,079	758	1,399	1,991	1,627	270	282
	1993	73,552	7,329	2,159	5,170	15	88	1,134	922	1,732	1,962	1,476	272	290
Irvington Town	1992	61,018	7,614	1,524	6,090	15	74	848	587	1,537	2,043	2,510	161	186
	1993	61,018	7,575	1,519	6,056	10	63	945	501	1,560	2,078	2,418	165	199
Bayonne City	1992	61,444	2,212	338	1,874	2	10	105	221	394	1,154	326	174	195
	1993	61,444	2,046	305	1,741	–	6	105	194	335	1,157	249	171	190
Union City	1992	58,012	3,511	404	3,107	4	19	278	103	952	1,437	718	163	188
	1993	58,012	2,940	217	2,723	1	8	142	66	408	1,527	788	175	201
Woodbridge Twsp.	1992	93,086	4,923	369	4,554	–	14	101	254	592	2,858	1,104	181	213
	1993	93,086	4,274	402	3,872	3	15	110	274	669	2,480	723	213	234
Dover Twsp.	1992	76,371	3,521	201	3,320	1	12	66	122	738	2,370	212	129	163
	1993	76,371	3,097	163	2,934	1	16	36	110	641	2,159	134	125	158
Clifton City	1992	71,742	3,006	201	2,805	3	9	86	103	563	1,751	491	132	151
	1993	71,742	2,465	155	2,310	–	8	73	74	438	1,408	464	130	149
Passaic City	1992	58,041	3,903	720	3,183	3	39	380	298	713	1,639	831	139	149
	1993	58,041	3,726	606	3,120	3	17	382	204	583	1,864	673	136	146
URBAN "15" TOTALS	1992	1,538,864	143,678	29,003	114,675	249	1,097	15,389	12,268	28,111	50,635	35,929	4,723	5,396
	1993	1,538,864	137,213	29,215	107,998	249	955	15,915	12,096	29,308	49,023	29,667	4,881	5,577