



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 2007-2016 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 2007/2016.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 2007/2016

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	2007	8,724,560	961,319	1,609,312
	2016	8,958,013	983,339	1,649,494
	Percent Change	3	2	2
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	2007	220,798	45,805	68,324
	2016	160,017	33,251	48,104
	Percent Change	-28	-27	-30
Violent Crime	2007	28,526	10,335	14,324
	2016	21,915	9,032	11,429
	Percent Change	-23	-13	-20
Nonviolent Crime	2007	192,272	35,470	54,000
	2016	138,102	24,219	36,675
	Percent Change	-28	-32	-32
Murder	2007	381	222	264
	2016	378	216	232
	Percent Change	-1	-3	-12
Rape	2007	1,029	240	360
	2016	1,452	431	530
	Percent Change	41	80	47
Robbery	2007	12,562	5,099	6,941
	2016	8,932	3,902	4,970
	Percent Change	-29	-23	-28
Aggravated Assault	2007	14,554	4,774	6,759
	2016	11,153	4,483	5,697
	Percent Change	-23	-6	-16
Burglary	2007	37,234	7,690	11,749
	2016	25,198	5,359	7,550
	Percent Change	-32	-30	-36
Larceny-Theft	2007	133,094	18,339	30,168
	2016	101,594	13,730	22,760
	Percent Change	-24	-25	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	2007	35,158	9,441	17,212
	2016	11,310	5,130	6,365
	Percent Change	-68	-46	-63

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 2007/2016, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 28 percent, while the the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 27 percent and the "Urban 15" cities decreased 30 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 23 percent, the six "Major Urban" cities experienced a decrease of 13 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 20 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 28 percent, the six "Major Urban" decreased 32 percent, and the "Urban 15" cities decreased 32 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 2007-2016

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	1,990,654	410,552	597,452
Percent Distribution		20.6	30.0
Violent Crime	257,274	103,536	133,409
Percent Distribution		40.2	51.9
Nonviolent Crime	1,733,380	307,036	464,043
Percent Distribution		17.7	26.8
Murder	3,718	2,149	2,483
Percent Distribution		57.8	66.8
Rape	10,812	2,872	3,817
Percent Distribution		26.6	35.3
Robbery	113,606	51,822	65,317
Percent Distribution		45.6	57.5
Aggravated Assault	129,138	46,673	61,792
Percent Distribution		36.1	47.8
Burglary	359,303	74,228	107,514
Percent Distribution		20.7	29.9
Larceny-Theft	1,218,606	162,135	268,591
Percent Distribution		13.3	22.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	155,471	70,673	87,848
Percent Distribution		45.5	56.5

Distribution:

- Six major urban cities - 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 2007 through 2016 accounted for 21 percent of the state's total crime.
- "Major Urban" cities from 2007 through 2016 accounted for 40 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 2007-2016, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 39.5 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 2016, motor vehicle theft and 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 2007-2016.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	5,142	5,527	4,926	5,254	5,578	5,349	5,876	4,824	4,367	3,737	50,580	69.4
Purse Snatching	319	245	252	240	276	274	211	241	257	237	2,552	26.6
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	9,949	11,287	9,549	8,876	8,789	7,652	6,554	6,055	6,179	6,446	81,336	28.6
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	3,435	3,396	2,993	2,791	2,698	2,333	2,404	2,048	2,049	1,696	25,843	42.6
Larceny of Bicycles	880	844	825	824	703	779	749	909	940	944	8,397	12.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	12,083	11,064	8,373	9,006	10,052	9,704	7,759	7,928	6,908	6,365	89,242	57.4
TOTAL	31,808	32,363	26,918	26,991	28,096	26,091	23,553	22,005	20,700	19,425	257,950	39.5
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	39.1	39.3	36.9	37.9	39.1	40.9	40.4	42.5	40.5	39.7	39.5	-

"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	2015	76,504	4,421	1,529	2,892	32	75	485	937	677	1,877	338	346	439
	2016	76,119	4,367	1,593	2,774	47	88	432	1,026	655	1,613	506	414	467
Newark City	2015	280,980	11,411	3,221	8,190	107	107	1,877	1,130	1,530	4,072	2,588	1,033	1,203
	2016	281,944	9,997	2,787	7,210	100	103	1,403	1,181	1,168	3,896	2,146	1,113	1,383
Jersey City	2015	262,327	5,784	1,417	4,367	27	98	568	724	979	2,782	606	814	936
	2016	264,290	5,923	1,319	4,604	24	88	557	650	953	3,097	554	865	1,279
Trenton City	2015	84,628	3,143	1,029	2,114	17	50	405	557	777	859	478	239	315
	2016	84,225	3,400	1,140	2,260	21	63	429	627	893	992	375	204	336
Paterson City	2015	147,490	4,849	1,172	3,677	19	40	573	540	1,182	1,811	684	401	593
	2016	147,754	4,283	1,126	3,157	19	56	551	500	957	1,529	671	383	478
Elizabeth City	2015	128,812	5,061	1,201	3,860	8	44	635	514	766	2,226	868	296	395
	2016	129,007	5,281	1,067	4,214	5	33	530	499	733	2,603	878	293	388
Vineland City	2015	61,097	2,905	337	2,568	7	32	108	190	525	1,975	68	130	156
	2016	60,818	2,721	299	2,422	1	17	128	153	560	1,787	75	132	157
East Orange City	2015	64,718	1,264	444	820	11	25	161	247	202	454	164	219	293
	2016	64,949	1,341	440	901	6	22	181	231	206	464	231	205	262
Irvington Town	2015	54,489	2,347	638	1,709	14	24	399	201	444	713	552	152	177
	2016	54,580	1,778	518	1,260	4	25	289	200	333	560	367	158	195
Bayonne City	2015	66,289	951	161	790	1	17	46	97	158	589	43	180	292
	2016	66,311	899	150	749	2	10	58	80	93	604	52	182	284
Union City	2015	69,233	1,325	166	1,159	0	0	60	106	137	913	109	167	202
	2016	69,156	1,347	212	1,135	1	1	72	138	116	915	104	162	249
Woodbridge Township	2015	101,747	1,830	117	1,713	1	0	49	67	238	1,361	114	193	255
	2016	102,105	1,838	110	1,728	1	10	47	52	226	1,402	100	194	252
Toms River Township	2015	90,287	2,209	55	2,154	0	5	28	22	286	1,831	37	158	189
	2016	90,817	1,911	67	1,844	1	2	31	33	257	1,551	36	160	187
Clifton City	2015	86,086	1,694	201	1,493	1	8	75	117	260	1,119	114	149	180
	2016	86,334	1,514	203	1,311	0	7	84	112	202	993	116	145	178
Passaic City	2015	70,968	1,427	327	1,100	3	3	161	160	193	762	145	151	179
	2016	71,085	1,504	398	1,106	0	5	178	215	198	754	154	154	180
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2015	1,645,655	50,621	12,015	38,606	248	528	5,630	5,609	8,354	23,344	6,908	4,628	5,804
	2016	1,649,494	48,104	11,429	36,675	232	530	4,970	5,697	7,550	22,760	6,365	4,764	6,275