

SECTION VI
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 20 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 1986-1995 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
- Elizabeth
- Jersey City
- Newark
- Paterson
- Trenton

THE "URBAN 15"

- Bayonne
- Camden
- Clifton
- Dover Twp.
- East Orange
- Elizabeth
- Irvington Town
- Jersey City
- Newark
- Passaic
- Paterson
- Trenton
- Union City
- Vineland
- Woodbridge

The accompanying table reflects percent changes in the state's "Major Urban" and "Urban 15" municipalities Crime Index for the years 1986-1995.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1986 - 1995

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1986	7,562,482	959,639	1,565,690
	1995	7,903,994	896,668	1,510,302
	Percent Change	5	-7	-4
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1986	398,541	102,427	141,920
	1995	373,706	96,637	135,070
	Percent Change	-6	-6	-5
Violent Crime	1986	43,456	21,443	26,477
	1995	47,577	22,427	28,920
	Percent Change	9	5	9
Nonviolent Crime	1986	355,085	80,984	115,443
	1995	326,129	74,210	106,150
	Percent Change	-8	-8	-8
Murder	1986	397	218	266
	1995	408	233	272
	Percent Change	3	7	2
Rape	1986	2,531	1,106	1,387
	1995	1,924	573	797
	Percent Change	-24	-48	-43
Robbery	1986	20,427	12,131	14,591
	1995	22,474	11,721	15,283
	Percent Change	10	-3	5
Aggravated Assault	1986	20,101	7,988	10,233
	1995	22,771	9,900	12,568
	Percent Change	13	24	23
Burglary	1986	81,143	20,424	29,227
	1995	69,547	20,019	27,611
	Percent Change	-14	-2	-6
Larceny-Theft	1986	215,727	36,190	53,971
	1995	206,421	33,918	52,276
	Percent Change	-4	-6	-3
Motor Vehicle Theft	1986	58,215	24,370	32,245
	1995	50,161	20,273	26,263
	Percent Change	-14	-17	-19

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1986-1995, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 6 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 5 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 6 percent.
- Violent crime in the state increased 9 percent, the 15 urban cities increased 9 percent and the six major cities increased 5 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 8 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 8 percent, and the six major cities decreased 8 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1986-1995

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,974,103	1,051,607	1,455,337
Percent Distribution		26.5	36.6
Violent Crime	469,885	225,878	284,174
Percent Distribution		48.1	60.5
Nonviolent Crime	3,504,218	825,729	1,171,163
Percent Distribution		23.6	33.4
Murder	4,011	2,105	2,518
Percent Distribution		52.5	62.8
Rape	23,188	8,201	10,942
Percent Distribution		35.4	47.2
Robbery	214,890	120,454	150,131
Percent Distribution		56.1	69.9
Aggravated Assault	227,796	95,118	120,583
Percent Distribution		41.8	52.9
Burglary	760,782	208,777	290,340
Percent Distribution		27.4	38.2
Larceny-Theft	2,114,052	352,069	533,641
Percent Distribution		16.7	25.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	629,384	264,883	347,182
Percent Distribution		42.1	55.2

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 1986 through 1995, accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.
- Major Urban centers from 1986 through 1995 accounted for 48 percent of all violent crime and 24 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 37 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 61 percent of the state total while nonviolent crime was 33 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Nearly seven out of every 10 robberies reported 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 1986-1995, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 44 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every four highway robberies occurred in the "Urban 15" during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Fifty-three percent of all purse-snatchings were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1986-1995.

STREET CRIME TRENDS URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	11,923	10,058	10,928	12,265	13,691	12,674	12,386	12,887	12,781	12,380	121,973	77.4
Purse Snatching	2,238	1,870	2,014	2,130	1,991	1,919	1,832	1,746	1,377	1,116	18,233	52.5
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	11,502	12,748	13,681	15,082	13,864	12,316	11,460	10,744	12,173	14,381	127,951	29.3
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	13,633	15,555	16,144	15,240	13,846	11,770	10,894	9,511	8,118	7,818	122,529	37.2
Larceny of Bicycles	2,598	2,290	1,768	1,623	1,737	1,949	1,740	1,963	2,169	2,164	20,001	11.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	32,245	36,080	38,644	40,788	48,736	40,327	35,929	29,667	26,824	26,263	355,503	56.5
TOTAL	74,139	78,601	83,179	87,128	93,865	80,955	74,241	66,518	63,442	64,122	766,190	43.5
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	41.2	42.1	43.9	46.1	48.9	43.0	43.5	42.2	41.8	41.4	43.5	-

“URBAN 15” 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	1994	87,492	12,250	2,965	9,285	45	87	1,482	1,351	3,609	3,735	1,941	351	428
	1995	82,866	12,244	3,228	9,016	58	89	1,593	1,488	3,200	3,799	2,017	341	416
Newark City	1994	275,221	37,599	10,471	27,128	99	212	5,818	4,342	6,447	11,199	9,482	1,182	1,334
	1995	258,751	40,711	10,529	30,182	104	221	5,571	4,633	7,392	12,869	9,921	1,160	1,422
Jersey City	1994	228,537	18,769	4,310	14,459	37	74	2,241	1,958	4,286	6,483	3,690	764	864
	1995	226,022	18,083	4,334	13,749	25	92	2,306	1,911	3,815	6,417	3,517	851	955
Trenton City	1994	88,675	7,229	1,556	5,673	9	86	654	807	1,610	2,726	1,337	369	420
	1995	84,441	6,599	1,331	5,268	16	80	486	749	1,298	2,545	1,425	383	434
Paterson City	1994	140,891	9,919	1,974	7,945	15	52	1,053	854	2,642	3,798	1,505	302	380
	1995	138,290	9,343	1,658	7,685	12	45	829	772	2,231	4,049	1,405	356	431
Elizabeth City	1994	110,002	9,240	1,364	7,876	12	41	924	387	1,869	3,932	2,075	332	408
	1995	106,298	9,657	1,347	8,310	18	46	936	347	2,083	4,239	1,988	347	423
Vineland City	1994	54,780	4,197	425	3,772	8	33	152	232	931	2,589	252	123	139
	1995	54,673	4,060	456	3,604	3	35	208	210	787	2,534	283	122	140
East Orange City	1994	73,552	7,376	2,092	5,284	8	59	1,259	766	1,690	2,158	1,436	253	280
	1995	72,847	7,403	1,975	5,428	12	65	1,224	674	1,664	2,541	1,223	276	302
Irvington Town	1994	61,018	7,197	1,622	5,575	13	68	939	602	1,450	2,063	2,062	189	219
	1995	60,790	7,240	1,811	5,429	11	56	1,068	676	1,705	2,086	1,638	196	232
Bayonne City	1994	61,444	1,926	264	1,662	-	5	126	133	328	1,115	219	178	205
	1995	62,270	1,846	255	1,591	2	7	119	127	283	1,037	271	180	215
Union City	1994	58,012	3,263	585	2,678	-	13	287	285	690	1,397	591	176	199
	1995	56,308	3,107	428	2,679	4	6	248	170	689	1,513	477	171	189
Woodbridge Twp.	1994	93,086	4,377	450	3,927	2	19	80	349	597	2,543	787	193	235
	1995	95,152	4,617	390	4,227	2	13	109	266	723	2,927	577	198	242
Dover Twp.	1994	76,371	3,470	153	3,317	-	14	48	91	810	2,358	149	122	153
	1995	81,550	3,097	186	2,911	-	15	60	111	575	2,204	132	128	158
Clifton City	1994	71,742	2,618	147	2,471	2	7	74	64	474	1,370	627	131	155
	1995	74,002	2,685	155	2,530	3	5	76	71	457	1,545	528	141	168
Passaic City	1994	58,041	3,702	649	3,053	5	23	370	251	632	1,750	671	147	157
	1995	56,042	4,378	837	3,541	2	22	450	363	709	1,971	861	146	161
“URBAN 15” TOTALS	1994	1,538,864	133,132	29,027	104,105	255	793	15,507	12,472	28,065	49,216	26,824	4,812	5,576
	1995	1,510,302	135,070	28,920	106,150	272	797	15,283	12,568	27,611	52,276	26,263	4,996	5,888