



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 2000-2009 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 2000/2009.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2000/2009

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2000	8,414,350	948,698	1,597,860
	2009	8,682,661	952,758	1,591,857
	Percent Change	3	*	*
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2000	265,840	60,078	88,698
	2009	207,841	41,765	61,536
	Percent Change	-22	-30	-31
Violent Crime	2000	32,276	12,188	17,460
	2009	27,108	10,155	13,460
	Percent Change	-16	-17	-23
Nonviolent Crime	2000	233,564	47,890	71,238
	2009	180,733	31,610	48,076
	Percent Change	-23	-34	-33
Murder	2000	288	144	182
	2009	320	180	218
	Percent Change	11	25	20
Rape	2000	1,352	366	506
	2009	1,041	277	365
	Percent Change	-23	-24	-28
Robbery	2000	13,550	5,659	8,066
	2009	11,637	4,929	6,417
	Percent Change	-14	-13	-20
Aggravated Assault	2000	17,086	6,019	8,706
	2009	14,110	4,769	6,460
	Percent Change	-17	-21	-26
Burglary	2000	43,934	10,024	15,114
	2009	36,928	7,494	10,894
	Percent Change	-16	-25	-28
Larceny-Theft	2000	155,480	24,233	37,695
	2009	128,304	17,494	28,809
	Percent Change	-17	-28	-24
Motor Vehicle Theft	2000	34,150	13,633	18,429
	2009	15,501	6,622	8,373
	Percent Change	-55	-51	-55

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2000/2009, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 22 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 31 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 30 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 16 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 23 percent and the six major cities decreased 17 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 23 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 33 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 34 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2000-2009

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,415,228	522,688	781,642
Percent Distribution		21.6	32.4
Violent Crime	305,314	112,031	159,377
Percent Distribution		36.7	52.2
Nonviolent Crime	2,109,914	410,657	622,265
Percent Distribution		19.5	29.5
Murder	3,690	1,927	2,433
Percent Distribution		52.2	65.9
Rape	12,152	2,993	4,231
Percent Distribution		24.6	34.8
Robbery	131,561	54,916	76,606
Percent Distribution		41.7	58.2
Aggravated Assault	157,911	52,195	76,107
Percent Distribution		33.1	48.2
Burglary	411,725	88,272	134,272
Percent Distribution		21.4	32.6
Larceny-Theft	1,415,589	207,011	333,995
Percent Distribution		14.6	23.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	282,600	115,374	153,998
Percent Distribution		40.8	54.5

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 2000 through 2009 accounted for 22 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 2000 through 2009 accounted for 37 percent of all violent crime and 20 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 18 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 32 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 30 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-six percent of all reported murders 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 2000-2009, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 40.9 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Seventy percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.
- Fifty-five percent of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Thirty percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2009, highway robberies, theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories, larceny of bikes and motor vehicles thefts 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 2000-2009.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	58,410	69.8
Purse Snatching	499	536	586	530	418	541	374	319	245	252	4,300	30.3
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	100,950	31.4
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	39,964	39.5
Larceny of Bicycles	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	856	880	844	825	10,550	10.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	154,161	54.6
TOTAL	41,331	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	368,335	40.9
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	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	2008	78,675	6,857	1,791	5,066	54	70	820	847	1,254	2,809	1,003	396	486
	2009	79,383	5,962	1,885	4,077	34	60	767	1,024	1,050	2,377	650	361	447
Newark City	2008	280,135	13,489	2,767	10,722	67	52	1,442	1,206	2,031	4,859	3,832	1,317	1,707
	2009	278,980	12,364	2,679	9,685	80	70	1,373	1,156	1,969	4,571	3,145	1,297	1,671
Jersey City	2008	242,389	9,913	2,315	7,598	26	49	1,268	972	1,875	4,554	1,169	885	1,045
	2009	241,114	7,920	1,827	6,093	28	49	885	865	1,400	3,849	844	885	1,059
Trenton City	2008	82,804	3,769	996	2,773	19	23	548	406	732	1,533	508	358	460
	2009	82,883	3,914	1,155	2,759	18	26	512	599	831	1,523	405	372	466
Paterson City	2008	146,545	6,022	1,457	4,565	17	23	772	645	1,563	2,025	977	477	563
	2009	145,643	5,158	1,319	3,839	15	28	631	645	1,241	1,969	629	488	579
Elizabeth City	2008	124,862	6,931	1,126	5,805	13	28	750	335	958	3,550	1,297	348	466
	2009	124,755	6,447	1,290	5,157	5	44	761	480	1,003	3,205	949	335	545
Vineland City	2008	58,505	2,854	344	2,510	4	16	136	188	589	1,823	98	155	182
	2009	58,780	2,662	316	2,346	3	15	120	178	537	1,737	72	157	187
East Orange City	2008	65,952	2,123	474	1,649	6	21	179	268	508	774	367	280	342
	2009	65,390	1,758	508	1,250	11	22	228	247	388	633	229	277	339
Irvington Town	2008	56,920	4,382	1,203	3,179	24	41	574	564	967	1,335	877	191	219
	2009	56,299	3,410	1,024	2,386	17	21	481	505	621	1,105	660	187	217
Bayonne City	2008	57,886	1,206	209	997	0	7	106	96	237	639	121	212	249
	2009	57,448	1,066	185	881	0	7	86	92	209	590	82	203	239
Union City	2008	62,715	1,859	341	1,518	1	4	157	179	367	991	160	165	212
	2009	62,183	1,690	291	1,399	1	0	119	171	279	963	157	162	208
Woodbridge Twp.	2008	98,450	2,980	209	2,771	1	12	96	100	447	2,162	162	203	252
	2009	97,963	2,577	152	2,425	1	7	62	82	279	1,965	181	204	250
Toms River Twp.	2008	95,148	2,657	111	2,546	2	9	49	51	453	2,037	56	158	213
	2009	95,933	2,582	113	2,469	2	4	44	63	485	1,946	38	159	207
Clifton City	2008	78,573	2,178	200	1,978	5	9	84	102	299	1,484	195	158	188
	2009	78,219	1,930	200	1,730	0	10	102	88	296	1,252	182	144	173
Passaic City	2008	67,103	2,158	674	1,484	5	3	323	343	318	924	242	194	225
	2009	66,884	2,096	516	1,580	3	2	246	265	306	1,124	150	189	224
URBAN "15"	2008	1,596,662	69,378	14,217	55,161	244	367	7,304	6,302	12,598	31,499	11,064	5,497	6,809
TOTALS	2009	1,591,857	61,536	13,460	48,076	218	365	6,417	6,460	10,894	28,809	8,373	5,420	6,811