Section Six

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 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 2005-2014 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 2005/2014.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES
Percent Change 2005/2014

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2005	8,698,879	960,450	1,617,694
	2014	**8,899,339**	**970,527**	**1,632,033**
	Percent Change	2	1	1
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2005	234,268	51,496	76,871
	2014	**178,066**	**35,696**	**52,479**
	Percent Change	-24	-31	-32
Violent Crime	2005	30,904	11,627	16,657
	2014	**23,004**	**9,436**	**12,107**
	Percent Change	-26	-19	-27
Nonviolent Crime	2005	203,364	39,869	60,214
	2014	**155,062**	**26,269**	**40,372**
	Percent Change	-24	-34	-33
Murder	2005	418	238	297
	2014	**354**	**222**	**248**
	Percent Change	-15	-7	-16
Rape	2005	1,204	251	378
	2014	**950**	**219**	**293**
	Percent Change	-21	-13	-22
Robbery	2005	13,209	5,639	7,919
	2014	**10,492**	**4,844**	**6,151**
	Percent Change	-21	-14	-22
Aggravated Assault	2005	16,073	5,499	8,063
	2014	**11,208**	**4,151**	**5,415**
	Percent Change	-30	-25	-33
Burglary	2005	38,910	8,344	12,749
	2014	**31,740**	**6,328**	**9,179**
	Percent Change	-18	-24	-28
Larceny-Theft	2005	136,776	19,900	32,266
	2014	**111,620**	**14,641**	**24,569**
	Percent Change	-18	-26	-24
Motor Vehicle Theft	2005	27,678	11,625	15,199
	2014	**11,702**	**5,300**	**6,624**
	Percent Change	-58	-54	-56

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2005/2014, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 24 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 32 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 31 percent.

- Violent crime in the state decreased 26 percent, the "Urban 15" cities decreased 26 percent, while the six "Major Urban" cities experienced a decrease of 19 percent.

- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 24 percent, the "Urban 15" cities decreased 34 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 33 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES
TEN YEAR SUMMARY
COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES
2005-2014

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	**2,126,724**	**442,033**	**647,138**
Percent Distribution		21.0	30.4
Violent Crime	**273,907**	**108,002**	**142,471**
Percent Distribution		39.4	52.0
Nonviolent Crime	**1,852,817**	**334,031**	**504,667**
Percent Distribution		18.0	27.2
Murder	**3,816**	**2,172**	**2,555**
Percent Distribution		56.9	67.0
Rape	**10,402**	**2,597**	**3,565**
Percent Distribution		25.0	34.3
Robbery	**121,494**	**54,704**	**70,321**
Percent Distribution		45.0	57.9
Aggravated Assault	**138,195**	**48,529**	**66,030**
Percent Distribution		35.1	47.8
Burglary	**384,502**	**79,012**	**116,200**
Percent Distribution		20.5	30.2
Larceny-Theft	**1,283,493**	**172,870**	**284,956**
Percent Distribution		13.5	22.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	**184,822**	**82,149**	**103,511**
Percent Distribution		44.4	56.0

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 2005 through 2014 accounted for 21 percent of the state's total crime.

- "Major Urban" centers from 2005 through 2014 accounted for 39 percent of all violent crime and 18 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.

- The "Urban 15" municipalities represent 18 percent of the state's total population.

- "Urban 15" municipalities accounted for 30 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 52 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 27 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.

- Sixty-seven 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 2005-2014, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 39.6 percent of the street crimes in the state.

- Sixty-nine percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.

- Fifty-seven percent of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.

- Twenty-seven percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.

- In 2014, thefts from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories 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 2005-2014.

STREET CRIME TRENDS
"URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	5,578	5,349	5,876	4,824	54,496	69.3
Purse Snatching	541	374	319	245	252	240	276	274	211	241	2,973	27.2
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	8,789	7,652	6,554	6,055	86,814	29.1
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	2,698	2,333	2,404	2,048	29,976	40.8
Larceny of Bicycles	884	856	880	844	825	824	703	779	749	909	8,253	10.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	10,052	9,704	7,759	7,928	104,815	56.7
TOTAL	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	28,096	26,091	23,553	22,005	287,327	39.6
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	39.1	40.9	40.4	42.5	39.6	–

"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	2013	77,250	5,325	1,960	3,365	57	55	737	1,111	861	2,039	465	418	441
	2014	76,903	4,525	1,556	2,969	33	52	534	937	863	1,785	321	391	477
Newark City	2013	277,727	13,784	3,727	10,057	112	47	2,569	999	2,127	4,995	2,935	1,007	1,276
	2014	278,427	12,219	3,188	9,031	95	49	2,023	1,021	1,758	4,813	2,460	1,014	1,312
Jersey City	2013	254,441	6,672	1,687	4,985	20	35	728	904	1,059	3,181	745	770	929
	2014	257,342	5,798	1,404	4,394	24	35	629	716	891	2,950	553	790	936
Trenton City	2013	84,477	3,594	1,134	2,460	37	13	529	555	999	1,044	417	237	311
	2014	84,349	3,045	938	2,107	32	23	408	475	820	946	341	224	296
Paterson City	2013	145,219	5,665	1,555	4,110	18	26	848	663	1,368	1,993	749	365	466
	2014	145,948	5,054	1,195	3,859	25	25	613	532	1,157	1,960	742	398	590
Elizabeth City	2013	126,458	4,725	1,021	3,704	7	38	558	418	795	1,905	1,004	317	415
	2014	127,558	5,064	1,155	3,909	13	35	637	470	839	2,187	883	294	392
Vineland City	2013	60,854	2,562	209	2,353	1	14	84	110	597	1,694	62	139	165
	2014	61,050	2,534	268	2,266	2	13	113	140	452	1,781	33	150	176
East Orange City	2013	64,268	1,622	408	1,214	6	12	186	204	360	582	272	236	298
	2014	64,544	1,577	466	1,111	2	15	191	258	313	559	239	223	344
Irvington Town	2013	54,108	2,443	827	1,616	17	27	504	279	448	645	523	158	186
	2014	54,222	2,543	699	1,844	19	18	473	189	589	742	513	151	189
Bayonne City	2013	64,416	971	139	832	0	0	51	88	142	603	87	175	274
	2014	65,028	956	149	807	0	4	52	93	115	637	55	175	276
Union City	2013	67,744	1,339	248	1,091	0	0	109	139	189	788	114	153	180
	2014	68,247	1,427	239	1,188	0	1	98	140	189	893	106	150	177
Woodbridge Twp.	2013	100,228	2,203	138	2,065	1	3	68	66	298	1,643	124	191	254
	2014	100,574	1,968	120	1,848	0	5	56	59	251	1,511	86	190	251
Toms River Twp.	2013	92,093	2,819	74	2,745	1	5	48	20	528	2,194	23	152	180
	2014	91,583	2,547	79	2,468	0	7	30	42	485	1,961	22	152	182
Clifton City	2013	84,722	1,714	176	1,538	0	12	58	106	358	1,076	104	145	173
	2014	85,390	1,621	187	1,434	1	6	71	109	228	1,097	109	149	174
Passaic City	2013	70,218	1,654	513	1,141	2	1	241	269	279	727	135	152	179
	2014	70,868	1,601	464	1,137	2	5	223	234	229	747	161	158	186
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2013	1,624,223	57,092	13,816	43,276	279	288	7,318	5,931	10,408	25,109	7,759	4,615	5,727
	2014	1,632,033	52,479	12,107	40,372	248	293	6,151	5,415	9,179	24,569	6,624	4,609	5,958