



# Section Six

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## 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 1994-2003 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 1994/2003.

# STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

## Percent Change 1994/2003

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
<b>Population</b>	1994	7,730,188	930,818	1,538,864
	<b>2003</b>	<b>8,590,300</b>	<b>956,464</b>	<b>1,612,959</b>
	Percent Change	11	3	5
<b>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</b>	1994	368,155	95,006	133,132
	<b>2003</b>	<b>252,149</b>	<b>56,061</b>	<b>85,303</b>
	Percent Change	-32	-41	-36
<b>Violent Crime</b>	1994	48,399	22,640	29,027
	<b>2003</b>	<b>31,516</b>	<b>11,230</b>	<b>16,594</b>
	Percent Change	-35	-50	-43
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	1994	319,756	72,366	104,105
	<b>2003</b>	<b>220,633</b>	<b>44,831</b>	<b>68,709</b>
	Percent Change	-31	-38	-34
<b>Murder</b>	1994	396	217	255
	<b>2003</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>264</b>
	Percent Change	3	-10	4
<b>Rape</b>	1994	1,964	552	793
	<b>2003</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>440</b>
	Percent Change	-35	-47	-45
<b>Robbery</b>	1994	22,696	12,172	15,507
	<b>2003</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>7,921</b>
	Percent Change	-41	-55	-49
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	1994	23,343	9,699	12,472
	<b>2003</b>	<b>16,442</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>7,969</b>
	Percent Change	-30	-46	-36
<b>Burglary</b>	1994	72,062	20,463	28,065
	<b>2003</b>	<b>43,375</b>	<b>9,620</b>	<b>14,619</b>
	Percent Change	-40	-53	-48
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1994	195,562	31,873	49,216
	<b>2003</b>	<b>142,603</b>	<b>21,853</b>	<b>35,307</b>
	Percent Change	-27	-31	-28
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	1994	52,132	20,030	26,824
	<b>2003</b>	<b>34,655</b>	<b>13,358</b>	<b>18,783</b>
	Percent Change	-34	-33	-30

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

### Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1994/2003, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 32 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 36 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 41 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 35 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 43 percent and the six major cities decreased 50 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 31 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 34 percent and the six major cities decreased 38 percent.

# CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

## COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1994-2003

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
<b>CRIME INDEX TOTAL</b>	<b>3,041,244</b>	<b>723,046</b>	<b>1,045,734</b>
Percent Distribution		23.8	34.4
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>376,381</b>	<b>157,021</b>	<b>212,630</b>
Percent Distribution		41.7	56.5
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	<b>2,664,863</b>	<b>566,025</b>	<b>833,104</b>
Percent Distribution		21.2	31.3
<b>Murder</b>	3,456	1,765	2,199
Percent Distribution		51.1	63.6
<b>Rape</b>	15,885	4,502	6,350
Percent Distribution		28.3	40.0
<b>Robbery</b>	165,382	78,084	104,482
Percent Distribution		47.2	63.2
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	191,658	72,670	99,599
Percent Distribution		37.9	52.0
<b>Burglary</b>	545,451	137,217	199,164
Percent Distribution		25.2	36.5
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1,716,655	274,055	424,145
Percent Distribution		16.0	24.7
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	402,757	154,753	209,795
Percent Distribution		38.4	52.1

### 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 1994 through 2003 accounted for 24 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1994 through 2003 accounted for 42 percent of all violent crime and 21 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 34 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 57 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 31 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-three percent of all 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 1994-2003, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 40.8 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.
- Thirty-six percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- Highway robbery and larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories were at their lowest levels during 2003, in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1994-2003.

## STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,781	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	81,884	74.0
Purse Snatching	1,377	1,116	826	658	600	486	499	536	586	530	7,214	36.4
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,173	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	117,792	30.7
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	8,118	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	55,022	40.7
Larceny of Bicycles	2,169	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	16,793	11.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	26,824	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	209,598	52.0
<b>TOTAL</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>41,331</b>	<b>43,741</b>	<b>42,534</b>	<b>41,759</b>	<b>488,303</b>	<b>40.8</b>
<b>Percent of State "Street Crime" Total</b>	41.8	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	40.8	-

# "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	2002	79,904	6,147	1,488	4,659	33	45	609	801	1,155	2,423	1,081	420	492
	2003	79,685	7,223	1,928	5,295	41	56	857	974	1,459	2,686	1,150	435	520
Newark City	2002	273,546	18,813	3,317	15,496	68	102	1,635	1,512	2,281	6,844	6,371	1,361	1,563
	2003	277,000	17,521	2,848	14,673	83	90	1,369	1,306	2,297	6,308	6,068	1,335	1,562
Jersey City	2002	240,055	12,397	2,952	9,445	21	86	1,408	1,437	2,299	4,819	2,327	826	987
	2003	240,100	11,915	2,930	8,985	24	59	1,440	1,407	2,198	4,695	2,092	806	948
Trenton City	2002	85,403	6,310	1,480	4,830	19	68	706	687	1,196	2,533	1,101	361	423
	2003	85,650	6,355	1,523	4,832	13	36	646	828	1,081	2,654	1,097	374	430
Paterson City	2002	149,222	6,847	1,165	5,682	15	29	653	468	1,595	2,650	1,437	429	517
	2003	150,750	6,433	1,241	5,192	20	35	674	512	1,466	2,442	1,284	376	465
Elizabeth City	2002	120,568	7,299	913	6,386	13	30	571	299	1,053	3,529	1,804	344	467
	2003	123,279	6,614	760	5,854	14	14	525	207	1,119	3,068	1,667	339	456
Vineland City	2002	56,271	3,735	453	3,282	4	8	221	220	809	2,267	206	134	153
	2003	56,340	3,457	417	3,040	4	16	169	228	747	2,127	166	139	160
East Orange City	2002	69,824	5,998	1,530	4,468	18	54	700	758	913	2,025	1,530	246	281
	2003	69,750	6,184	1,402	4,782	22	30	651	699	1,061	1,951	1,770	287	332
Irvington Town	2002	60,695	5,425	1,702	3,723	15	46	864	777	1,077	1,129	1,517	178	205
	2003	60,516	5,127	1,499	3,628	27	40	769	663	898	1,280	1,450	181	212
Bayonne City	2002	61,842	1,099	208	891	4	3	93	108	186	584	121	243	285
	2003	61,605	1,297	244	1,053	1	8	93	142	212	674	167	233	271
Union City	2002	67,088	2,213	311	1,902	3	6	177	125	474	899	529	184	225
	2003	66,902	2,119	329	1,790	6	13	176	134	453	893	444	179	219
Woodbridge Twp.	2002	97,203	3,533	302	3,231	3	8	77	214	538	2,170	523	198	244
	2003	100,421	3,668	356	3,312	4	18	75	259	644	2,293	375	197	242
Dover Twp.	2002	89,706	2,548	189	2,359	11	9	46	123	432	1,834	93	149	192
	2003	92,890	2,222	149	2,073	1	12	38	98	330	1,660	83	151	198
Clifton City	2002	78,672	2,667	208	2,459	-	7	117	84	417	1,603	439	148	177
	2003	79,626	2,309	198	2,111	-	11	84	103	330	1,386	395	155	186
Passaic City	2002	67,861	3,345	865	2,480	4	5	374	482	464	1,396	620	156	186
	2003	68,445	2,859	770	2,089	4	2	355	409	324	1,190	575	179	217
"URBAN 15" TOTALS	2002	1,597,860	88,376	17,083	71,293	231	506	8,251	8,095	14,889	36,705	19,699	5,377	6,397
	2003	1,612,959	85,303	16,594	68,709	264	440	7,921	7,969	14,619	35,307	18,783	5,366	6,418