



Section Six

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 1996-2005 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 1996/2005.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1996/2005

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1996	7,903,994	896,668	1,510,302
	2005	8,698,879	960,450	1,617,694
	Percent Change	10	7	7
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1996	346,094	86,203	120,143
	2005	234,268	51,496	76,871
	Percent Change	-32	-40	-36
Violent Crime	1996	42,420	19,414	24,945
	2005	30,904	11,627	16,657
	Percent Change	-27	-40	-33
Nonviolent Crime	1996	303,674	66,789	95,198
	2005	203,364	39,869	60,214
	Percent Change	-33	-40	-37
Murder	1996	337	182	219
	2005	418	238	297
	Percent Change	24	31	36
Rape	1996	1,972	645	891
	2005	1,204	251	378
	Percent Change	-39	-61	-58
Robbery	1996	18,859	9,496	12,225
	2005	13,209	5,639	7,919
	Percent Change	-30	-41	-35
Aggravated Assault	1996	21,252	9,091	11,610
	2005	16,073	5,499	8,063
	Percent Change	-24	-40	-31
Burglary	1996	63,163	17,316	24,233
	2005	38,910	8,344	12,749
	Percent Change	-38	-52	-47
Larceny-Theft	1996	194,074	31,876	47,567
	2005	136,776	19,900	32,266
	Percent Change	-30	-38	-32
Motor Vehicle Theft	1996	46,437	17,597	23,398
	2005	27,678	11,625	15,199
	Percent Change	-40	-34	-35

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1996/2005, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 32 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 36 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 40 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 27 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 33 percent and the six major cities decreased 40 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 33 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 37 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 40 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1996-2005

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,776,098	635,728	934,021
Percent Distribution		22.9	33.6
Violent Crime	342,229	134,620	187,283
Percent Distribution		39.3	54.7
Nonviolent Crime	2,433,869	501,108	746,738
Percent Distribution		20.6	30.7
Murder	3,465	1,752	2,231
Percent Distribution		50.6	64.4
Rape	14,529	3,923	5,541
Percent Distribution		27.0	38.1
Robbery	146,492	65,179	89,302
Percent Distribution		44.5	61.0
Aggravated Assault	177,743	63,766	90,209
Percent Distribution		35.9	50.8
Burglary	483,784	113,724	169,796
Percent Distribution		23.5	35.1
Larceny-Theft	1,591,629	248,920	388,533
Percent Distribution		15.6	24.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	358,456	138,464	188,409
Percent Distribution		38.6	52.6

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 1996 through 2005 accounted for 23 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1996 through 2005 accounted for 39 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 55 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 31 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-one percent of all reported robberies 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 1996-2005, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 41 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Seventy-two percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Thirty-three percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2005, Motor Vehicle Theft and Larceny from Motor Vehicles were at their lowest levels in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1996-2005.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	68,569	72.4
Purse Snatching	826	658	600	486	499	536	586	530	418	541	5,680	32.6
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	110,042	31.2
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	48,494	40.7
Larceny of Bicycles	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	14,323	11.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	188,572	52.6
TOTAL	55,484	49,866	43,557	42,467	41,331	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	36,562	435,680	40.9
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	40.9	-

"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
	2004	80,089	7,156	1,829	5,327	49	57	823	900	1,162	2,807	1,358	428	511
Camden City	2005	79,948	6,016	1,686	4,330	34	47	704	901	1,021	2,354	955	416	500
	2004	277,911	17,035	2,984	14,051	86	81	1,410	1,407	2,195	5,997	5,859	1,282	1,518
Newark City	2005	280,451	16,374	2,956	13,418	98	89	1,328	1,441	2,075	5,582	5,761	1,314	1,550
	2004	239,097	11,251	2,942	8,309	23	71	1,440	1,408	2,052	4,527	1,730	813	972
Jersey City	2005	239,079	11,987	3,180	8,807	38	43	1,667	1,432	2,219	4,726	1,862	838	1,025
	2004	85,314	5,324	1,364	3,960	18	47	577	722	992	2,173	795	356	405
Trenton City	2005	85,379	5,265	1,526	3,739	31	22	808	665	964	2,097	678	359	412
	2004	150,782	5,871	1,219	4,652	10	25	626	558	1,291	2,237	1,124	399	489
Paterson City	2005	150,869	5,880	1,445	4,435	20	32	588	805	1,413	2,108	914	444	545
	2004	123,215	6,373	700	5,673	10	14	474	202	964	3,065	1,644	341	457
Elizabeth City	2005	124,724	5,974	834	5,140	17	18	544	255	652	3,033	1,455	342	445
	2004	57,057	3,371	449	2,922	1	10	178	260	621	2,123	178	149	173
Vineland City	2005	58,009	3,574	722	2,852	2	15	198	507	591	2,088	173	145	167
	2004	69,212	5,369	1,121	4,248	17	32	567	505	1,121	1,867	1,260	270	317
East Orange City	2005	68,930	4,591	1,068	3,523	14	31	553	470	878	1,648	997	258	300
	2004	60,057	4,811	1,440	3,371	26	31	758	625	910	1,228	1,233	185	216
Irvington Town	2005	59,689	4,706	1,397	3,309	28	23	728	618	1,018	1,251	1,040	186	218
	2004	60,905	1,029	183	846	3	5	89	86	163	561	122	230	266
Bayonne City	2005	60,748	1,158	220	938	2	7	79	132	191	605	142	230	281
	2004	66,573	1,936	323	1,613	4	4	208	107	409	858	346	176	220
Union City	2005	66,167	1,824	325	1,499	3	10	178	134	396	836	267	171	221
	2004	100,866	3,223	324	2,899	4	10	59	251	506	2,116	277	192	238
Woodbridge Twp.	2005	100,775	3,162	311	2,851	2	17	86	206	347	2,205	299	196	246
	2004	93,671	2,011	122	1,889	3	8	30	81	350	1,458	81	153	208
Dover Twp.	2005	94,320	1,984	133	1,851	2	9	42	80	316	1,463	72	157	193
	2004	79,823	2,379	233	2,146	2	6	135	90	433	1,398	315	156	183
Clifton City	2005	79,944	2,073	170	1,903	2	9	85	74	305	1,293	305	154	183
	2004	68,528	2,698	683	2,015	5	7	274	397	422	1,053	540	164	198
Passaic City	2005	68,662	2,303	684	1,619	4	6	331	343	363	977	279	179	209
"URBAN 15"	2004	1,613,100	79,837	15,916	63,921	261	408	7,648	7,599	13,591	33,468	16,862	5,294	6,371
TOTALS	2005	1,617,694	76,871	16,657	60,214	297	378	7,919	8,063	12,749	32,266	15,199	5,389	6,495