



# 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 1997-2006 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
- Toms River 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 1997/2006.

# STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

## Percent Change 1997/2006

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
<b>Population</b>	1997	7,993,220	928,249	1,537,582
	<b>2006</b>	<b>8,717,925</b>	<b>960,581</b>	<b>1,614,423</b>
	Percent Change	9	3	5
<b>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</b>	1997	326,912	77,974	111,723
	<b>2006</b>	<b>230,430</b>	<b>47,905</b>	<b>71,540</b>
	Percent Change	-30	-39	-36
<b>Violent Crime</b>	1997	39,652	17,435	22,638
	<b>2006</b>	<b>30,543</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>15,849</b>
	Percent Change	-23	-34	-30
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	1997	287,260	60,539	89,085
	<b>2006</b>	<b>199,887</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>55,691</b>
	Percent Change	-30	-40	-37
<b>Murder</b>	1997	334	159	198
	<b>2006</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>255</b>
	Percent Change	28	33	29
<b>Rape</b>	1997	1,730	533	748
	<b>2006</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>428</b>
	Percent Change	-31	-40	-43
<b>Robbery</b>	1997	16,953	8,347	10,684
	<b>2006</b>	<b>13,354</b>	<b>5,688</b>	<b>7,685</b>
	Percent Change	-21	-32	-28
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	1997	20,635	8,396	11,008
	<b>2006</b>	<b>15,562</b>	<b>5,242</b>	<b>7,481</b>
	Percent Change	-25	-38	-32
<b>Burglary</b>	1997	60,941	15,644	22,338
	<b>2006</b>	<b>39,377</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>11,841</b>
	Percent Change	-35	-51	-47
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1997	185,142	30,289	46,248
	<b>2006</b>	<b>135,764</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>30,203</b>
	Percent Change	-27	-40	-35
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	1997	41,177	14,606	20,499
	<b>2006</b>	<b>24,746</b>	<b>10,543</b>	<b>13,647</b>
	Percent Change	-40	-28	-33

### Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1997/2006, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 30 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 36 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 39 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 23 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 30 percent and the six major cities decreased 34 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 30 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 1997-2006

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
<b>CRIME INDEX TOTAL</b>	<b>2,660,434</b>	<b>597,430</b>	<b>885,418</b>
Percent Distribution		22.5	33.3
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>330,352</b>	<b>126,666</b>	<b>178,187</b>
Percent Distribution		38.3	53.9
<b>Nonviolent Crime</b>	<b>2,330,082</b>	<b>470,764</b>	<b>707,231</b>
Percent Distribution		20.2	30.4
<b>Murder</b>	3,555	1,781	2,267
Percent Distribution		50.1	63.8
<b>Rape</b>	13,757	3,597	5,078
Percent Distribution		26.1	36.9
<b>Robbery</b>	140,987	61,371	84,762
Percent Distribution		43.5	60.1
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	172,053	59,917	86,080
Percent Distribution		34.8	50.0
<b>Burglary</b>	459,998	104,118	157,404
Percent Distribution		22.6	34.2
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	1,533,319	235,236	371,169
Percent Distribution		15.3	24.2
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	336,765	131,410	178,658
Percent Distribution		39.0	53.1

### 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 1997 through 2006 accounted for 22.5 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1997 through 2006 accounted for 38 percent of all violent crime and 20 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 33 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 54 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 30 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty 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 1997-2006, 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-one percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2006, 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 1997-2006.

## STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	64,857	71.7
Purse Snatching	658	600	486	499	536	586	530	418	541	374	5,228	31.3
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	105,954	31.4
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	44,902	40.0
Larceny of Bicycles	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	856	13,374	11.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	178,821	53.1
<b>TOTAL</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>38,379</b>	<b>36,562</b>	<b>32,940</b>	<b>413,136</b>	<b>40.9</b>
<b>Percent of State "Street Crime" Total</b>	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	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
Camden City	2005	79,948	6,016	1,686	4,330	34	47	704	901	1,021	2,354	955	416	500
	<b>2006</b>	<b>80,010</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>483</b>
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
	<b>2006</b>	<b>280,666</b>	<b>15,097</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>12,116</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>4,951</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>1,498</b>
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
	<b>2006</b>	<b>239,614</b>	<b>10,589</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>7,666</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>4,496</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>1,071</b>
Trenton City	2005	85,379	5,265	1,526	3,739	31	22	808	665	964	2,097	678	359	412
	<b>2006</b>	<b>84,639</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>419</b>
Paterson City	2005	150,869	5,880	1,445	4,435	20	32	588	805	1,413	2,108	914	444	545
	<b>2006</b>	<b>149,843</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>4,365</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>545</b>
Elizabeth City	2005	124,724	5,974	834	5,140	17	18	544	255	652	3,033	1,455	342	445
	<b>2006</b>	<b>125,809</b>	<b>5,772</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>491</b>
Vineland City	2005	58,009	3,574	722	2,852	2	15	198	507	591	2,088	173	145	167
	<b>2006</b>	<b>58,164</b>	<b>3,278</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>174</b>
East Orange City	2005	68,930	4,591	1,068	3,523	14	31	553	470	878	1,648	997	258	300
	<b>2006</b>	<b>68,190</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>319</b>
Irvington Town	2005	59,689	4,706	1,397	3,309	28	23	728	618	1,018	1,251	1,040	186	218
	<b>2006</b>	<b>58,876</b>	<b>4,488</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>220</b>
Bayonne City	2005	60,748	1,158	220	938	2	7	79	132	191	605	142	230	281
	<b>2006</b>	<b>59,987</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>270</b>
Union City	2005	66,167	1,824	325	1,499	3	10	178	134	396	836	267	171	221
	<b>2006</b>	<b>65,128</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>224</b>
Woodbridge Twp.	2005	100,775	3,162	311	2,851	2	17	86	206	347	2,205	299	196	246
	<b>2006</b>	<b>100,577</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>250</b>
Toms River Twp.	2005	94,320	1,984	133	1,851	2	9	42	80	316	1,463	72	157	193
	<b>2006</b>	<b>94,660</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>213</b>
Clifton City	2005	79,944	2,073	170	1,903	2	9	85	74	305	1,293	305	154	183
	<b>2006</b>	<b>79,922</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>188</b>
Passaic City	2005	68,662	2,303	684	1,619	4	6	331	343	363	977	279	179	209
	<b>2006</b>	<b>68,338</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>222</b>
"URBAN 15"	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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>1,614,423</b>	<b>71,540</b>	<b>15,849</b>	<b>55,691</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>7,481</b>	<b>11,841</b>	<b>30,203</b>	<b>13,647</b>	<b>5,472</b>	<b>6,587</b>